

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF DIVISION OF ANESTHESIA
1942

The year 1942 was marked by quite an increase of activity, both in the amount of clinical work accomplished, and also in the amount of teaching.

CLINICAL WORK

Of the 11,678 anesthetics administered throughout the Medical Center, 5,855 were given by the medical anesthesia staff. This amounts to an increase of 1,719 cases over the year 1941. Much of the increase is due to the addition of the obstetrical anesthetics, which were begun at the request of Dr. Watson, because of the shortage of staff in Sloane Hospital. Only the day-time cases are covered by the anesthesia residents. About 450 cases were anesthetized by the nine surgical residents who were assigned to anesthesia for a period of two to six weeks, beginning February 1st.

NEW AGENTS AND TECHNIQUES

No new techniques were added in 1942. The popularity of continuous spinal anesthesia continued unabated, as it should within reason. The use of intravenous anesthesia is being extended gradually in the field of laparotomies, and seems to be satisfactory in gynecological intraperitoneal operations of a simple nature. A few upper abdominal operations have been performed with this anesthesia, but it is much less satisfactory in this field. An anesthesia procedure for poor risk Caesarian section patients has been worked out with the Sloane staff--local infiltration to the peritoneal layer, then pentothal intravenously

for the peritoneal ~~and~~ incisions. Respirations of the baby have been excellent provided not more than two minutes elapses before its extraction.

Several new drugs have been used with varying success. Monocaine formate has been used in over 100 cases for spinal anesthesia. Its action seems to be similar to procaine hydrochloride, of which it is an optical isomer. Primocaine, another brand of procaine, has been used satisfactorily.

Two new inhalation agents were used in animal anesthesia and in humans, tetrachlorethylene and trichlorethylene. Both were supplied by the duPont Chemical Company, and were of great interest because of their non-explosiveness. Although both are potent anesthetic agents, neither is satisfactory because of a very high vapor density, which does not allow rapid vaporization. Both also are irritating to the respiratory tract, and tetrachlorethylene caused several minor skin burns. Their use has been discontinued.

A new chemical, ammonium chloride, 0.75%, has been used by regional nerve block methods, for treatment of intractable pain. The cases are too few in number to draw any conclusions. Its use is designed to replace absolute alcohol in nerve blocks.

A new carbon dioxide absorbing chemical, Baralyme, has been proved more efficient and more satisfactory than Soda-lime. It is being used throughout the hospital, as well as in Dr. Barach's department. About \$100,000 a year will be saved on this item alone.

RESIDENTS

Two residents completed their training in the department.

Dr. Samuel Rochberg, after three months at Welfare Hospital,

for training in cyclopropane, became Director of Anesthesia at Sinai Hospital, in Baltimore, Maryland. He has since resigned that position (January 1, 1943) and has entered private practice.

Dr. Kingsley Bishop, after two and one half months at Bellevue Hospital, for training in cyclopropane, became Director of Anesthesia at Philadelphia General Hospital on January 15, 1943.

Eight new residents joined the staff during 1942. Three of these left for other positions during the year.

Dr. Belmont Musicant: January 1, 1942

Dr. Herman Levin: January 15th to October 25th. After ten months, Dr. Levin was called to active duty in the Army, and after a period of training at Walter Reed Hospital, he has been assigned the position as Chief of Anesthesiology at the Brun General Hospital, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Dr. Dita Sternova: February 1st to July 1st. Dr. Sternova had one year's training under Dr. Henry Beecher, and after five months, went to Welfare Hospital, for training in cyclopropane.

Dr. Grace Frank: June 1st to October 1st. Dr. Frank had two years training in Canada, and after ~~three~~ two and one half months with us, took the position as Director of Anesthesia at the Methodist Episcopal Hospital in Brooklyn on October 25, 1942.

Dr. Mildred Thompson: August 1, 1942

Drs. Elizabeth Conover: September 15, 1942

Dr. Helene Mayer: October 1, 1942. Dr. Mayer had two year's experience with Dr. Huberta Livingstone, in Chicago.

Two other physicians spent short periods of time with us for instruction and to serve as additional staff members during the *Summer* months:

Dr. James Caldwell: two weeks

Dr. Vendela Olson: two months.

RESIDENT TEACHING

Staff meetings weekly at 4:00 P.M. on Thursdays served as the principal means of resident teaching. Alternate Thursday evenings, a resident presented a topic of anesthetic interest before a group of present and past residents, who entered into active discussion of the subject. In addition, through the kindness of Dr. Morton of the Anatomy Department, a cadaver was obtained for gross dissections.

For the first time, surgical residents were assigned to anesthesia for a period of two to six weeks, a step which has been contemplated for four years. Their work was uniformly good, but since their time on the service was limited only to afternoons, it is fortunate that this number ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{is} as large as it is. The morning schedules provide a wider selection of cases, and a larger number for teaching purposes. The surgical residents who received such training were Drs. Beakes, Randall, Buchanan, Thompson, O'Malley, Harrison, Porter, Wiedel and Auchincloss.

STUDENT TEACHING

There was no change in the plan of student teaching. Dr. Ellen Foot, met all the Third Year students on their wards, throughout the year, for discussion of preoperative and postoperative problems as well as choice of agents and technics.

The Fourth year students worked in the operating rooms eight mornings. Each administered about five anesthetics a piece, and observed many others. It is unfortunate that Babies Hospital tonsillectomies are now performed only during the summer months, as

they are the most plentiful source of open drop ether cases. Several students who were assigned to Roosevelt, Bellevue or Welfare Hospitals for their surgical quarter, worked during vacation periods.

