To the Editor, *British Journal of Anesthesia*.

REDMAYES, Marshalswick Lane, St. Albans, Herts.

SIR,—In an article in your last issue, Dr. F. B. Mallinson develops an argument designed to show that sulphanilamide therapy is not a contra-indication to the use of pentothal sodium.

I am not sufficiently learned in biochemistry to know whether this argument is sound or not, but work on animals supports the theoretical objection to the simultaneous use of both drugs.

For example, Adriani has shown (*Journ. Lab. and Clin. Med.*, 1939, July) that in rats receiving sulphanilamide in therapeutic doses there was a markedly decreased tolerance to all barbiturates but particularly to those containing sulphur. As there are several rapidly acting barbiturates not containing sulphur which are quite satisfactory it seems desirable to use these if required on patients under the influence of the sulphanilamide group.

I am, sir, Yours truly,

C. LANGTON HEWER.

REVIEW


THIS booklet provides the practising anaesthetist with some details concerning apparatus that he might not easily discover in more ambitious text-books. Principally, however, we think its value will be greatest among those workers, nurses and orderlies for example, who although they do not use anaesthetic apparatus are often responsible for keeping it in order. This little work gives them just the kind of knowledge which they need and which makes their daily work interesting; and the same remark applies, with regard to handling the unconscious person, to the many lay persons who in war-time have to render medical aid.