

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.

GILLESPIE, NOEL, A.: *Ralph Milton Waters: A Brief Biography*. Brit. J. Anaesth. 21: 197-214 (July) 1949.

This is an all too short account of the life of Doctor Waters and of his work in anaesthesia. Although his many unique and specific contributions to the science and to the organization of the specialty are here enumerated, his equally important but less tangible contributions are left somewhat to inference; his insistence, for example, on the physiological and pharmacological basis of anaesthesia and his regard for the independent status of the anaesthetist, to mention only two of the factors which in the past forty years have completely changed the anaesthetic atmosphere in this country. The narrative of his early years, being less a matter of public record, is especially interesting.

All anaesthetists, old as well as new, should read this skillful biography of the man who has had a wider influence on anaesthesia than any doctor since John Snow. It is humbling as well as inspiring to read of his development and to realize the extent of our debt to him.

A. L.

THORP, R. H.: *The Pharmacology of the Optical Isomers of Amidone (2-dimethylamino-4: 4-diphenylheptan-5-one)* Brit. J. Pharmacol. 4: 98-104 (March) 1949.

"The dextro, laevo, and racemic optical isomers of amidone (2-dimethyl-

amino-4: 4-diphenylheptan-5-one) have been examined pharmacologically. The effects upon the central nervous system in mammals are associated with the laevo, and consequently also the racemic form. The site of action of the acute toxicity of amidone was found to be upon the cardiac muscle cells. All three isomers of amidone were approximately equally toxic. Spasmodic activity was shown to be a function of the general structure of amidone and not associated with optical isomerism. Local anesthetic activity occurs in all three isomers, but is influenced by optical isomerism and is greatest in the laevo form. The recently reported property of analgesic drugs, of producing a state of 'acute vascular tolerance' to the depressor action resulting from intravenous injection, has been confirmed with l-amidone."

J. C. M. C.

FLEISS, A. N.: *Multiple Sclerosis Appearing After Spinal Anesthesia*. New York State J. Med. 49: 1076 (May 1) 1949.

"In those instances where recognized neurologic syndromes were apparently precipitated by the anesthesia, it is likely that subclinical defects had existed which could not be elicited by our present methods of neurologic testing. Without the added stimulus of the anesthesia, the disease would probably have appeared more gradually at a later period. . . . A veteran, age thirty-six, had had difficulty with his feet for many years, which was at-