

polate the points we made to cover the management of respiratory failure of neurological origin in general. Having made that point, the authors in their letter then proceed to a dissertation on this broad subject. We would not disagree with most of the points which they make, but would add that they are generally not relevant to our report. Of course, there are many different patterns of relationship between ventilatory failure and blood gas abnormalities, but most of these have not been well documented.

We would suggest that it is Grant *et al* who are offering in their letter rules of "anecdotal relevance"

for the management of this difficult problem. More hard data are required, and that is what we endeavoured to supply.

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Reference

- 1 Massam M, Jones RS. Ventilatory failure in the Guillain-Barré Syndrome. *Thorax* 1980; **35**:557-8.

Computers in Critical Care and Pulmonary Medicine announce The Third International Symposium 17-19 June 1981 at Norwalk Hospital, Yale University School of Medicine, Norwalk, Connecticut, USA

The purpose of this meeting is to bring together physicians, biomedical engineers, and computer scientists who are interested in the application of computer technology to the pulmonary function laboratory, critical care unit and monitoring of critically ill patients. The preliminary list of topics for which abstracts are invited include: pulmonary function including spirometry, diffusion, rebreathing techniques and blood gas analysis, exercise physiology, instrumentation for gas analysis, mass spectrometry, pulmonary application of nuclear medicine, monitoring during anaesthesia and postoperative period, critical care monitoring of cardiopulmonary parameters including FRC, lung water, pulmonary perfusion, O₂ and CO₂ transport, modelling of the cardiopulmonary system, critical care information management systems, data acquisition and display, applications for feed-back control of ventilation and cardiopulmonary function.

Abstracts are invited in these areas and early registration is requested. The deadline for abstracts is 1 March 1981. The registration fee will be \$250.00. For further information please write to: Dr Sreedhar Nair, Symposium Chairman, Computers in Critical Care and Pulmonary Medicine, Norwalk Hospital, Yale University School of Medicine, Norwalk, CT 06856, USA.

Paediatric Cardiology 1981

London 16-18 September 1981, sponsored by the British Heart Foundation. The programme will include sessions on: heart rhythm, pulmonary vascular disease, pulmonary atresia with VSD, cross-sectional echocardiography, atrial isomerism, pulmonary atresia with intact septum, assessment after operation of CHD, valve disease and replacement in children, double outlet ventricle. Organising committee: Professor RH Anderson, Dr EA Shinebourne, Professor FJ Macartney, Dr M Tynan. Further information may be obtained from Paediatric Cardiology 1981, Conference Services Ltd, 3 Bute Street, London SW7. Tel: (01) 584 4226, Telex: 916054 JOYBRI.