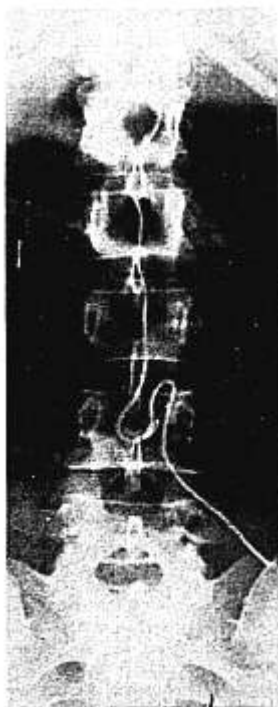


## Epidural Catheter

Captain Edmond I. Eger of the Army Hospital at Fort Leavenworth reports a difficulty with an epidural catheter.

A continuous epidural was to be administered to a 37 year old female for her third Cesarean section. The catheter was passed with ease through a 16-gauge Touhy needle at the third lumbar interspace and 25 cc. of 2 per cent lidocaine with epinephrine 1:200,000 were given through the catheter. Ques-



Radiograph of catheter in place, anterior-posterior view.



Radiograph of catheter in place, lateral view.

tionable anesthesia resulted and 25 minutes later 35 cc. of 1.2 per cent lidocaine were given through the catheter. No anesthesia resulted. The operation was then performed under local anesthesia until removal of the baby and then under nitrous oxide-oxygen-thiopental.

Postoperatively, radiographs of the catheter in place (the catheter was radioopaque) revealed the following: the catheter had been introduced into the epidural space, had proceeded a short distance up the space, turned 180 degrees, come down to the previous (fourth lumbar) interspace and then had exited through the intervertebral foramen presumably in company with the fourth lumbar nerve trunk (no paresthesias were noted). The illustration shows the anterior-posterior and lateral views.

Measurement of the catheter after its removal demonstrated that 8 cm. had been introduced into the epidural space.