the administration of CO₂ and O₂. . . .

Slowing of the fetal heart can be detected following the induction of spinal anesthesia in the mother. I ascribe no clinical importance to this, in view of the excellent condition of the infants after delivery. . . . The old belief which has been often repeated, that spinal anesthesia in delivery was attended by increased bleeding and danger of hemorrhage, is not substantiated by observation. . . . We are not proposing that spinal anesthesia in obstetrics is the best solution to the problem of analgesia and anesthesia for childbirth. We do not advocate or encourage its use by all physicians practicing obstetrics. . . . For us it has yielded good results.”

J. C. M. C.


In 1944, the author described a procedure employing the Hingson needle termed “The Original Pressure Point Technic for Insertion of the Caudal Needle.” Recently he has perfected an introducer and cannula of a new design which made the pressure point technic still more effective.

The Compton caudal introducer is a semicircular introducer with an easy-to-grasp handle, is 13 gage, 2½ inches long, made of stainless steel, with a short bevel to carry the Compton cannula or a number 6 ureteral catheter. The Compton caudal cannula is a number 5 French cannula, 2½ inches long, made of stainless steel, with a round end and bilateral fenestra.

Seven advantages are listed, including simplicity of use, lessened possibility of infection, less likelihood of piercing related structures and freedom from breakage.

M. F. P.


“Many drugs affect tissue respiration, and in order to study the relationship between drug action and cellular metabolism it is frequently necessary to make measurements of the rate of oxygen consumption. With isolated cells or tissue slices the Warburg manometric technique is applicable; however, with larger intact organisms it is impractical to maintain oxygen equilibrium by shaking the immersion fluid, and some other method must be used. A modification of the constant-flow manometric respirometer, described previously for use with small mammals, has been shown to be suitable for this purpose. The method is simple and determinations may be made at frequent intervals. . . . The sensitivity may be varied by adjustment of the volume of the system. It is useful in cyanide inhibition studies.” 5 references.

J. C. M. C.


The see-saw method of resuscitation, described by Eve, was used in a case of asphyxia in a premature infant. In this method, the position of the body is alternated frequently by rocking on a trestle, so as to allow the weight of the liver and abdominal contents to drop downward and thus pull air into the lungs when the head is raised and the feet lowered; and the reverse to take place, causing expulsion of air from the lungs when the head is lowered and the feet raised.