

*To the Editor:*

Frequently, the lack of a small insignificant part of an infusion apparatus set will convert an ordinarily simple procedure into a rather difficult one. When a screw clamp is available, the rate of flow of an infusion or transfusion is easily regulated. When, however, a screw clamp is not available, an improvised method is usually inadequate as well as time consuming. The control of rate of flow by the method suggested below is simple, quick, and can be performed with material found in almost all types of infusion apparatus.

The cover of almost every type of prepared fluids for intravenous use contains a

thin, pliable, metal plate, approximately one and a quarter inches in diameter. This plate is folded around any part of the tubing. It is then partially folded in the opposite direction, so as to produce a horizontal crease in the plate. A fifteen to twenty degree fold will result in the rate of flow usually used in infusions. Increasing the angle will decrease the rate of flow, and vice versa. By the proper regulation of the second fold, any rate of flow can be easily obtained.

JULIUS BARCHAM, M.D.,  
*Department of Anesthesiology,  
Beth Moses Division,  
Maimonides Hospital,  
Brooklyn, N. Y.*

*To the Editor:*

I call your attention to a hazard which now exists in connection with the large tanks of anesthetic gases.

It has apparently become a practice to place a rubber cap over the valve handle of the tank for the convenience of the user. However, on two occasions—once with ethylene and once with nitrous oxide—this rubber cap has adhered to the inside of the metal tank cap, with the result that, when the tank cap was unscrewed, it opened the valve, and the gases escaped at

high pressure. In the instance of the ethylene tank it was only by extremely fast action that a tragedy was averted.

I recommend that these rubber caps be left off the tanks so long as a potential hazard exists.

This letter is sent to you in the hope that you will call this matter to the attention of the members of the Society.

BERNARD STODSKY, M.D.,  
*Director, Dept. of Anesthesia,  
Michael Reese Hospital,  
Chicago, Illinois*