

age period of 2 to 4 weeks resulted in abnormal liver function tests in 21 (42 per cent). Bromsulphthalein retention and elevation of serum alkaline phosphatase were most sensitive indexes of liver damage. Blood dyscrasias, including leucopenia, eosinophilia and circulating immature cell forms were also noted. (Dickes, R., Schenker, V., and Deutsch, L.: *Serial Liver Function and Blood Studies in Patients Receiving Chlorpromazine*, *New England J. Med.* 256: 1 (Jan.) 1957.)

ANAPHYLACTIC REACTION Two cases of anaphylactic reaction to oral penicillin are reported, and literature is reviewed of 13 others. Acute dyspnea, cyanosis, hypotension and pulmonary edema occurred within minutes of ingestion of penicillin. Treatment with intravenous epinephrine drip, hydrocortisone, and intermittent positive pressure oxygen administration was satisfactory. Anaphylactic reactions to penicillin are increasing in incidence and should be considered in diagnosis of bronchoconstriction and shock of obscure etiology. (Magazini, H. C.: *Anaphylactoid Reaction to Penicillins V and G Administered Orally*, *New England J. Med.* 256: 47 (Jan. 10) 1957.)

EMPHYSEMA Development of emphysema is related to disease and constriction of smaller bronchi and bronchioles. Chronic pulmonary emphysema produces hypoxia and later hypercapnia. Treatment consists of eliminating irritants and prohibiting smoking; the use of bronchodilators, digitalis for right heart failure, breathing exercises, and antibiotics if purulent sputum is present. (Hyde, L., and Hyde, B.: *Chronic Pulmonary Emphysema*, *Postgrad. Med.* 20: 609 (Dec.) 1956.)

ESOPHAGEAL VARICES In two cases of portal hypertension due to cirrhosis of the liver, pituitrin infusion (20 mg. pituitrin diluted in 200 cc. saline and infused during a 24 hour period) resulted in a pronounced reduction in portal venous pressure. In one case, hepatic blood flow, hepatic venous blood pressure and venous pH was reduced. Hepatic A-V oxygen difference increased. Similar changes of a

lesser degree were noted in a normal individual. Splanchnic vasoconstriction due to Pitressin are considered promising in treatment of bleeding esophageal varices. (Davis, W. D., and others: *Effect of Pituitrin in Reducing Portal Pressure in Human Being*, *New England J. Med.* 256: 108 (Jan. 17) 1957.)

AORTIC SURGERY Aortic reconstruction cases fall into two main groups: (1) those with lesions situated more than 2 cm. below the renal arteries, in which "routine" preanesthetic, anesthetic, and postanesthetic procedure is followed and (2) those with lesions at, above, or close to the renal arteries or invading the thoracic aorta, where induced hypothermia is obligatory. (Thornton, Harry L.: *Anesthesia for Aortic Reconstruction*, *Brit. M. J.* 253 (Feb. 2) 1957.)

DIPIPANONE Dipipanone—DL-6-piperidino-4:4-diphenyl-heptan-3-one, a distant "cousin" of methadone was employed as an analgesic in two distinct series—each of 100 cases. Dosage of 20 mg. in medical cases and 25 mg. in postoperative gynecological cases gave maximum relief in about 20 minutes. Nausea, vomiting, sweating and giddiness made up the side effects, which amounted to 4 to 5 per cent of all cases treated. (Gillhespy, R. O., Cope, E., and Jones, P. O.: *Dipipanone Hydrochloride in Treatment of Severe Pain*, *Brit. M. J.* 1094 (Nov. 10) 1956.)

SHOCK Studies were made on a patient who developed shock during a routine cardiac catheterization which later was shown to be due to pulmonary embolism and acute cor pulmonale. Hemodynamic studies were conducted during the preshock period and during the development of shock. In the earlier stage, increase in pulmonary vascular resistance was indirectly demonstrated by the rise in right atrial pressure and the increase in the height of the P-wave in the electrocardiogram. During this interval, a moderate fall in cardiac output and a mild fall in systemic arterial pressure were observed. Onset of clinical shock was signaled by a precipitous fall in systemic arterial pressure, by abrupt fall in right atrial pressure, and by bradycardia. This was in-

terpreted as evidence of the neurogenic nature of this shock, to be considered a secondary complication of acute cardiac failure rather than a direct effect of it. (Selzer, Arthur and Bradley, Herbert W.: *Observations Concerning the Origin of Shock Associated with Acute Cor Pulmonale*, *Am. J. Med.* 22: 163 (Jan.) 1957.)

