L₁, L₂ and L₅ were injected. At each side 1 cc. of 95 per cent alcohol was deposited. Pain was immediately stopped after this procedure. Complete anesthesia from below the inguinal region to above the knee joint was obtained on the injected side. Motor function of both lower extremities remained the same as before. One week later pain appeared at a lower level, the anterior surface of the right leg. For relief, L₄ and L₅ of that side were injected. Shooting pain passing down to the patellar region was immediately noticed by the time the needle was inserted for the fourth nerve. After the injection, pain, disappeared but paralysis of both lower limbs was produced. Neurological examination showed complete anesthesia (loss of pain, touch, temperature and vibration sensations) from below the umbilicus on the right side, as well as the absence of all superficial and deep reflexes. On the left side hypesthesia was found from below D. No voluntary movement could be performed. There was only twitching of the muscles when the patient attempted to move his leg. The anal sphincters were relaxed. The urinary bladder was atonic. There was no recovery. He died twelve weeks later (February 3, 1946). Autopsy was not obtained.

"In this case, we were unable to determine through which of the above mentioned routes alcohol passed into the spinal canal, as an autopsy was not performed. It is possible to say, however, that the needle did not enter the arachnoid, as there was no cerebrospinal fluid returned. It is very possible that the paralysis is a result of peridural injection along the sheath of the nerve."

J. C. M. C.


"In a series of 100 deliveries using spinal anesthesia with nupercaine, 1:200 plus 10 per cent dextrose for late first stage and second stage labor, ... an estimation of the results may be grouped as follows: 1. Excellent, 83 per cent. In this group the anesthesia and obstetric course were completely satisfactory. 2. Good, 11 per cent. Of these, two cases had marked rise in blood pressure with headache during delivery. The remaining nine patients had some minor complaints, some requiring nitrous oxide for short periods. 3. Poor, 6 per cent. One had inadequate relaxation for version and breech extraction. Two cases were uncooperative and psychologically poorly chosen. In two patients the spinal anesthesia was given too early, and labor was temporarily stopped. One spinal was definitely inadequate. As the technic has been altered from time to time to meet our needs during the early cases, it is felt that the number of excellent results would be much higher with a later group of cases. ... Spinal anesthesia with its simple technic, would seem to have all the advantages of continuous caudal anesthesia without many of its disadvantages. Three things are of major importance for its safe and successful use: a patient psychically suited to regional procedure; a carefully standardized technic to obtain consistently good results, and a well-trained obstetrician, so that the increased number of complicated instrumental deliveries will be safely managed."

J. C. M. C.