tried using curare with pentothal-oxygen in abdominal surgery and the results were so gratifying that this practice is now surpassing the other forms of anesthesia used. The authors compiled the pertinent facts of 609 major operations in which this method was used. For comparison, statistics were also compiled on a corresponding group of cases on which pentothal alone was used.

The drugs were administered by three-way stopcocks, and oxygen was given continuously. The addition of curare diminished the amount of pentothal used by 19.3 per cent and was undoubtedly the big factor in reducing the length of postoperative sleeping. In a few cases there was a drop in blood pressure. Artificial respiration was not indicated in a single instance. Phlebitis did not occur in any case.

The authors prefer the synergistic effects of pentothal-oxygen-curare in abdominal surgery for the induction is rapid, the effects pleasant for the patient, postoperative complications are lowered, and the danger of explosion minimized.

M. F. P.


Phenylpropanolamine hydrochloride (propridine) has a greater pressor effect than ephedrine with the same duration of action. It does not potentiate cardiac irritability as does epinephrine. Unlike ephedrine, no undesirable stimulation of the central nervous system occurs. The properties of prolonged pressor activity unaccompanied by cardiac excitation, or a secondary fall in blood pressure with-