Abstracts

Amphetamine, or benzedrine, is being used as a central nervous system stimulant. This substance is contained in inhalers in an impregnated paper folded in 8 sections and called “a strip,” each strip containing 31 mg. of benzedrine. This is chewed, incorporated in chewing gum, swallowed whole, dipped in coffee or alcoholic beverages.

This study was made on personnel of a military prison where 25 per cent of the inmates used benzedrine for euphoria. Withdrawing of the drug caused weakness, depression, gastrointestinal disturbance and tremor. Massive doses cause agitation, restlessness, sleeplessness, talkativeness, flushed skin, profuse perspiration, dilated pupils, fine tremor, rise in systolic blood pressure and pulse rate, paranoid ideas and auditory hallucinations. The diagnosis is made by finding the drug in the urine. Treatment of acute amphetamine intoxication is the injection of ascorbic acid which causes deamination by the ascorbic-acid-dehydro-ascorbic acid system.

To prevent the occurrence of benzedrine intoxication, an inhaler containing a volatile local vasoconstrictor which would be inactivated or not absorbed in the gastrointestinal tract should be developed.

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In both man and dogs, tolerance to analgesia, sedation, miosis, depression of caloric intake and respiratory and circulatory actions develop following administration of Methadon. Strong physical dependence developed in intact dogs, spinal dogs and a chronic decorticated dog. Methadon com-


livery because they cause fetal respiratory depression.

Rectal analgesia is a well-accepted method of analgesia. Ether in oil, paraformaldehyde, avertin, chloral hydrate and pentothal sodium are used as rectal analgesics. As a rule the use of intravenous anesthesia is not recommended for use in labor. Ether and chloroform are used extensively for delivery in the home. Many combinations of agents are used in hospitals. Ether, chloroform, divinyl ether, nitrous oxide, ethylene and cyclopropane may all be used for analgesia but are usually administered during the second and third stages of labor.

Regional anesthesia by one of many methods has been used. Certain techniques, such as continuous caudal block, require specific training. Other methods, such as pudendal nerve block and infiltration require minimal specialized training. For cesarean section, the anesthetic which may be best for the mother may not be best for the baby. Prolonged general anesthesia leads to fetal respiratory depression. A combination of local infiltration with properly timed general anesthesia has been advocated by many. Continuous caudal and continuous spinal anesthesia have been used successfully. Of the inhalation anesthetics, cyclopropane is best for the baby. Resuscitation procedures are more common after general anesthesia than with regional or combined methods.

In the presence of the major complications of pregnancy such as heart, kidney or blood diseases, local or regional anesthesia is to be preferred to general anesthesia. 7 references.

F. A. M.