Abstracts


"On the basis of recorded experience it was decided to institute a postoperative early rising program at Trenton and St. Thomas R. C. A. F. Hospitals. Between November 1944 and June 1945, 79 herniotomies, 16 appendectomies and 2 cholecystectomies were treated by this method at R. C. A. F. hospitals at Trenton and St. Thomas, Ontario. These cases were nearly all under 30 years of age. Spinal anaesthesia was used in all cases. Headache lasting over 48 hours occurred in 16 cases. It was necessary to discontinue the routine in these cases and institute full time bed care. Serious postoperative respiratory infection was rare despite the fact that the cases were operated on during the winter months with many upper respiratory infections in preoperative cases on the ward. Early rising has been found by several authors to maintain the vital capacity at a more nearly normal level during the postoperative period. This and the early coughing of mucus from tracheas and bronchi assist in preventing atelectasis and respiratory tract infections. The wounds healed normally and showed no undue tenderness or weakness. It was observed that these patients were able to walk about the ward without discomfort by the third or fourth postoperative day." 6 references.

J. C. M. C.


"In spite of numerous attempts to find new analgesic compounds superior to morphine or other opium alkaloids, little progress was made until 1939 when Eisler and Schaumann reported the action of dolantin (demerol), a substance producing both morphine-like and atropine-like effects. Following the Allied victory of World War II, knowledge of additional related compounds, prepared by German chemists, became available. Of the many compounds disclosed, 1,1-diphenyl-1-(dimethylaminoisopropyl)-butanone-2 appeared to be outstanding. This compound bears the German serial number 10820. . . . We undertook an investigation of the actions of 10820. . . . It is a white crystalline compound, soluble in water and alcohol, but insoluble in ether. . . . For brevity, the product will be referred to as a butanone de-
rivative or by its original German number 10820. . . In rats, dogs, and man, it possesses marked analgesic action, being at least equal to morphine and several times more potent than demerol. In many respects this substance is closely similar to morphine. However, qualitative differences between the effects of morphine and this butanone derivative have been noted. Apparently, there is little or no tolerance development to the analgesic action of 10820 in dogs. Side-reactions in human beings do not appear to be excessive. Clinical results so far substantiate the laboratory data."

J. C. M. C.


"The mechanism of the depressant action of barbiturates on the central nervous system is not clearly understood. However, evidence is accumulating to suggest some relationship between the action of this group of drugs and altered carbohydrate metabolism. . . . The present study has been made in an attempt to determine whether pyruvic acid plays some role in the anesthetic effect of pentobarbital on rabbits. . . . Data on 64 rabbits anesthetized with pentobarbital sodium (40 mgm./kgm. intravenously) indicate that: 1. Epinephrine increases the blood sugar level and shortens the sleeping time. 2. Insulin decreases the blood sugar level and shortens the sleeping time. 3. Intravenous injection of pyruvic acid decreases the depth of depression, and shortens the sleeping time. . . . "but does not alter materially total depression time in rabbits."

J. C. M. C.


"Following an observation that pelvic examinations upon disturbed female psychiatric patients were easily made because of complete relaxation, it was thought that curare would expedite complete muscular relaxation under general anesthesia. Griffith, of the Department of Anesthesia, Homeopathic Hospital of Montreal, was the first anesthetist to administer Intocosrin under general anesthesia to provide complete abdominal muscular relaxation associated with quiet breathing and contracted intestine. From his experience he ventured to predict that curare will increase the use of pure cyclopropane or pentothal anesthesia without ether for abdominal surgery and thus reduce postoperative complications, and that it will reduce the use of spinal anesthesia with its attendant hazards. The complete absence of postoperative effects from curare has been one of the most striking and encouraging features of his investigation. Cullen, of the State University of Iowa College of Medicine, who has used Intocosrin routinely in abdominal surgery since 1942 in more than one thousand cases; Cole, of the University of Minnesota Hospital; Smith, of the Latter Day Saints Hospital, Salt Lake City; and a number of other investigators have published similar favorable reports and contributed substantially to the introduction of curare into the field of anesthesia. The Mayo Clinic has recently stated that curare is being used more and more and its use has been so satisfactory, particularly with cyclopropane, as to warrant extended and continued use. Mallinson, of England, states 'in curare we have an agent capable of producing relaxation comparable with spinal methods in the presence of light anesthesia, an ideal