sitivity. Furthermore, it is hardly possible to draw clear conclusions from the cases reviewed in the Addendum by Ablett, case report by Wilson and review by Green, which are greatly complicated by polypharmacy and grave illness, particularly tetanus and leukemia. There appears to be a lack of information about the safety of prolonged exposure to nitrous oxide under other conditions in man, and it may be that we are overlooking a drug that would be valuable in preventing needless suffering in patients undergoing prolonged artificial ventilation. The problem will be resolved only by careful study of patients under the relevant clinical conditions.

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Anesthesia Does Not Cause Metabolic Stress

To the Editor:—In their otherwise excellent review, Drs. Blackburn, Maini and Pierce state that: "the induction of anesthesia initiates the (metabolic) response to injury, while most surgical procedures 60 to 90 min in duration do not augment this stress further." We believe that this statement is not correct. First, the documentation given for the above statement is incorrect, since the article referred to deals with the extent and composition of postoperative weight loss. Second, several studies have shown that anesthetic

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