

542/5/18

Montreal, July 21, 1945.

12/21/45

Mr. Richard C. Gill,
P.O. Box 281,
Palo Alto, Cal.

Dear Mr. Gill:

I do not believe that the statistics on anaesthesia you ask for are anywhere available in anything like a national basis. Some published statistics of deaths and other complications are of no value because they are put out by someone who is trying to prove some point, or they are for just some specialized type of patient or anaesthetic agent.

The best and most objective statistics which I know of for any large clinic are those recorded by Dr. Ralph M. Waters at the University of Wisconsin. These figures might be taken as an example of Anaesthetic Complications in an extremely well-conducted hospital. The figures would of course be different in many other areas where not much attention is paid to anaesthesia or where the surgery is poorly done. I am sure that Doctor Waters would be glad to send you what information is available. Incidentally, he is now president of the American Society of Anaesthesiology, and a very close friend of mine.

One difficulty in the production of any reliable figures on anaesthetic deaths is that there is no criterion as to what is the relative importance of the anaesthetic as compared with the surgery on the patient's original disease as a factor in the cause of many such deaths.

I suggest that you might find it interesting to get in touch with Dr. William B. Neff, who is Professor of Anaesthesia at Leland Stanford University. I am sure he would be glad to talk over many of these matters with you. He knows of your work with Curare, and he is an old friend and former student of mine. His address is - 2400 Vallejo Street, San Francisco.

I have heard recently from Professor Macintosh, of Oxford that many English Anaesthetists are enthusiastic about curare. I have just sent an article over to be published in the "Lancet". I have been using in my last 20 cases Squibb's new product "d-Tubocurarine Chloride solution," and it seems to work just as effectively as "Intocostrin." I haven't heard any more about Chondodendron Tomentosum from Squibbs. Have you seen an article in the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, January, 1945 by Pick and Unna, entitled "Effect of Curare and Curare-like Substances on the Central Nervous System." It seems to me to provide laboratory proof of what we have all suspected from clinical observation of the effect of

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curare (not necessarily harmful) on the nervous system.

I am sorry I can't give you the figures you ask for, but you may be sure I am always delighted to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Richard O. Gill,
P.O. Box 281,
Palo Alto, Cal.

Dear Mr. Gill:

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The best and most objective statistics which I know of for any large clinic are those recorded by Dr. Ralph M. Waters at the University of Wisconsin. These figures might be taken as an example of Anesthetic Complications in an extremely well-conducted hospital. The figures would of course be different in many other areas where not much attention is paid to anesthesia or where the surgery is poorly done. I am sure that Doctor Waters would be glad to send you what information is available. Incidentally, he is now President of the American Society of Anesthesiology, and a very close friend of mine.

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I suggest that you might find it interesting to get in touch with Dr. William B. Keck, who is Professor of Anesthesia at Johns Hopkins University. I am sure he would be glad to talk over many of these matters with you. He knows of your work with Curare, and he is an old friend and former student of mine. His address is - 3400 Valley Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

I have heard recently from Professor Macintosh, of Oxford that many English Anesthetists are enthusiastic about Curare. I have just sent an article over to be published in the "Lancet". I have been using in my last 20 cases Spill's new product "4-Tropocaine Chloride solution," and it seems to work just as effectively as "Intocostrin". I haven't heard any more about Ghendehendron Tomentosa from Spill's. Have you seen an article in the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, January, 1945 by Pick and Ume, entitled "Effect of Curare and Curare-like substances on the Central Nervous System." It seems to me to provide laboratory proof of what we have all suspected from clinical observation of the effect of