

Effect of Neomycin and Its Fractions in Frog, Proc. Soc. Exper. Biol. & Med. 99: 537 (Nov.) 1958.)

RELAXANT COMPLICATION In patients suffering from carcinoma, the nervous system may become disordered independently of the presence of metastasis. Forty-two patients exhibiting various neurological disorders in association with carcinoma, and in the absence of relevant secondary deposits, have been seen. In 27 patients, these were primarily neuromuscular disorders. In 2 of these, although mild muscular weakness existed preoperatively, serious weakness did not develop until after a surgical procedure carried out under anesthesia with muscle relaxants. (Brain, R., and Henson, R. A.: *Neurological Syndromes Associated with Carcinoma, Lancet* 2: 971 (Nov. 8) 1958.)

RELAXANT ANTAGONISTS The alcohol of pantothenic acid and calcium pantothenate were used as antagonists of relaxants of different types. Heterocyclic decamethylene was not counteracted, whereas all other relaxants were antagonized. The authors consider several hypotheses to explain these effects. (Galeotto, E., and Rizzi, R.: *Derivatives of Pantothenic Acid as Antagonists of Muscular Relaxants, Anaesthetist* 7: 73 (March) 1958.)

ATROPINE AND HEART RATE Atropine has long been known to slow the pulse rate, quicken the pulse rate, or produce quickening preceded by slowing. In a series of three experiments on two subjects, these effects have been shown to be a function of the total dose, the route of administration, and, in the case of intravenous administration, the rate of administration. The intravenous injection of 0.5 mg. or less of atropine usually produced slowing of the pulse rate. When a larger dose was injected intravenously and slowly, tachycardia was preceded by a relative bradycardia. (Morton, H. J. V., and Thomas, E. T.: *Effect of Atropine on Heart-Rate, Lancet* 2: 1313 (Dec. 20) 1958.)

CHLORPROMAZINE In dogs chlorpromazine has resulted in a prolonged survival time in severe hemorrhagic shock. If ad-

ministered after the establishment of shock, the mesenteric circulation is maintained. Chlorpromazine in conjunction with blood transfusion deserves further study in the management of shock. (Inglis, F. G., and others: *Effect of Chlorpromazine on Survival Time and Mesenteric Blood Flow in Experimental Shock, Ann. Surg.* 149: 431 (Jan.) 1959.)

CHLORPROMAZINE Administration of chlorpromazine (15 to 22 mg./kg.) to rabbits caused a characteristic reduction of the recuperative properties of the cerebral cortex and inhibition of the dehydrogenases of lactic, citric and glutamic acids in the tissues of the cerebral cortex, cerebellum and muscles. (Chagovets, R. V., and Lakhno, E. V.: *Effect of Chlorpromazine on Dehydrogenase Activity of Cerebral Cortex, Cerebellum and Muscles, Vopr. Med. Khimii* 1: 36 1957.)

MEPROBAMATE ADDICTION A controlled study of ninety patients concludes that despite prolonged use of clinically effective doses of meprobamate (400 mg. t.i.d. for 8 weeks) no evidence of dependence, physical or psychic, was manifested on sudden withdrawal of the drug and substitution of a placebo. Therefore, this dosage is below any critical level that may be necessary for the development of dependency or addiction. (Boyd, L. J., and others: *Meprobamate Addiction, J.A.M.A.* 168: 1839 (Dec. 6) 1958.)

PROMETHAZINE A study in 5,000 surgical and obstetric patients of preanesthetic medication with promethazine, scopolamine, and reduced doses of meperidine concluded that this combination affords optimal sedation without significant respiratory and circulatory depression. Promethazine practically eliminated nausea and emesis in the preoperative and postoperative periods, and markedly reduced the incidence of these complications following general anesthesia. Transient, mild to moderate hypertension of unknown etiology occurred occasionally following the intravenous administration of promethazine. A number of patients presented bizarre athetoid-type movements and localized muscle twitches after receiving promethazine; the muscular phenomena were easily controlled with small doses