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Below are short overviews of the articles that appeared in this issue of VOLUME:

The Safe Handling of Compressed Gas Cylinders (Stephen N. West)

This informative article remains relevant and is an example of a number of articles published in VOLUME that could be made available on the ANZSRS website for members to access.

Stephen West (now Past President) succinctly summaries the dangers associated with the use of compressed gases and cylinders (including a small section on reticulated systems) i.e. hazards related to the cylinder contents and physical dangers related to the storage and handling of cylinders and regulators. In respect of the gases we commonly use in the lung function laboratory, the hazards include: asphyxia (e.g. argon, nitrogen, helium), depressed respiration (carbon dioxide), poisoning (carbon monoxide), and increased combustibility (oxygen). The physical dangers associated with storage and handling are described under the headings: Delivery and Movement, Storage, Connection, Usage, Disconnection, Maintenance of pipelines, and General Safety Instructions.

President's Report (Judy Roget)

In summary, Judy reported:

- The Society Membership had grown to 70.
- For the first time, one travel subsidy to attend the ASM (valued at up to half the return economy airfare) was offered to financial members who had submitted an abstract. No applications were received!
- The Board had voted that up to \$500 per year be made available to the Editor for funding VOLUME and that this be cumulative if unspent.
- The Thoracic Society's Modern Technology and Cost subcommittee asked if the ASRT would prepare a position paper on the role and content of laboratory manuals and for any ASRT statements on the standardisation of diffusing capacity measurements. A paper was to be prepared by David Johns and Judy Roget and put to the membership for adoption. Also the TSA subcommittee was also referred to the "Questionnaire Based Study of Inter-laboratory Variability of the Single Breath TLCO Test" (published in December 1985 issue of VOLUME).
- Judy then provided a brief summary of the ways that the Society can choose to review and formalise standards and guidelines.

Abstracts of Papers Presented at the 1986 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Society of Respiratory Technology, Inc.

The venue for the 1986 ASM (3-4th May) was the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne. Eight companies provided financial support. The following nine papers were presented:

1. **THE EFFECTS OF POSTURE ON OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNOEA. McEvoy RD, Department of Thoracic Medicine, Royal Adelaide Hospital.**
2. **HYPOXAEMIA ACCOMPANYING HISTAMINE INHALATION CHALLENGE STUDIES. Day LC, Brown IG, Brown MG. Respiratory Medicine Department and Department of Physical Sciences, Royal Brisbane Hospital.**
3. **NON-INVASIVE MONITORING OF VENTILATION AND GAS EXCHANGE DURING SLEEP IN CYSTIC FIBROSIS. Shield C, Roget J, Wallace A, O’Hehir R, Smith M, Bowes G. Respiratory Service, Alfred Hospital, Victoria.**
4. **THE PREVALENCE AND INCIDENCE OF RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS IN RURAL SCHOOLCHILDREN. Crockett AJ, Schembri DA, Alpers JH.**
5. **SAFETY FIRST: WHY AND HOW? Imberger H. Repatriation General Hospital, Heidelberg, Victoria.**
6. **ASSESSMENT OF CLINICAL USEFULNESS OF IPRATROPIUM BROMIDE. Shaw JG. Respiratory Laboratory, The Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane.**
7. **EVALUATION OF THE VITAOGRAPH COMPACT SPIROMETER. Roget JA, Shield CM. Lung Function, Alfred Hospital, Melbourne.**
8. **RESPIRATORY RESISTANCE IN CHILDREN USING A SHUTTER TECHNIQUE. Martin AJ, Haines K. Department of Pulmonary Medicine, The Adelaide Children’s Hospital, South Adelaide.**
9. **SCOLIOSIS – A CASE DISCUSSION. Kelly CA. Respiratory Laboratory, The Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane.**

Please contact me if you are interested in a copy of this or any other issue of VOLUME.

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