plane inhalation anesthesia, and, with proper doses of curare, obtain as good relaxation and quiet breathing as with spinal anesthesia. . . . The agent most frequently used is cyclopropane. With this agent, there is no excessive or prolonged respiratory depression with optimal doses of curare. . . .

"Curare is being used during anesthesia with nitrous oxide, and provides the muscle relaxation not ordinarily secured with this anesthetic agent alone. Curare is also being used during ethylene anesthesia. Our experience to date with ethylene demonstrates that it is necessary to use larger doses of curare, and respiratory depression is more frequent, more marked, and more prolonged. Although the oxygen concentration in the inspired atmosphere is at least 20 per cent, considerable difficulty with cyanosis has been experienced. Strangely enough, this difficulty was not encountered with nitrous oxide. . . .

"Curare can be used during ether anesthesia, but the dose must be reduced to one-third of that used during cyclopropane anesthesia. . . .

"Experiences with curare during inhalation anesthesia and laboratory investigations of its properties give the impression that curare is a safe drug, and that it is proving to be a valuable adjunct to the anesthetist's armamentarium. Its ability to provide complete muscular relaxation assists materially in improving the working conditions of the surgeon without significantly increasing the immediate or ultimate hazard to the patient. Its principal disadvantage is the narrow margin between the effective dose and the dose which produces respiratory depression. With proper control of respiration, this disadvantage proves, however, to be minimal." 12 references.

J. C. M. C.

BERNHEIM, F., AND BERNHEIM, M. L. C.: *Note on the In Vitro Inactivation of Morphine by Liver.* J. Pharmacol. & Exper. Therap. **83**: 8–9 (Jan.) 1945.

"SUMMARY

"Morphine is conjugated, not oxidized when it is incubated with liver slices in vitro."

A. W. F.

LEHMANN, G., AND YOUNG, J. W.: *The Anti-histamine Activity of Diethylaminoethyl-Dihydroanthracene-Carboxylate and Other Substances.* J. Pharmacol. & Exper. Therap. **83**: 90–95 (Jan.) 1945.

"Many investigators believe that the manifestations of anaphylactic shock and allergic conditions are caused by histamine. For this reason many attempts have been made to find an agent capable of antagonizing the action of histamine or of preventing the occurrence of anaphylactic shock by interfering with the antibody-antigen reaction. . . . Certain amino-acids have been claimed to have a specific anti-histamine activity. However, very high concentrations of these aminoacids are required to antagonize the histamine effect on smooth muscle (5).

"In a previous paper (6) we have studied the antagonistic action of diethylaminoethyl-dihydroanthracene-carboxylate (D) against the effects of histamine on smooth muscle. We have extended our investigation to study the antagonistic action of D and other substances (diethylaminoethyl-fluorene-carboxylate (F), diethylaminoethyl-xanthene-carboxylate (X), aminophylline and epinephrine) against anaphylactic shock. . . .

"SUMMARY

"Diethylaminoethyl-dihydroanthracene-carboxylate provides 100 per cent