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 per-
thal, anemia, hypotension and shock
are contraindications. Obstructive dis-
eases of the upper respiratory tract
also contraindicate use of the drug.

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

F. A. M.

MILNE, M. L., AND YOUNGER, E. R.: Re-
lief of Pain in Childbirth. Brit. M.
J. 2: 16 (July 5) 1947.

In a series of 25 cases the method
of administering phenobarbitone and
rectal ether for relief of pain in child-
birth 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 im-
mediately at birth. The method
was found to be safe, easy to administer
and it did not prolong labour. 1 re-
ference.

F. A. M.

PROSKAVER, C.: The Simultaneous Dis-
covevry of Rectal Anesthesia by Marc
Dupuy and Nikolai Ivanovich Pir-
goff. J. Hist. Med. & Allied Sc. 2:
379–384 (Summer) 1947.

Coincidences occur in every field of
endeavor. It is not generally known
that the administration of ether by
rectum was first suggested simulta-
neously 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’adminis-
tration 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
hôpitaux,” unknown then did not en-
joy Pirogoff’s opportunities. He re-
mained silent although his paper is
dated exactly six weeks before that of
Pirogoff. No biographical lexicon has
anything to say concerning Marc Du-
puy’s life or achievements. 14 re-
ferences.

F. A. M.

SHACKLETON, R. P. W.: The Treatment
of Pulmonary Complications in
Maxillo-Facial Injuries. Anaesthesia

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.