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.


"In December 1947 a group of Wisconsin doctors formed the Wisconsin Society of Anesthesiologists. Physicians limiting their practice and also those devoting part of their time to anesthesia were invited to join. The purpose of the Society is to encourage scientific progress in anesthesiology, to disseminate information in regard to anesthesia, to make available to more people the benefits to be derived from the services of qualified anesthesiologists, and to develop and further the specialty of anesthesiology for the general elevation of the standards of medical practice."

J. C. M. C.


"In this series a dilute solution of procaine hydrochloride was substituted for the usual post operative morphia in all cases which had undergone major abdominal operations, particularly in the upper abdomen . . . Of the 100 cases treated, 90 were rendered pain free for periods ranging from 12-24 hours. In the remaining 10 cases, 500 cc. only of the procaine solution was used, for one reason or another, and this gave relief from pain for periods of from 5-8 hours. While the majority of patients were free from pain, several complained of vague epigastric discomfort not amounting to actual pain. They could, without exception however, breathe deeply without difficulty. In only sixteen cases was morphia given in the first 24 hours of the post operative period. In fourteen of these cases, too little procaine was administered over too long a period. In the two remaining cases morphia was considered necessary for severe pain which was not adequately controlled by the procaine solution . . .

"A moderate degree of tachycardia and flushing of the skin has been noted in several cases, but this has given rise to no discomfort and has quickly disappeared on slowing down the rate of the drip . . . Although this series is small, it is quite obvious that the incidence of post operative pulmonary complications has markedly decreased. . . . In two cases a secondary haemorrhage occurred from the wound. Although this may have been co-incident, the possibility of the vaso-dilator action of the procaine having played a part, cannot be entirely ruled out. The antagonistic action of procaine on the sulpha drugs was recognized, but none of these cases developed any wound infection. All the patients in this series were anaesthetized with inhalational