A new stethoscope head has been devised. It is made of soft pliable rubber, the edges of which are rounded and contoured to fit the patient's arm (fig. 1). There are no hard projections. Due to its pliability, it fits the arm of any patient age 6 or older. A smaller size of similar design fits younger children.

The sound chamber, unlike that of the conventional stethoscope, is elongated to allow some latitude in placement over the artery and still be in position to obtain Korotkoff sounds. It is fastened to the blood pressure cuff by means of Velcro (cohesive strips of hooks and eyes), thus eliminating the need for an encircling band or adhesive tape. By means of this fastener, it may be attached either to the high, middle, or lower portions of the cuff. The position is easily reversed so that the stethoscope tubing may lead either caudad or cephalad.

The combined cuff and stethoscope device are easily applied in one time-saving motion, an improvement over the two-step application of first a disc and then a cuff. The time saved is especially valuable in emergency rooms, recovery rooms, and intensive care units, as well as in the operating rooms.

Repeated comparisons showed that the signal picked up by the new device is at least as good and in most circumstances better than the conventional type. When torque is applied to the cuff, the new apparatus, with its circumferential shape and larger sound chamber, can pick up Korotkoff sounds that the conventional stethoscope will miss.

Even with this new piece of equipment, imprints in the skin were observed; however, they were not as deep and did not persist as long as with the conventional stethoscope. Thus the new apparatus if preferable in prolonged applications and repeated readings. It can also be used with the conventional B-D stethoscope.

In view of the ease of application of this apparatus, recording the systolic and diastolic blood pressure by the auscultatory method rather than by the bounce method may become more widespread.