ACETYLCHOLINE When explants of human respiratory ciliated epithelium are cultured in a plasma clot they tend to round up and to form rotating globes which can be employed in perfusion chambers for the study of the effect of various chemicals on ciliary activity. Perfusion of acetylcholine chloride solutions at 0.1–1.0 per cent concentration invariably increased rotatory movement of the cell cluster. The depressant action of atropine sulfate was counteracted by acetylcholine chloride at 0.5 per cent concentration. Acetylcholine apparently plays the key role in initiating the contractile mechanism of ciliary motion. (*Corssen, G., and Allen, C. R.: Acetylcholine: Its Significance in Controlling Ciliary Activity of Human Respiratory Epithelium in Vitro, J. Appl. Physiol. 14: 901 (Nov.) 1959.*)

DIGITALIZATION Over the past four years, the extent to which digitalis has been used prior to bypass cardiac surgery has varied considerably. It has always been used when failure was believed to be present or imminent, but imminent failure is not easily recognized. Generally, if the patient has not been in heart failure, he goes to operation without digitalization. Then, if the heart rate increases during operation or if the venous pressure increases, a dose is given which is calculated to be 25 to 30 per cent less than the total average therapeutic dose. Administration is then continued according to the response of the patient after operation. Most patients with pulmonary stenosis are digitalized postoperatively. Mild digitalis intoxication is being seen, but when looked for and recognized, has been found to be benign. The patient after bypass surgery probably does not have increased sensitivity to digitalis. (*Burchell, H.: Cardiological Practice in the Era of Cardiac Surgery with Pump Oxygenators (Bypass Cardiology), Canad. M. A. J. 81: 787 (Nov. 15) 1959.*)

The "Briefs" of Russian Literature were taken from EXERPTA MEDICA'S "Abstracts of Soviet Medicine," which is supplied through the Public Health Service of the National Institute of Health.

NOTICE

Attention of readers is called to a deficiency that has been noted by the manufacturer in the Fluotec Mark I. See pages 73 through 77.