missed an opportunity to test his diagnostic acuity. 2 references. M. F. P.


Many compounds have been, and are being, synthesized which counteract the action of histamine in vitro and in vivo. Among the most promising are “benadryl hydrochloride” and “pyribenzamine hydrochloride.”

Clinically, the effect of the anti-histaminic drugs reflects their powerful antagonism to histamine. Two actions stand out, ability to inhibit whealing and to dry up mucous secretion. It is evident that they deserve a definite place in the management of allergic diseases equal, and in some instances superior, to that of such established agents as epinephrine, aminophylline and ephedrine. Like these, they are purely palliative, they have unpleasant side effects. So far there is no indication of a cumulative action or of addiction to the drugs.

There is, however, a possibility of development of sensitization to these drugs. Moreover, it has not yet been determined whether or not they interfere with treatment directed toward development of specific immune substances.

A warning is sounded against extravagant claims and indiscriminate use of these compounds. Undoubtedly the greatest significance in their development is the new principle which has instigated their trial and which will lead the further understanding of the mechanism of allergic disease. 13 references.

M. F. P.


Hemorrhage is the outstanding cause of maternal deaths in the United States. Quick control of hemorrhage by the least traumatic method and rapid replacement of the blood lost remain the best means of treatment of hemorrhagic shock. An effective plan of treatment advises: preliminary typing, precautionary measures, accurate measurement of blood loss, effective hemostasis, the development of an obstetric blood bank, recognition of the importance of the time factor and rapid transfusions in conjunction with the administration of an alkali agent.

Dextrose and isotonic solutions of sodium chloride have been all but discarded as therapeutic measures; instead, sixth-molar sodium lactate solution is now used. It is known that a straight line relationship exists between the fall in blood pressure and the alkali reserve. There is some evidence that the administration of alkali agents proves useful in delaying the onset of irreversible shock until the more effective agents, such as blood and plasma, are available in sufficient quantity. The secondary purpose in giving alkali agents to combat transfusion reactions which might presumably occur when multiple transfusions are administered.

A rapid method of performing blood transfusions is described. This consists of a simple pressure mechanism added to the ordinary transfusion apparatus. Using this apparatus and maintaining a pressure of 120 mm. of mercury in the bottle of blood, 500 cc. of blood may be given quite rapidly. 3 references.

M. F. P.