To the Editor . . .

I would like to commend Sandra Weiss Rix, CRNA, BA, for her article ["Anesthesia for the Epileptic with Mental Subnormality"] which appeared in the June, 1980, issue of the AANA Journal.

The subject of anesthesia management for those mentally retarded with seizure disorders has long been an interest of mine. At the Rochester State Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, we have been providing surgical intervention to epileptic patients with mental subnormality as far back as the late 1800s. In recent years (since 1961), our institution gained a full-time anesthesiologist; and, the special considerations in the anesthesia management of our clientele has been an ongoing study.

Although we have not published to date, we have gained several years of anesthesia experience in meeting the needs of these individuals. I hope to submit a paper in 1981 on clinical observations and experiences in anesthetizing the mentally retarded (including those with seizure disorders) covering pre-, intra- and post-operative aspects.

As the concept of de-institutionalization of residents in state hospitals evolves, a greater number of the mentally retarded will be appearing in community hospitals as well as larger medical centers. These patients present special considerations to which we must be attuned.

Again, I wish to commend the contribution of the article by its author and its publication in our professional journal.

ROBERT A. COATE, CRNA
Rochester State Hospital
Rochester, Minnesota