FINANCES

A brief financial statement follows:

(end of report)

An aide, Viola Grollimund, was added to the department on October 27th, whose work in maintaining the anesthesia equipment has added much to the service of the department. Her technical assistance has enabled the secretary, Mrs. Schoen, to spend more time in assististing in the preparation of papers and maintaining an excellent anesthesia bibliography.

NURSING STAFF

There were two leaves of absence granted for Army Service, and one resignation. One additional nurse was added on The nursing staff, under Miss Penland's direction, has rendered valuable assistance. One discussion group was held with them, at Miss Penland's request. Although it is recognized that certain problems exist, which might be improved by a change in organization of the department, it is recommended that such changes be made at a later date, because of certain inevitable resignations which would take place when such a change is made. With the severe shortage of both medical and nurse anesthetists in the country as a whole, our own shortage would be overwhelming, unless a group of Navy or Army Officers were added.

EXPLOSION HAZARD

No new changes in technic were made. A conductive rubber floor installed in two operating and anesthesia rooms has maintained good conductivity. All the conductive rubber bought for the anes-

thesia machines has become non-conductive.

LECTURES

- January 2nd--Lecture to Residents on Asphyxia and Resuscitation.
- February 4th--Third Year Lecture
- February 11th--Third Year Lecture
- March 25th--Lecture to Johns Hopkins University Medical Students
- April 23rd--Yearly Report ~~to~~ Surgical Staff Meeting
- May 21st--Dental Journal Club
- August 8th--Combined Clinic--Medicine: Strychnine Poisoning
- October 10th--Lecture to Army Plastic Group
- October 28th--Lecture to 2nd Army Plastic Group
- October 31st--Combined Clinic--Medicine: Intractable Pain
- November 11th--Third Year Lecture
- November 18th--Third Year Lecture
- November 19th--Lecture to Army Neurological Group
- (October 5th--Dr. Rovenstine gave lecture to Fourth Year Students in Applied Pharmacology)
- December 1st--Lecture Fourth Year Dental Students
- December 8th--Lecture Fourth Year Dental Students
- December 15th--Lecture Fourth Year Dental Students

MEDICAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

- February 12th--A.S.A. Meeting--Presented Paper on "Continuous Spinal"
- April 4th-7th--Aqualumni Meeting; Madison, Wisconsin
Presented two brief papers:
1. "Convulsions during Anesthesia"
2. "A New Oxygen Mask (Barach-Eckman)"
- April 27th--A.S.A. Meeting: Columbus, Ohio
Attended by Dr. Ellen Foot

May 11th-----New England Society of Anesthesia
Boston, Mass.

June 6th & 7th--Atlantic City--American Board of Anesthesiology
Examinations--Examiner

June 10th-----Atlantic City--American Medical Association
Exhibit. Drs. Bishop, Musicant & Sternova
attended. Discussed paper on
"Spinal Anesthesia"

October 8th-----A.S.A. Meeting, N.Y.C.

December 10th--A.S.A. Meeting, N.Y.C.

PAPERS PUBLISHED

1. "Continuous Spinal Anesthesia" 3: 522-529 *Sept. 1942*
2. "The Metabolic Effects of the Anesthetic Agents" *Am. J. Surgery - 47-336-345 Aug. 1942*
3. "The Treatment of Untoward Effects from Nitrogen" *Anesth. 3: 265-271 May 1942*
4. "Tetrachlorethylene as an Anesthetic Agent" (In Press)

Duties as treasurer and member of Board of Directors of the American Society of Anesthesiology continued. Reelection to office as treasurer for three years. There were several trips to Triboro Hospital for chest surgery, and instruction of the resident on the staff there, as well as several trips to Welfare Hospital for the same purposes.

The problem of paramount importance during the coming year is one of providing good anesthesia service with a diminishing staff, and increasing number of surgical cases. Because of the lack of satisfactory medical applicants, it seems wise to consider the addition of a few oral surgical graduates to the staff. Since their first two years of dental school is identical with the medical school work, it seems likely that they are better fitted to enter the field of anesthesia, than nurse technicians with a minimal background of

basic sciences.

There are ample teaching cases to consider the addition of three to five Army or Navy Service Men to the staff. This arrangement would be more satisfactory than a group of twenty Officers at once.

The possibility of research work is even more remote than last year, because of the increased clinical demands, but problems are being formulated until such suitable time presents itself for their approach.

The thanks of the department are extended once again to the Surgical Department and its Director and to the Hospital Administration for their earnest cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

2/15/43

Virginia Apgar, M.D.

Report of M.D. Anesthesia Department--Income over Salary Expense
1942

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>NET INCOME</u>	<u>SALARY EXPENSE</u>	<u>INCOME over SALARIES</u>
January	\$ 1,980.22	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 930.22
February	1,306.71	1,125.00	181.71
March	2,650.46	1,130.00	1,520.46
April	2,221.50	1,130.00	1,091.50
May	1,980.00	1,210.00	770.00
June	1,669.25	1,215.00	454.25
July	3,012.75	1,305.00	1,707.75
August	2,356.85	1,380.00	976.85
September	1,992.63	1,362.50	630.13
October	1,916.00	1,470.00	446.00
November	2,304.00	1,375.00	929.00
December	1,862.63	1,375.00	487.63
	<u>\$25,253.00</u>	<u>\$15,127.50</u>	<u>\$10,125.50</u>