PULMONARY VALVE INSUFFICIENCY Because of possible adverse effects in creating pulmonary insufficiency in man when operating for the relief of pulmonary stenosis, 13 dogs were studied after total pulmonary insufficiency was surgically produced. None developed heart failure in six to ten months. Four dogs tolerated strenuous exercise. In two-thirds of the animals there was an increase in right ventricular and pulmonary artery pressure. There was definite hypertrophy of the right ventricle. (Ratliffe, J. W., and others: *Physiologic Effects of Experimental Total Pulmonary Insufficiency*, *Surgery* 41: 43 (Jan.) 1957.)

TRANSPLANT DONORS It is known that transplants of tissues from one human being to another are usually unsuccessful except in twins and patients with agammaglobulinemia. This is due to immunological reaction on the part of the recipient to antigens in the tissues of the donor. The chances of finding a compatible transplant donor by trial and error are negligible. (Boyd, W. C.: *Chances of Finding Compatible Transplant Donors*, *Surgery* 40: 1007 (Dec.) 1956.)

CONTACT DERMATITIS Severe contact dermatitis was observed in 8 medical personnel following repeated exposure of the hands to chlorpromazine. Contact with chlorpromazine during preparation and injection sensitized 27 of 91 nursing personnel of hospital. (Tilley, R. F.: *Contact Dermatitis with Chlorpromazine*, *New England J. Med.* 225: 1046 (Dec.) 1956.)

HYPNOTIC Methyprylone ("noludar," 2,4-dioxo-3,3-diethyl-5-methyl-piperidine) has been found to be a safe and effective sedative hypnotic in doses of 200 to 400 mg., being well tolerated by older patients in

whom barbiturates are apt to produce confusion and sometimes delirium. (Stewart, J. S.: *Clinical Trial of Methyprylone, Piperidine Hypnotic*, *Brit. M. J.* 1465 (Dec. 22) 1956.)

LEAD POISONING Animal studies revealed that some of the erythrocytes of lead-poisoned dogs would remain suspended in a column of the supernatant plasma, and the Coombs test was uniformly more positive on these cells. Twenty-nine workers with chronic asymptomatic lead poisoning were studied, whose serial hematologic evaluations revealed anemia or reticulocytosis. Blood samples from ten workers showed a negative Coombs test. The other nineteen also showed a negative Coombs with the whole blood. However, 79 per cent of the nineteen showed a positive Coombs test in the superior portion of the columns of suspended red cells. (Sutherland, D. A., and Eisentraut, A. M.: *Direct Coombs Test in Lead Poisoning*, *Blood* 11: 1024 (Nov.) 1956.)

QUINIDINE In 611 patients treated for atrial fibrillation with quinidine, 20 (3.3 per cent) died suddenly. Severe organic heart disease, congestive heart failure, associated grave illnesses and lack of an arbitrary dosage limit, increase the possibility of a fatal outcome. (Thomson, G. W.: *Quinidine as Cause of Sudden Death*, *Circulation* 14: 757 (Nov.) 1956.)

OXYGEN TOXICITY In rats, chlorpromazine affords definite protection against the toxic action of oxygen at high pressure (85 p.s.i.). There was less pulmonary hemorrhage and edema and a lower mortality than seen in the controls. Reserpine was less effective than chlorpromazine. (Bean, J. W.: *Reserpine, Chlorpromazine, and the Hypothalamus in Reactions to Oxygen at High Pressure*, *Am. J. Physiol.* 187: 389 (Nov.) 1956.)

HYPONATREMIA Patients with an excess of water rather than an actual total or systemic deficiency of sodium, have been included under the term hyponatremia. At one extreme is absolute sodium depletion of the total organism, and at the other is