missed an opportunity to test his diagnostic acuity. 2 references.  
M. F. P.

Waldbott, George L.: The Anti- 
histaminic Drugs. J.A.M.A. 135:  
207-209 (Sept. 27) 1947.

Many compounds have been, and are being, synthesized which counteract 
the action of histamine in vitro and in vivo. Among the most promising are 
“benadryl hydrochloride” and “pyri-benzamine hydrochloride.”

Clinically, the effect of the antihistaminic drugs reflects their powerful 
antagonism to histamine. Two actions stand out, ability to inhibit 
healing and to dry up mucous 
secretion. It is evident that they deserve a definite place in the manage-
ment of allergic diseases equal, and in some instances superior, to that of 
such established agents as epinephrine, aminophylline and ephedrine. Like 
these, they are purely palliative, they have unpleasant side effects. So far 
there is no indication of a cumulative 
action or of addiction to the drugs. There is, however, a possibility of de-
velopment of sensitization to these 
drugs. Moreover, it has not yet been determined whether or not they inter-
feres with treatment directed toward 
development of specific immune 
substances.

A warning is sounded against extravagant claims and indiscriminate 
use of these compounds. Undoubtedly the greatest significance in their de-
development is the new principle which has instigated their trial and which 
will lead the further understanding of the mechanism of allergic disease. 
13 references.  
M. F. P.

Cole, T. J.: Method of Treating Mas-
see Obstetric Hemorrhage, J.A.M.A. 
135: 142-144 (Sept. 20) 1947.

Hemorrhage is the outstanding cause 
of maternal deaths in the United States. Quick control of hemorrhage by the 
least traumatic method and rapid re-
placement of the blood lost remain 
the best means of treatment of hemor-
rhagic shock. An effective plan of 
treatment advises: preliminary typing, 
precautionary measures, accurate mea-
urement of blood loss, effective hemo-
stasis, the development of an obstetric 
blood bank, recognition of the im-
portance of the time factor and rapid 
transfusions in conjunction with the 
administration of an alkali agent. 

Dextrose and isotonic solutions of 
sodium chloride have been all but dis-
carded as therapeutic measures; in-
stead, sixth-molar sodium lactate solu-
tion is now used. It is known that a 
straight line relationship exists be-
tween the fall in blood pressure and 
the alkali reserve. There is some evi-
dence that the administration of alkali 
agents proves useful in delaying the 
onset of irreversible shock until the 
more effective agents, such as blood and 
plasma, are available in sufficient quan-
tity. The secondary purpose in giving 
alkali agents to combat transfusion re-
actions which might presumably occur 
when multiple transfusions are, ad-
ministered.

A rapid method of performing blood 
transfusions is described. This con-
ists of a simple pressure mechanism 
added to the ordinary transfusion ap-
paratus. Using this apparatus and 
maintaining a pressure of 120 mm. of 
mercury in the bottle of blood, 500 
ce. of blood may be given quite rapidly. 
3 references.  
M. F. P.