Unfortunately, many anesthesiologists are not aware of this aid to intubation. Perhaps if more were familiar with the technique, an instrument would be designed for anesthetic use and made commercially available specifically for this purpose.

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LED Monitors and the Color-blind

To the Editor:—With the advent of more equipment into the surgical suite, much of it with red light emitting diode (LED) displays, red-green color blindness in one of the anesthesia staff here has become a problem.

Color blindness is a relatively common inherited X-link recessive trait. About 8% of the white male population suffers from this trait. Red LEDs typically emit light in the 660–630 nm range. Light in this range is difficult for red–green color blind people to visualize.

The problem equipment was the Accutorr 2® automatic blood pressure recorder. Our staff member found it very difficult to read it except at very close range. Other anesthesiologists had no trouble with this device.

The Accutorr 2® blood pressure recorder is relatively unique: it uses a circular polarizing front panel to decrease reflections. This polarizer gives the device a pleasant dark front but decreases light transmitted from the display by at least 50%. We suggest that red LEDs not be covered with a dark front plate in monitoring equipment. Those currently in use should be replaced with monitors that are more easily read by the color blind. In the short run, we suggest that readers remove the front polarizing plates and replace them with clear front panels.

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Multiple and Complementary Mechanisms Produce Analgesia during Intravenous Regional Anesthesia

To the Editor:—Lillie et al. have joined the groups of investigators proclaiming to have discovered the “Site of Action of Intravenous Regional Anesthesia (IVRA).”1 Two proposed sites of action are evident. The most recent report indicates that small nerves or possibly nerve endings are the site of initial analgesia. This conforms to the conclusions of Miles et al.2 and Fleming et al.3 that the local anesthetic acts on nerve endings earlier than on nerve trunks. In sharp contrast, Raj et al. presented evidence that the local anesthetic acts on major nerve trunks, possibly reaching into the trunk via small venules within the nerve core.4

There are some puzzling differences between the

* Accutorr 2® is produced by the Datascope Corporation, 580 Winter Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey.