

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT — DIVISION OF ANESTHESIA  
1943

During 1943, despite fluctuating shortages in the personnel of the medical anesthesia staff, an increased amount of work was performed, and the undergraduate teaching program was enlarged.

CLINICAL WORK

Approximately 6,300 of the 12,000 anesthetics during the year were administered by this group. This increase of 500 cases over 1942 is due almost entirely to the addition of a third year elective course in anesthesia, of two months duration.

AGENTS and TECHNIQUES

No new anesthetic agents were forthcoming during 1943, but one drug, curare, has proved to be a valuable adjunct to anesthesia. After several months of preliminary work at the University of Iowa, on the anesthetic use of this drug, whose only action is to increase skeletal muscle relaxation, its use was begun in this clinic on November 10th. It is remarkable that such a potent drug has so few side effects, other than respiratory depression. In general its use allows a more rapid recovery from inhalation anesthesia, since deep anesthesia is not necessary for muscular relaxation for closure of the peritoneum.

Several new combinations of techniques were employed, the most outstanding of these being in the plastic surgery cases, involving operations around the head and neck. Several of these patients were intubated with local anesthesia and general anes-

thetia accomplished by the use of pentothal intravenously, although the duration of anesthesia in some cases was as long as 9 hours. Many more patients in the I.O.P.H. were anesthetized with pentothal, usually with good results. The lack of an established airway through the larynx in operations about the head was strongly felt in some cases. Anesthesia for suspension laryngoscopies still proved to be a difficult problem, but seems quite well solved by the use of a topical anesthesia spray, curare and pentothal. There is a very narrow margin between the presence of cough reflex, and respiratory arrest from overdose of pentothal.

Cyclopropane anesthesia was employed once in October, and once in November for especially poor risk patients. The lack of its availability is still badly felt, especially on the urological service. All the anesthesia residents received a period of training in the use of cyclopropane. The Jersey City Medical Center, Philadelphia General Hospital, and the Albany Hospital cooperated in this respect.

#### RESIDENTS

Four residents left the anesthesia service, one for duty in the Armed Forces.

Belmont Musicant: Called to active duty in the Army in June, 1943. Commissioned a First Lieutenant. At present is in India with a Portable Surgical Unit.

Mary Ward: June 15, 1943. Private practice in Englewood, N.J.

Mildred Thompson: July 1, 1943. Director of Anesthesia at the South Baltimore General Hospital.

Helene Mayer: Sept. 1, 1943. Director of Anesthesia at the Cambridge Hospital, Cambridge, Mass.

Ellen Foot resigned on <sup>Dec.</sup> 15, 1943 as Instructor in Anesthesia, and Assistant Anesthetist to become Director of Anesthesia at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. Although it will be impossible to fill her position adequately, we await with interest the development of anesthesia in her new location.

Fred Braun was promoted on December 15th from the status of Resident to Assistant Anesthetist.

The three former residents now in the army were all elevated to the rank of Captain: Robert Gladstone, Charles Stein and Herman Levin.

As an expediency to provide additional personnel, and as an experiment in teaching, three dental graduates were appointed to the anesthesia staff as residents. Their work was remarkably good, and two of the three became almost as dependable as M.D. graduates of similar experience. Since there is no outlet for the dental graduate in the specialty of anesthesia, except in the armed forces, no other such additions to the staff are contemplated.

Dr. Tone Dahl: University of Oslo. February 8th to December 1st. Now a Lieutenant in the Norwegian Navy.

Dr. Glenn Hersey: Columbia University. March 1st to September 1st. Now Lieutenant (j.g.) in the Dental Corps of

the U.S. Navy.

Dr. Ralph Slater: Columbia University. April 1st to July 1st. Now Lieutenant (j.g.) in the Dental Corps of the U.S. Navy.

Two regular additions to the Anesthesia Staff were made:

Helena Bertel: July 1st. One year of anesthesia at the Goldwater Memorial Hospital.

Margaret Waldbauer: October 1st. One year of anesthesia at the University of Iowa.

Two other physicians spent one month in the department:

Edward Edwards: September 15th to October 15th. Los Angeles, Cali.

Frank Lushear: November 1st to November 30th. Branchville, N.J.

It is obvious that so many changes in the course of one year detract from the quality of the anesthesia service rendered to the patients in this clinic, but the improvement in anesthesia standards in other parts of the country, and in the armed forces seems to us to counterbalance this difficulty to some extent.

#### RESIDENT TEACHING

Resident teaching continued to center about the weekly staff meetings at 4:00 P.M. on Thursdays, and the bi-monthly meetings on assigned topics, presented by the residents, in preparation for their American Board of Anesthesiology examinations.

The surgical resident teaching decreased somewhat in extent, because of the shortage of personnel on the Surgical Staff. Five residents received instruction in the afternoons for two to four weeks: Hiatt, Tenery, O'Keefe, Bryant and Orr.

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It is hoped that the scope of this teaching will be increased as soon as feasible, for their instruction is very evident in their future work, especially with regard to preoperative preparation and premedication of their patients.

#### STUDENT TEACHING

There were two changes in the teaching schedule for the students. The preoperative and postoperative rounds with the Third Year surgical students were discontinued because the many frequent changes in the Third Year teaching schedule resulted in too great expenditure of time. It was thought more advisable to have Dr. Foot spend her time on the operating floor for the instruction of the students and residents.

