

ABSTRACTS

Editorial Comment: A fixed style of presentation for this department of ANESTHESIOLOGY has purposely not been defined. It is the wish of the Editorial Board to provide our readers with the type of abstract they desire. Correspondence is invited offering suggestions in regard to the length of abstracts, character of them, and source of them. The Board will appreciate the cooperation of the membership of the Society in submitting abstracts of outstanding articles to be considered for publication.

DYE, F. C.: *Advances in Anesthesia*. Bull. Univ. Maryland School Med. 32: 23-29 (July) 1947.

"Inhalation anesthesia has had no important radical innovations in recent years. . . . Diethyl ether is still the drug most widely used for inhalation anesthesia. . . . The disadvantages of chloroform outweigh its advantages and its use should be condemned. . . . Divinyl ether or vinethene is a newer volatile agent and is administered by the open drop method. . . . Ethyl chloride should be displaced for the greater safety of divinyl ether. . . . One of the newest volatile anesthetics is N-propyl methyl ether or metapryl. . . . There are three gaseous inhalation agents at the disposal of the anesthesiologist. Cyclopropane is the newest and probably the most ideal as it provides a pleasant and rapid induction. . . . When properly used, ethylene disturbs the normal physiology of the body very little. . . . Nitrous oxide may be used with safety when a general anesthetic agent of low potency is indicated if adequate oxygen is included in the mixture. . . . Intravenous anesthesia with sodium pentothal is finding increasing usefulness. . . .

"The most frequently used rectal anesthetic is avertin or tribromethanol with amyl hydrate, it is used as a basal anesthetic. . . . Spinal anesthesia is still considered as being too hazardous by some surgeons. . . . The proportion of cases in which spinal anesthesia is used is now greater than ever before. At

the University of Maryland Hospital it is employed for almost every laparotomy as well as for a goodly portion of operations on the pelvic organs when approached from below, on the perineum, and on the lower extremities. . . . Continuous or fractional spinal anesthesia is satisfying a long felt need in furnishing the desirable features of spinal anesthesia over periods of several hours. . . . Continuous caudal anesthesia, which has been made possible by adapting the malleable needle used for fractional spinal anesthesia or by the insertion of a ureteral catheter into the sacral hiatus, seems to be answering a real need for improved obstetric anesthesia. . . .

"Regional nerve block anesthesia is especially indicated in feeble patients and patients in shock. . . . Refrigeration anesthesia or cryotherapy is useful for amputations especially in the poor risk patient. . . . The utilization of curare is at the present moment a matter of foremost interest in anesthesiology. . . . A field of anesthesia in which the average surgeon does not expect the anesthesiologist to be interested in that of oxygen and gas therapy." 2 references.

J. C. M. C.

EVANS, A. L.: *Spinal Anesthesia (Editorial)*. South. Surgeon. 13: 774-775 (Oct.) 1947.

"As the search for the ideal anesthetic continues, spinal anesthesia has