

"Since both valves are closed between respiratory cycles, the pulmonary pulse usually is recorded. This may at times be advantageous. By means of a slip joint on the inflow flutter valve, the composition of the atmosphere supplied to the animal may be varied at will."

A. W. F.

Simple Method of Administering Fluids Orally. Bull. U. S. Army Med. Dept. No. 85: 21 (Feb.) 1945.

"The nursing staff of the Eighth Evacuation Hospital has devised a simple method of administering fluids by mouth to debilitated patients. Invert a used Vacoliter bottle from intravenous infusions and suspend it from the outer tip of the head crossbar of the U. S. Army cot. By attaching a rubber tube to the shorter glass tube of the Vacoliter bottle, a recumbent patient can drink by exerting the slightest suction. A short strip of adhesive partially folded on itself with the uncovered portion encircling the tube allows a nonsticky flap to be pinned to the bedding so the patient's lips can reach the tip of the tube in case he cannot use his hands. A smoothed glass tube inserted into the drinking end of the rubber tube prevents collapse on suction. . . .

"Patients find this method easier than drinking from a glass tube and tumbler or from a teaspoon, and they will consume gratifying quantities of fluid with less effort on their part as well as on the part of the nurse."

A. W. F.

PICK, E. P., AND UNNA, K.: *The Effect of Curare and Curare-like Substances on the Central Nervous System.* J. Pharmacol. & Exper. Therap. 83: 59-70 (Jan.) 1945.

"The experiments herein presented demonstrate that substances which block

the myoneural junction (d-tubocurarine, dihydro-beta-erythroidine, quinine ethochloride, nicotine and thiamine) are also able to influence the electrical activity of the frog brain. The effects observed in the E.E.G. of pithed frogs consisted in a decrease of the frequency as well as a diminution of the amplitudes of the potentials which could be entirely suppressed by larger doses. With curare and erythroidine the doses effective in decreasing the electrical activity of the brain were slightly larger than those which block the transmission at the myoneural junctions. On the other hand, thiamine suppressed the electrical potentials of the brain in doses representing only $\frac{1}{20}$ or $\frac{1}{50}$ of those effective on the myoneural junction. . . .

"The effect upon the E.E.G. of all substances studied, with the exception of quinine ethochloride, differed from that on the myoneural junction in that the inhibition of the electrical activity of the brain was of considerably longer duration and persisted after the function of the myoneural junctions was restored. It appears likely that the changes observed in the E.E.G. indicate a blockade of the synapses of the central nervous system by these substances as indicated previously by experiments with nicotine (Libet and Gerard, 1938). . . .

"The effects observed in the E.E.G. differ from the peripheral effects of these substances further in that the effects on the central nervous system are not reversed by prostigmine. Prostigmine alone depressed the electrical activity of the frog brain. Schweitzer, Stedman and Wright (1939) have demonstrated that prostigmine depressed spinal reflexes in cats and may even abolish strychnine convulsions by its inhibitory effect upon the spinal cord. Recent clinical observations (Kabat and Knapp, 1944) made on cases of spasticity treated