

be available in the delivery suite for emergency transfusions. The Committee on Standards of the American Association of Blood Banks strongly opposes the maintenance of a unit of Group O Rh-negative blood in the delivery suite for emergency transfusions. There are many hazards associated with the use of uncrossed-matched O Rh-negative blood, and it is their belief based on long experience that this blood should not be used without proper indication. Isoimmunization caused by minor Rh factors such as "c" and others (Kell and Duffy) are so frequent as to pose a real threat to the mother. (Jennings, E. R.: *O Rh-negative Blood in Delivery Suite, Transfusion 6: 611 (Nov.) 1966.*)

FLUID THERAPY IN SHOCK Graded hemorrhage to 10 per cent hematocrit and immediate replacement of blood with equal amounts of colloid solution produced 80 per cent survival in dogs. A similar procedure using Ringer's solution in equal volumes resulted in no survivors. When the shed blood was replaced with 2.5 times as much Ringer's solution, all animals died within two hours, having developed severe metabolic acidosis. There was severe tissue edema but no pulmonary edema. The noncolloidal fluid leaks from the vascular space, resulting in hypovolemia. Given a choice colloidal solution is better than Ringer's solution for treatment of hemorrhage. (Takaori, M., and Safar, P.: *Acute, Severe Hemodilution with Lactated Ringer's Solution, Arch. Surg. 94: 67 (Jan.) 1967.*)

RHEOMACRODEX In a well-designed study of 102 patients with myocardial infarctions, 57 received 500 ml. of a 10 per cent solution of low molecular weight dextran three times in the first 48 hours after admission. Patients so treated were found to have a significantly higher SCOT level and a significantly higher incidence of congestive failure. Pneumonia, arrhythmia, and post-infarction syndrome were more frequent in the treated group. Four of the untreated group died compared to 8 of the treated group. (Borchgrevink, C. F., and others: *Low-molecular-*

weight Dextran in Acute Myocardial Infarction, Brit. Med. J. 2: 1235 (Nov.) 1966.)

HEMODILUTION: pH CHANGES *In vitro* changes of blood pH following serial dilution (1:2, 1:4, 1:8, and 1:16) of dog arterial blood with three colloid plasma substitutes, ACD plasma and two crystalloid solutions were observed. Dilution of blood with ACD plasma (pH 6.95) caused a marked and progressive decrease in pH. During dilution with colloid plasma substitutes (clinical dextran, low molecular weight dextran and hydroxyethyl starch), pH remained at physiologically normal levels. Only with 1:15 dilution was there a slight but significant decrease in pH with dextrans. Likewise, following dilution with the crystalloid solutions (lactated Ringer's solution and isotonic saline) pH remained essentially unchanged. (Takaori, M.: *Changes of pH of Blood Diluted with Plasma and Plasma Substitutes in Vitro, Transfusion 6: 597 (Nov.) 1966.*)

Respiration

SMOKING In 10 healthy men the acute effect of smoking two cigarettes was a significant increase in pulmonary resistance and a decrease in dynamic compliance owing to uneven ventilation. These changes result in a temporary increase in the work of breathing. (Miller, J. M., and others: *Acute Effects of Inhalation of Cigarette Smoke on Mechanical Properties of the Lungs, Amer. Rev. Resp. Dis. 94: 721 (Nov.) 1966.*)

AIR POLLUTION Two groups of children totalling 701, all in the first grade, were tested with the Wright peak flowmeter. Those from areas with polluted air had significantly lower peak flows than those from areas with clean air. (Anderson, D. O., and others: *An Epidemiologic Assessment of a Pediatric Peak Flowmeter, Amer. Rev. Resp. Dis. 95: 73 (Jan.) 1967.*)

RESPIRATORY RESISTANCE Volume of gas in the thorax during passive exhalations in anesthetized subjects varied exponentially with time. Exponential character of a passive