before operation. No morphine is given. Pentothal solution 2½ per cent is used. The injection must be slow. Intravenous infusion of 1,000 cc. of physiological salt solution is started simultaneously with the anesthetic. Oxygen is administered during the time of anesthesia.

Infants under 4 years of age, adults whose veins are difficult to engage and patients presenting advanced azotemia are not suitable subjects for pentothal anesthesia. Allergic reactions to pentothal, anemia, hypotension and shock are contraindications. Obstructive diseases of the upper respiratory tract also contraindicate use of the drug.

At Southern Pacific General Hospital and St. Mary’s Hospital in San Francisco, major surgical interventions on the genito-urinary tract were done on 96 patients, and 59 operations of shorter duration, all under pentothal anesthesia. There were no deaths or accidents. 11 references.

F. A. M.


In a series of 25 cases the method of administering phenobarbitone and rectal ether for relief of pain in childbirth was tried. The technique was outlined in 1945 by C. B. Lull and R. A. Hingson. In each of the 25 patients relief of pain was experienced. None of the babies was affected by the sedation and every child cried immediately at birth. The method was found to be safe, easy to administer and it did not prolong labour. 1 reference.

F. A. M.


Coincidences occur in every field of endeavor. It is not generally known that the administration of ether by rectum was first suggested simultaneously by two persons in widely separated parts of the world. On March 16, 1847, a manuscript was read at a session of the Académie Nationale de Médecine in Paris by Marc Dupuy. The title of the manuscript was “Note sur les effets de l’injection de l’ether dans le rectum.” The work of Marc Dupuy was presented to the Académie des Sciences in Paris on April 5, 1847.

At the April 27 session of the Académie Nationale de Médecine a manuscript-letter written by Nikolai Ivanovich Pirogoff was presented. The title of his paper was “Sur l’administration de la vapeur d’ether par le rectum.”

Pirogoff was a noted surgeon and his report reached the entire medical world. The idea of rectal anesthesia was most closely associated with his name. Marc Dupuy, “interne des hopitaux,” unknown then did not enjoy Pirogoff’s opportunities. He remained silent although his paper is dated exactly six weeks before that of Pirogoff. No biographical lexicon has anything to say concerning Marc Dupuy’s life or achievements. 14 references.

F. A. M.


Of 324 men with facial wounds who were admitted to a maxillo-facial unit from June 7 to October 31, 1944, 256 had wounds involving the naso-, oro- or laryngo-pharynx. Of these 256 cases, 123 showed physical signs of disease in the lungs on admission. Marked absence of pneumonia was probably due to the short time since wounding and to the routine use of penicillin.