

BRIEFS FROM THE LITERATURE

JOHN W. PENDER, M.D., *Editor*

Suggestions and criticisms for increasing the effectiveness and appeal of this new section will be welcomed by Dr. John W. Pender, 300 Homer Ave., Palo Alto, California.

SCIENCE It is amazing what ordinary people can do if they set out without preconceived notions. All science is merely finding out how nature does things. A man must have a certain amount of intelligent ignorance to get anywhere. (*Charles F. Kettering.*)

HISTORY Dr. Thomas Beddoes, because of his preoccupation with the therapy of wasting diseases, missed the anesthetic implications of nitrous oxide, although he wrote Josiah Wedgwood of his discovery of "a species of air of which a small quantity has repeatedly exhilarated different persons in the most remarkable manner and a larger quantity produces perfect intoxication without subsequent debility." (*Todd, A. C.: Thomas Beddoes and Treatment of Spinal Curvatures at Bristol About 1800, J. Hist. Med. & Allied Sc. 11: 430 (Oct.) 1956.*)

MUSEUM A section on anesthesiology will be included in the museum of history and technology scheduled for completion by 1960 on the Mall in Washington, D. C. The anesthesiology exhibit will be part of the Hall of Medical History. The curator asks assistance in making final plans and offers of original equipment. (*Notes and Queries: J. Hist. Med. & Allied Sc. 11: 449 (Oct.) 1956.*)

GROUP PRACTICE Group practice in anesthesiology is discussed from its inception and through its evolution as it now exists in a small southern city. (*Ochsner, A. J.: Establishment of Private Group Practice in Small Community, South. M. J. 50: 30 (Jan.) 1957.*)

RENTAL FEE Controversy exists between the Latter-Day Saints Hospital, Salt Lake City, and its anesthesiologists, over an effort by the hospital to charge a rental fee

varying from \$5 to \$15 per case to anesthesiologists using this hospital. Individual anesthesiologists might have to pay fees amounting to \$800 per month. The problem is being studied by a special medical staff committee. (*Latter-Day Saints Hospital Dispute with Anesthesiologists Over New Rental Fee Charged for Use of Hospital Facilities, Mod. Hosp. 87: 56 (Nov.) 1956.*)

TRIFLUOROETHYL VINYL ETHER Mice were anesthetized in bell jars with precalculated concentrations of divinyl ether, diethyl ether, ethylvinyl ether, and trifluoroethylvinyl ether. Trifluoroethylvinyl ether was found to have anesthetic properties equal to those of divinyl ether, but was more potent than diethyl ether. Guedel's signs of anesthesia were modified to determine the degree of depression in mice. Graphs indicate the concentration needed to produce the various planes of anesthesia and the speed of recovery from anesthesia. (*Mörch, E. T. and Coade, G. E.: Anesthetic Properties of Trifluoroethylvinyl ether and Common Ethers, A.M.A. Arch. Surg. 73: 768 (Nov.) 1956.*)

TOPICAL Blood levels of local anesthetic drugs following topical application to mucous membranes, is a function of total dosage and not of concentration. Epinephrine 1:7500 added to tetracaine solution did not retard absorption. Topical application of a given dose results in blood levels that closely simulate those obtained after rapid intravenous injection. (*Adriani, J., and Campbell, D.: Fatalities Following Topical Application of Local Anesthetics to Mucous Membranes, J. A. M. A. 162: 1527 (Dec. 22) 1956.*)

TOPICAL Preparation of a patient for bronchography should include adequate premedication including barbiturate, atro-