An elective course in anesthesia was offered in May, to Third Year students, for a period of two months, morning and afternoon. The results were most gratifying. Seven students availed themselves of this opportunity: Nichols, Blunt, Howland, MacGregor, Murphy, Steinsieck and Mulliken. Besides over 500 clinical anesthetics, each prepared and presented some anesthetic topic, which was discussed fully.

Fourth year teaching continued throughout the year, eight mornings for each group, and proved to be much less satisfactory than the third year teaching, because of the short period of time.

#### FINANCES

A brief financial statement is appended to this report.

#### NURSING STAFF

There were three resignations on the nursing staff, and three new nurse anesthetists were added. Miss Penland

and her group have continued to render valuable assistance in these difficult times.

WAR EFFORT

Contribution to the war effort was made in several ways: 1) Seven scheduled afternoons were spent with the Army Officers assigned to the Medical School for their basic training, and with those assigned to the Plastic Surgery specialty. Several other hours were spent with them in the animal surgery laboratory demonstrating various technics.

2) The department cooperated with Dr. Heyman Miller, of the Physiology Department and the Fort Monmouth Signal Corps in studying a problem related to temperature control and the use of the barbiturates. Several surgical patients anesthetized with pentothal were used for their experimental purposes, and several army volunteers were anesthetized. The work is being continued.

3) Appointment was made to the War-Time Graduate Medical Meetings Committee on Anesthesiology.

LECTURES

- January 22nd..... Army Lecture
- February 25th..... " "
- April 20th..... " "
- April 22nd..... Yearly report to Surgical Staff meeting
- July 14th..... Third Year Lecture
- July 15th..... Army Lecture
- July 21st..... Third Year Lecture
- August 20th..... Fourth Year Dental School Lecture

August 27th..... Fourth Year Dental  
Lecture

October 7th..... Army Lecture

October 18th..... " "

November 16th..... " "

November 23rd..... Third Year Lecture

December 7th..... " " "

MEDICAL MEETINGS ATTENDED

March..... Boston. New England Society of Anesthetists  
Paper on "Postoperative Complications"

April..... Wisconsin. Aqualumni

May..... Buffalo. New York State Medical Society.  
Panel discussion on War Anesthesia.

May..... New York. Examiner for American Board of  
Anesthesiology.

December..... Hartford. Spoke at the Hartford Hospital Anes-  
thetia Staff meeting.

Also four meetings of the American Society of Anesthetists, in N.Y.

PAPERS PUBLISHED

Apgar and Foot..... Nelson's Vol. 1 Loose Leaf Surgery.  
General Anesthesia.

Apgar and Foot..... Second Ed. of "Notes on Anesthesia".

Hunt, Hisslop and Apgar..... Tetrachlorethylene in Plastic Surgery.

Apgar..... Principles of Anesthesia in Plastic Surgery. Surgical  
Clinics of North America..... In Press.

Rovenstine and Apgar..... Monocaine Spinal Anesthesia.  
Anesthesiology..... In Press.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Duties as Treasurer of the American Society of Anes-  
thetists and a member of the Board of Directors continued. Appoint-  
was made to a Committee for New Members in the New York County

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Medical Society. The position as Attending Anesthetist at Triboro Hospital necessitated several trips for anesthesia for chest surgery.

A news letter containing information of all past and present members of the department was sent to the same group in December.

Dr. Ellen Foot and Dr. Olga Schweizer completed their examinations for the American Board of Anesthesiology.

The chief problems of 1944 are again those of too small a staff to perform the work required, satisfactorily. The Office of Procurement and Assignment has unfortunately reduced the number of allowable residents to three, based on a certain percentage of the 1940 number of residents, when the department was quite small. To offset this reduction, the administration has allowed the creation of two new positions, as Junior Anesthetists, with the same duties and remuneration as the residents in anesthesia. This will allow us the equivalent of five residents and one assistant. Since the proper type of individual to fill these positions is not immediately available, there are one or two vacancies which we hope to fill shortly.

With the resignation of Dr. Foot, whose invaluable assistance in both the clinical work, and especially the teaching program, is keenly felt, it is necessary to curtail some of the student instruction in 1944. We have chosen to omit the fourth

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year groups because of their very short exposure to the subject. The third year elective has been enlarged in scope, and should yield more satisfactory results, both to the students, and to our staff.

There is some ray of hope in connection to the future research program. Dr. Gregerson has been approached as to the possibility of adding to his staff Major Corsan Reid, whose work in anesthesia and physiology research and whose teaching ability make him an excellent individual to develop anesthesia research in the future. Arrangements cannot be completed until after the completion of the war, however.

Once more, the Division of Anesthesia extends to the Surgical Department and its Director, and to the Administrative Offices, its thanks for their hearty cooperation throughout 1943.

Respectfully submitted,

VAs:

Virginia Apgar, M.D.

REPORT on INCOME-----M.D. ANESTHESIA DEPARTMENT  
1942-1943

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>
January	\$ 1,980.22	\$ 1,990.56
February	1,306.71	2,214.46
March	2,650.46	2,770.71
April	2,221.50	2,115.37
May	1,980.00	2,488.28
June	1,669.25	2,575.26
July	3,012.75	2,833.59
August	2,356.85	1,751.32
September	1,992.63	1,650.25
October	1,916.00	2,155.58
November	2,304.00	2,235.09
December	1,862.63	1,834.63
	<hr/> \$25,253.00	<hr/> \$26,615.10