

ANESTHETIC RECORD COLOR

At the suggestion of Mr. Frederick Kent, photographer at the University of Iowa, the printing on the anesthetic records was changed from the usual black to a pale green. With this latter color, the pencil or ink lines stand out more clearly, making the chart easier to read and facilitating photographic reproduction. The records are also duplicated and fastened together at

the bottom by a perforated strip. At the close of the anesthetic, the sheets can easily be separated, the carbon sent with the patient's record and the original kept for the anesthesia department's own files.

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TECHNICAL SUGGESTION

THE USE OF THE EYEBROW PENCIL AS A SKIN MARKER IN NERVE BLOCKS

Numerous substances ranging from the various dyes such as brilliant green and methylene blue to drops and wheals of procaine have been employed by clinicians as skin markers while performing nerve blocks. Certain disadvantages are possessed by most of these agents. Several of the dyes are a bit messy and inconvenient to carry about. In addition, application of the various antiseptic solutions may remove a goodly portion of the dye, necessitating application after the field has been prepared. The use of ordinary eyebrow pencil obviates many

of the above difficulties in that it is easy to obtain and transport, is neat and retains its form after application of the various skin antiseptics have been painted over it. As with the dyes, one must be careful not to inject directly into the skin mark to avoid the theoretical danger of tattooing the skin with the eyebrow pencil pigment.

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CORRESPONDENCE

February 23, 1943.

To the Editor:

Here is a most excellent reason why every physician practicing anesthesia should realize his responsibility to himself, his family, his patients and his specialty and join actively in the work possible only by organized groups.

The following is an abstract of an editorial appearing in the *Journal of the Medical Society of the County of New York*, January, 1943, which should make every medical society member keep up his dues and participate in formulating plans for better medico-social service and the unquestionable effort to re-establish medical practice as a profession.

"The Supreme Court's decision against the American Medical Association and the District of Columbia Medical Society is another long step toward Federal domination of all aspects of our national life.

Taken in conjunction with the same court's opinion that trade unions are exempt from the anti-trust laws, it exemplifies the trend to judicial usurpation of the legislative function which has been permitted to develop in the past ten years. The ramifications of this decision extend far beyond the practice of medicine.

"As far as the individual physician is concerned, the outcome of the suit against the A.M.A. will make little immediate difference. . . .

"As the *Herald-Tribune* observed editorially, 'If our statutes aimed at the restraint of trade are not to discriminate between trade and the learned professions, then the efforts of the latter (even though on occasion misdirected) to create and enforce standards of education and service must sooner or later be abandoned.'

"At the time the action against the A.M.A. was instituted, it was heralded as a

blow in defense of group practice and group prepayment for medical care. Actually the profession's opposition was based on other factors. . . .

"It is not clear, therefore, what the nation stands to gain by the Government's successful suit against organized medicine to compensate for what it has lost by weakening of the latter's self-regulatory powers."

Very truly yours,
PAUL M. WOOD, M.D., *Secretary,*
The American Society of Anesthetists, Inc.

April 8, 1943.

To the Editor of Anesthesiology:

In the article "Intractable Pain" published in *ANESTHESIOLOGY*, November, 1942, by Drs. William Bates and Bernard D. Judovich, we omitted the name of Dr. Alphonse Walti, who was responsible for the chemical isolation and identification which showed that ammonia was one of the active constituents of the pitcher plant.

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