

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. (Ratcliffe, 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.* 137: 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