

ACETYL STROPHANTHIDIN In both the normal and failing isolated dog heart a marked increase in contractility was produced by acetyl strophanthidin with no change in either oxygen consumption or efficiency. (Sarnoff, S. J., and others: *Effect of Acetyl Strophanthidin Therapy on Cardiac Dynamics*, *Amer. J. Med.* 37: 3 (July) 1964.)

KOROTKOFF SOUNDS Many theories have been advanced to explain the source of Korotkoff sounds since their description in 1905. A rubber cuff was placed directly around the common carotid artery and rapidly inflated and gradually deflated to produce Korotkoff sounds. Heart sounds and Korotkoff sounds are distinct and separate entities since they are separable in time and are differently influenced by changing the site of the sensing element. Turbulence in flow occurs corresponding with Korotkoff sounds and the vessel wall does not actively participate in the sound production. (Chungcharoen, D.: *Genesis of Korotkoff Sounds*, *Amer. J. Physiol.* 207: 190 (July) 1964.)

CARDIAC INNERVATION Complete excision and re-implantation of the heart was accomplished in 25 dogs with a 28 per cent one-year survival. Total extrinsic denervation appears to persist as long as 11 months in the surviving animals. After one year, vagal stimulation decreases the heart rate and stimulation of the stellate ganglia causes cardiac acceleration; injections of norepinephrine, tyramine and veratrum alkaloids are followed by responses identical to those obtained in normal controls; and catecholamine content of the myocardium returns to normal levels. Appearance of these responses demonstrates that connection has been re-established with the extracardiac nervous system. (Vallee, L. W., Cooper, T., and Hanlan, C. R.: *Return of Neural Responses After Autotransplantation of the Heart*, *Amer. J. Physiol.* 207: 87 (July) 1964.)

ATRIAL FUNCTION The contractile role of the left atrial wall is presently undergoing detailed evaluation. The left atrium acts as a reservoir during ventricular systole, expanding to receive blood from the lungs while the

mitral valve is closed. Even when fibrillating, the left atrium still performs its reservoir function; its efficiency being only slightly reduced by the absence of coordinated muscle contraction. (Grant, C., Bunnell, I. L., and Greene, D. G.: *Reservoir Function of Left Atrium During Ventricular Systole*, *Amer. J. Med.* 37: 36 (July) 1964.)

OCULOCARDIAC REFLEX The Aschner syndrome occurs more often than supposed, as revealed by electrocardiographic studies. Retrobulbar block is not always useful since it may even cause the reflex. The reflex can be caused by stimulation of all external muscles, the conjunctiva, or the capsule of Tenon. In prevention, hypoxia or hypercarbia must not be allowed, intubation is performed and atropine is given in doses high enough to cause tachycardia. (Eyrich, K., and others: *Oculocardial Reflex and Problems of Anesthesia in Operation for Strabismus in Childhood*, *Klin. Mbl. Augenheilk.* 145: 66 (Aug.) 1964.)

NEWBORN HYPOGLYCEMIA In newborns there is often a low blood sugar level existing after delivery up to the third or fifth day. It may be down to 15-40 mg. per cent (normally 50-75 mg. per cent) especially in children of diabetic mothers and in prematures. Apnea and convulsions occur if the mother was eclamptic. There is no real hyperinsulinism, no cortical insufficiency of suprarenal origin and no liver damage responsible for this hypoglycemia. Therapy consists of 10 per cent dextrose into the umbilical or a scalp vein. Cortisone may be useful and also sodium bicarbonate. (Rominger, E.: *Hypoglycemia in the Newborn*, *Arch. Kinderheilk.* 170: 209 (July) 1964.)

LATERAL POSITION Bronchspirometric studies show that in the lateral position the lower lung is better ventilated during spontaneous breathing. Minute volume, tidal volume and oxygen consumption is increased, while the upper lung has increased residual air and ventilation is less effective. If one lung has a tumor which is compressible nothing is changed, but noncompressible tumors in the lower lung make respiration less effective; if they are small, both lungs are ventilated