

ABSTRACTS

Editorial Comment: A fixed style of presentation for this department of ANESTHESIOLOGY has purposely not been defined. It is the wish of the Editorial Board to provide our readers with the type of abstract they desire. Correspondence is invited offering suggestions in regard to the length of abstracts, character of them, and source of them. The Board will appreciate the cooperation of the membership of the Society in submitting abstracts of outstanding articles to be considered for publication.

BARRETT, R. H.: *Analeptic Effect of Sodium Succinate on Barbiturate Depression in Man. Anaesthesia* 3: 109-110 (July) 1948.

"In a search for some drug which could be safe and effective in barbiturate poisoning as well as in other types of coma, the author was led to investigate the properties of intravenous sodium succinate as a result of favourable reports of its action in barbiturate narcosis in experimental animals. For this purpose a 30 per cent solution of the hydrated salt of sodium succinate in distilled water was given intravenously in various dosages to patients who had been given pentothal sodium, together with either local or spinal analgesia, for surgical operations, and the recovery time compared with a series of 200 control cases who did not receive succinate. . . . It would appear from these experiments that sodium succinate has some effect in reducing the period of action of pentothal sodium in normal cases, but whether the drug will prove of therapeutic benefit in cases of overdose is not at present very clear."

J. C. M. C.

BROUGHER, J. C.: *Demerol in Obstetrics. West. J. Surg.* 56: 480-481 (Sept.) 1948.

"From the time that chloroform and ether were first administered to relieve the pains of childbirth, a large

array of drugs has been used to assuage the suffering of parturient women. . . . Patients appreciate partial relief of pain but in our series it was found that they appreciate the amnesia much more than some degree of analgesia alone. . . . Paraldehyde was found to be a safe analgesic, and also one which produced amnesia in a high percentage of cases. . . . Recently, we have obtained veterinary gelatin capsules, size eleven, which hold four drams which make the administration of paraldehyde by rectum a simple procedure. Among several drugs used, the safest and most satisfactory have been tuinal and paraldehyde; we have used this combination over a period of six years. In our reported experience with tuinal and paraldehyde, complete amnesia was obtained in 98 per cent and partial amnesia in the remaining two per cent of the patients. The undesirable delirium states wherein the patient throws herself about and is difficult to restrain is present in approximately three per cent of my cases, whereas the incidence is ten per cent when scopolamine is combined with barbitol. The narcosis still caused approximately 50 per cent to become quite restless with their pain. The chief undesirable effect of the barbitol is restlessness and delirium. To counteract this, the present study was undertaken using demerol. . . . This report covers a review of 941 patients delivered in a