noted that depot adrenocorticotrophic hormone is not licensed for the treatment of post dural puncture headache.

B. B. COLLIb
Whipps Cross Hospital
London

Kinked inner tube of coaxial breathing system

Sir,—Further to recent correspondence on difficulties with Mapleson D coaxial breathing systems (Bain systems) [1], we wish to report another problem encountered recently with the disposable Bain system.

After induction of anaesthesia, an ASA I patient was connected to a disposable Bain system (Intersurgical), but expiration was obviously obstructed. The problem was traced to the scavenging valve. This unidirectional valve (AGS release valve) fits in both directions to the scavenging part of this particular Bain system (as shown in fig. 1 connected correctly). If connected incorrectly, expiration is impossible (fig. 2).

This incident emphasizes again the need to check breathing systems, including scavenging devices, very carefully.

D. GAYLARD
G. SAVILLE
Department of Anaesthetics
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital
Exeter


Apnoea and CPAP for restoration of spontaneous respiration

Sir,—I read with interest the article of Karlsten and Englesson [1] concerning the use of apnoea and CPAP for restoration of spontaneous breathing at the end of anaesthesia after controlled ventilation. In their study, 45 adult patients underwent ventilation to normocapnia. At the end of surgery, the lungs were ventilated for 5 min with oxygen and then given CPAP of 8 cm H₂O.