

occurred during so-called apneic oxygenation and apneic hypoxia, and during the same types of apnea following bilateral vagotomy. (Nahas, G. G.: *Heart Rate During Short Periods of Apnea in Curarized Dogs*, *Am. J. Physiol.* 187: 302 (Nov.) 1956.)

LUNGS The lungs are the single visceral organ in contact with the outside world, yet when removed from the chest under sterile conditions they contain no pathogenic bacteria. The lungs possess a defensive mechanism made up of cells lying on and within the septums. Under pathologic conditions these cells assume the functions of ameboid phagocytic macrophages. To all appearances these cells are the elements commonly identified as respiratory epithelial cells lining the walls of the air sacs. (Fried, B. M.: *Structure of Respiratory (Terminal) Portion of Lungs*, *A. M. A. Arch. Int. Med.* 98: 691 (Dec.) 1956.)

VENTILATION Tidal volume exchange by rocking bed was improved in 8 of 11 poliomyelitis patients by elevating the cephalothoracic position at the lower radius of the rocking arc from supine to an angle of 15 to 30 degrees above the horizontal. (Joos, T. H., and others: *Rocking Bed and Head Position*, *New England J. Med.* 255: 1089 (Dec.) 1956.)

TRANSAMINASE Hepatic and cerebral damage, produced in dogs by the ad-

ministration of carbon tetrachloride, resulted in highly significant rises in the activity of both glutamic oxalacetic transaminase and glutamic pyruvic transaminase in serum and in cerebrospinal fluid. Little or no transfer of these enzymes occurs between the serum and cerebrospinal fluid. (Fleisher, G. A. and Wakim, K. G.: *Transaminase in Canine Serum and Cerebrospinal Fluid After Carbon Tetrachloride Poisoning and Injection of Transaminase Concentrates*, *Proc. Staff Meet. Mayo Clin.* 31: 640 (Nov.) 1956.)

LIVER TEST The sodium D-lactate tolerance test is a reliable measure for evaluating hepatocellular damage. However, it is both expensive and difficult to perform. An injection of epinephrine will provoke an increase in endogenous lactic acid. Studies in normal rats subjected to partial hepatectomy, carbon tetrachloride poisoning and bile duct ligation, indicated that this technique also may be as reliable as the sodium D-lactate tolerance test. The authors demonstrated that hepatocellular loss or damage consistently impaired the clearance rate of endogenous lactic acid loading after epinephrine. Biliary obstruction had no such effect until secondary cellular damage following prolonged biliary stasis occurred. (Nalebuff, D. J., and Wintertz, W. W.: *Lactic Acid Response to Epinephrine in Experimental Liver Disease; A Review*, *Yale J. Biol. & Med.* 29: 96 (Nov.) 1956.)

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