ABSTRACTS

Editorial Comment: A fixed style of presentation for this department of Anesthesiology has purposely not been defined. It is the wish of the Editorial Board to provide our readers with the type of abstract they desire. Correspondence is invited offering suggestions in regard to the length of abstracts, character of them, and source of them. The Board will appreciate the cooperation of the membership of the Society in submitting abstracts of outstanding articles to be considered for publication.


"In a search for some drug which could be safe and effective in barbiturate poisoning as well as in other types of coma, the author was led to investigate the properties of intravenous sodium succinate as a result of favourable reports of its action in barbiturate narcosis in experimental animals. For this purpose a 30 per cent solution of the hydrated salt of sodium succinate in distilled water was given intravenously in various dosages to patients who had been given pentothal sodium, together with either local or spinal analgesia, for surgical operations, and the recovery time compared with a series of 200 control cases who did not receive succinate. . . . It would appear from these experiments that sodium succinate has some effect in reducing the period of action of pentothal sodium in normal cases, but whether the drug will prove of therapeutic benefit in cases of overdose is not at present very clear."

J. C. M. C.


"From the time that chloroform and ether were first administered to relieve the pains of childbirth, a large array of drugs has been used to assuage the suffering of parturient women. . . . Patients appreciate partial relief of pain but in our series it was found that they appreciate the amnesia much more than some degree of analgesia alone. . . . Paraldehyde was found to be a safe analgesic, and also one which produced amnesia in a high percentage of cases. . . . Recently, we have obtained veterinary gelatin capsules, size eleven, which hold four drams which make the administration of paraldehyde by rectum a simple procedure. Among several drugs used, the safest and most satisfactory have been tuinal and paraldehyde; we have used this combination over a period of six years. In our reported experience with tuinal and paraldehyde, complete amnesia was obtained in 98 per cent and partial amnesia in the remaining two per cent of the patients. The undesirable delirium states wherein the patient throws herself about and is difficult to restrain is present in approximately three per cent of my cases, whereas the incidence is ten per cent when scopelamine is combined with barbital. The narcosis still caused approximately 50 per cent to become quite restless with their pain. The chief undesirable effect of the barbital is restlessness and delirium. To counteract this, the present study was undertaken using demerol. . . . This report covers a review of 941 patients delivered in a
period of one year and ten months. ... Of 593 patients who received tuinal and paraldehyde, 348 were also given demerol. ... Demerol ... is largely an analgesic drug, and combined with a barbital and paraldehyde, its action is highly desirable. No material complications or untoward side reactions were noted from its use."

J. C. M. C.


"The chief types of local and regional anesthesia utilized in obstetrics consist of straight infiltration, pudendal, presacral and parasympathetic nerve blocks, spinal and epidural or caudal analgesia."

J. C. M. C.


"Owing to the great number of war casualties with wounds of the upper extremities which came under our care at the Orthopedic Services of the Casa de Salud-Valdecilla and the Hospital Militar Cantabro, we have been able to compile 3000 cases in which block anesthesia of the brachial plexus has been used. ... We shall confine ourselves to a discussion of the accidents encountered in the use of brachial plexus block, one of which in our series proved fatal. ... In practically all of our cases, the technic described by Kullenkampf, and expanded by us in our previous paper, was employed. ... The accidents encountered in brachial plexus block are classifiable into pleuropulmonary, neural and vascular. ... At present we are using novocain 'Bayer,' a 2 per cent solution 'without adrenalin,' and in none of our cases have we observed lipotemias or syncopes; only once did a mild degree of cerebral excitation, as is seen in the first stage of ether anesthesia, occur, when the dose exceeded the currently used dose of 20 cc., or when the latter dose was employed in children. Reducing the dose to a suitable amount, we have succeeded in obtaining adequate anesthesia in babies as young as one and one-half years of age. ... In one case, when by error novocain with adrenalin was used, tachycardia and arrhythmia resulted of such a degree, that, though the patient did not expire, death seemed imminent. ... To obtain a prolonged anesthesia, we have never employed perscarin; in all our cases an anesthesia of two hours, produced with novocain, being sufficient. Concentrations of novocain of less than 2 per cent produce poor results, and we deem greater than 2 per cent to be dangerous. ... We believe it a prudent measure to inject the drug very slowly and to record the rate of the radial pulse. ... In the foregoing accidents caramine has been found efficacious. ... From a careful review of the literature on brachial plexus block, we have gleaned three reports of death following this procedure. ... All of these deaths resulted from trauma to the apical pleural and lung parenchyma. ... On five occasions we punctured the parietal pleura the sibilant sound produced by the inrushing air, however, placed us on guard, and the needle was withdrawn carefully. ... We shall not consider the transient aphonies and Claude Bernard-Horner syndromes that supervene from the anesthesia of the recurrent laryngeal nerve and of the cervical sympathetic chain respectively. Hemidiaphragmatic paralysis