

spleen-lung circulation time determined. There is slowing of portal circulation in cirrhotic patients especially in the Laennec type. In a patient with metastatic neoplasm of the liver the determinations were practically normal. This technique is more reliable, easier and more precise than splenoportography for the study of the dynamics of the portal circulation. (*Gilsanz, V., Vergara, A., and Gallego, M.: New Method for Determining Portal Circulation Time, A. M. A. Arch. Int. Med. 99: 428 (March) 1957.*)

HEART RATEMETER The fetal heart ratemeter consists of a contact type crystal microphone, an amplifier equipped with a loudspeaker for monitoring the heart sounds, a multivibrator type ratemeter and a suitable power supply. The fetal heart rate may be read from a meter or recorded for later analysis. (*Corner, G. W., Jr., and Strang, H. M.: Fetal Heart Ratemeter, Am. J. Obst. & Gynec. 73: 190 (Jan.) 1957.*)

RECORDING BLOOD PRESSURE An automatic cycling apparatus for taking and recording blood pressure is described. The Riva-Rocci blood pressure apparatus is used and sounds picked up with a crystal microphone, Bureau of Standards type. (*Strang, H. M., and Corner, G. W., Jr.: Recording Sphygmomanometer, Am. J. Obst. & Gynec. 73: 196 (Jan.) 1957.*)

PLASMA CORTICOID LEVELS In a group of 35 patients given ether, there was a significant elevation of the free 17-hydroxycorticosteroid level in the blood plasma. There was no significant increase in the groups given cyclopropane and thiopental. The mean rise after one hour of surgery was statistically significant in all three groups. Further data suggest that impairment of conjugation was not a factor in the rise of free plasma corticosteroid seen in some patients following anesthesia alone. (*Virtue, R.: Adrenal Cortical Response to Surgery; Effect of Anesthesia on Plasma 17-Hydroxycorticosteroid Levels, Surgery 41: 549 (March) 1957.*)

ADRENAL SECRETION The right lumboadrenal vein was cannulated and the

venous 17-hydroxycorticosteroid level was measured in dogs subjected to increasing carbon dioxide concentrations. The incidence and magnitude of increase in 17-hydroxycorticosteroids was related directly to the concentration of the carbon dioxide inhaled. All dogs exposed to 20 per cent and 30 per cent carbon dioxide showed a maximal increase in adrenal response. Results in hypophysectomized dogs exposed to 20 per cent carbon dioxide indicate that the pituitary is essential for the adrenocortical response to carbon dioxide. (*Richards, J. B., and Stein, S. N.: Effect of Carbon Dioxide Exposure and Respiratory Acidosis on Adrenal 17-Hydroxycorticosteroid Secretion in Anesthetized Dogs, Am. J. Physiol. 188: 1 (Jan.) 1957.*)

HUMAN ADRENAL IN PREGNANCY Twenty-five patients meeting sudden death during pregnancy (1 patient died 2 days postpartum) were studied. The weight of the adrenals in this group was slightly greater than the controls, but this difference was not significant. The total width of the cortex was significantly greater than the controls and this was primarily due to an increase in the zona fasciculata. The appearance of the cortex was unlike that found in glands stimulated by disease or corticotropin. (*Whiteley, H. J., and Stover, H. B.: Effect of Pregnancy on the Human Adrenal Cortex, J. Endocrinol. 14: 325 (Jan.) 1957.*)

TEMPERATURE REGULATION The camel possesses two features which adapt him to his environment—a tolerance to water depletion and a low rate of water loss. The rectal temperature of the camel may vary from 34 C. to more than 40 C. This increase in temperature means heat is stored and is given off at night instead of being removed by evaporation. Also, the heat gain from the environment is reduced because the temperature gradient is reduced. Also, the fur of the camel is a barrier against heat gain. (*Schmidt-Nielsen, K., and others: Body Temperature of Camel and Its Relation to Water Economy, Am. J. Physiol. 188: 103 (Jan.) 1957.*)