

CHLORPROMAZINE Over one thousand patients in labor were given chlorpromazine in combination with meperidine and scopolamine. Good results in pain relief and sedation were obtained in 89 per cent. Side effects and infant depression were minimal. (Lindley, J. E., Stanley, T. R., and Moyer J. H.: *Analgesic—Potentiating Effect of Chlorpromazine During Labor, Obst. & Gynec. 10: 582 (Nov.) 1957.*)

CURARE EFFECT ON LUNGS During measurements of chest cage and lung elasticity separately in dogs, curare increased the total chest elasticity, largely by its effect on the lungs. This stiffness could be simulated by histamine and relieved by Pyribenzamine. If curare is used for relaxation when a mechanical ventilator is used, increased ventilatory pressure will be needed if ventilation is to be maintained constant. Succinylcholine or decamethonium, which have no pronounced effect on lung compliance, seem to be better suited for patients with pulmonary fibrosis or other constricting diseases of the lungs. (Maisson, W. H.: *Effects of Curare on Elastic Properties of Chest and Lungs of Dog, J. Appl. Physiol. 11: 309 (Sept.) 1957.*)

FLUOTHANE Fluothane requires careful and accurate administration and particular avoidance of abrupt changes of concentration. The latter may cause a rapid drop in blood pressure with cardiovascular depression, respiratory depression, and cardiac arrhythmias. Fluothane is incompatible with epinephrine and norepinephrine. It is not an agent to be used by the occasional anesthetist. (Editorial: *Fluothane, Canad. M. A. J. 77: 607 (Sept. 15) 1957.*)

VITAMIN C Experiments with rabbits have established that by administration of a vitamin complex (C in doses of 40 mg./kg., PP in doses of 5 mg./kg., and B₂ in doses of 0.4 mg./kg.) about one hour before anesthetization with ether, the progress of the anesthesia is impeded, producing an analeptic action. When vitamin C is omitted from the vitamin complex the analeptic action disappears

without any influence upon the other factors. On administration of vitamins C, PP and B₂ after the stage of excitation, no influence is exerted upon the course of ether anesthesia. (Ivanovskaya, T. V.: *Influence of Ascorbic Acid and of the Vitamin 'B' Complex Upon Course of Ether Anesthesia, Elksper. khir. 2: 50, 1956.*)

THYROID INHIBITION Under the influence of Luminal an insignificant decrease in I¹³¹ uptake by the thyroid gland of white mice was observed, but under the influence of hexamethonium a sharp decrease. This may be explained by an inhibiting influence of hexamethonium on the thyrotropic function of the hypophysis. (Smirnov, G. P.: *Influence of Hexamethonium and Luminal on Thyroid Gland Function (by Use of Radioactive Iodine), Probl. endokr. 2: 18, 1956.*)

BRONCHODILATOR Caytine used in the inhalation treatment of bronchospasm has marked bronchodilator activity in most patients equal to n-isoproterenol. In some individuals it caused mild side effects. It has sufficient clinical value to be included with epinephrine and isoproterenol in the armamentarium of bronchodilator aerosols. (Leslie, A., and Simons, D. H.: *Evaluation of Bronchodilator, Caytine (JB-251), Am. J. M. Sc. 234: 321 (Sept.) 1957.*)

NERVE GAS POISONING The major presenting symptom is acute asphyxia which must be combated by effective respiration and support of the cardiovascular system. Atropine in large doses (2 mg. or more) is used to combat both the effects of acetylcholine and the anticholinesterases. (Krop, S., and Loomis, T. A.: *Treatment of Anticholinesterase Poisoning by Phosphate Insecticides and "Nerve Gas," U. S. Armed Forces M. J. 8: 495 (April) 1957.*)

ATROPINE Subjects who received up to 5 mg. atropine parenterally to prevent sweating still lost weight on exposure to high skin temperatures. Central nervous system side effects included occasional bouts of acute severe anxiety, drowsiness