Preparations Following Administration of Adrenal Hormones, Am. J. Path. 34: 717 (July–Aug.) 1958.)

METHOXAMINE REACTION Since 1952 methoxamine (Vasoxyl) hydrochloride has been successfully employed in the treatment of paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia when the usual simple measures to stimulate the vagus have failed. The mechanism of action in terminating the tachycardia is believed to be a rise in pressure in the arteries which activate all four afferent pathways concerned with cardiac slowing, viz., the baroceptors in the carotid sinuses and aortic arch. The usual dose of methoxamine for the therapy is 4–20 mg., undiluted, given by slow intravenous injection. An occasional severe reaction, characterized by excruciating headache, projectile vomiting, general nervousness, and rectal and vesical tenesmus occurs during the administration of the drug. Although such a severe reaction can usually be avoided by slowing or momentarily stopping the injection if the patient complains of a premonitory tingling sensation, nevertheless atropine—which is the physiological antagonist—should be available to counteract serious difficulty. *(Durham, J. R.: Severe Reaction to Methoxamine Hydrochloride, J. A. M. A. 167: 1835 (Aug. 9) 1958.)*

PROMAZINE IN LABOR A new method of analgesia and relaxation in labor is afforded by the combination of promazine (Sparine) and meperidine. Promazine 50 mg. is given intravenously to the patient when labor is established (except when delivery is expected within one hour). Subsequently, meperidine 25–50 mg. is administered intravenously and delivery is accomplished under low spinal anesthesia. Promazine is contraindicated in patients with an asthmatic syndrome because (1) marked hypotension develops in such patients given promazine and (2) the nasal and throat congestion produced by the drug may be a reflection of the same processes occurring in the respiratory tract of asthmatic patients. No "clinical hypotension" was encountered when this combination of promazine and spinal anesthesia was employed. Total evaluation of patients showed 57 per cent with excellent and 29 per cent with good results; 85 per cent of the infants were fully alert and 12 per cent were drowsy. *(Wegryn, S. P., and Marks, R. A.: Promazine, Meperidine and Spinal Anesthesia for Labor and Delivery, J. A. M. A. 167: 1918 (Aug. 16) 1958.)*

CHLORPROMAZINE JAUNDICE Small doses (50 mg.) of chlorpromazine may quickly produce a severe jaundice, which may be extremely difficult to differentiate from jaundice of more common origin. When biliary tract disease is known or suspected, extreme caution in the use of this drug is imperative. *(Malabed, L. L., and Carlson, E.: Chlorpromazine Versus Surgical Jaundice, West. J. Surg. 66: 228 (July–Aug.) 1958.)*

PROTAMINE Protamine sulphate in low concentrations affects rate and yield of blood thromboplastin, but has no effect on formed thromboplastin. Higher concentrations inhibit a reaction between blood thromboplastin, prothrombin and calcium. *(Hougie, C.: Anticoagulant Action of Protamine Sulphate, Proc. Soc. Exper. Biol. & Med. 98: 130 (May) 1958.)*

MORPHINE METABOLISM The kinetics of the enzyme actions found in a mouse liver microsome system responsible for demethylation of morphine and similar compounds has been studied. The system responsible for demethylation of narcotic compounds differs from that for demethylation of aminoazo dyes. The similarity between the receptors for narcotic action of morphine and allied compounds and the receptors for the enzymes that demethylate these compounds is not as great as has been proposed. *(Takemori, A. E., and Mannering, G. J.: Metabolic N- and O-Demethylation of Morphine- and Morphinan-Type Analgesics, J. Pharmacol. & Exper. Therap. 123: 171 (July) 1958.)*

FLUOTHANE Cardiovascular complications during Fluothane administration were found to be minimal when low concentrations (0.8 to 1.0 per cent) were not exceeded for maintenance. Supplemental meperidine, thiopentone, and relaxants were used when deeper planes of anesthesia or relaxation were re-