cause asthmatic attacks, it is desirable that an air filter, to be of full value in the treatment of asthma, should remove all possible dusts and pollens regardless of size or amount. Electrostatic air cleaners are more efficient than most commonly used types for capturing very fine dust.

Although the chief remedial factor in the treatment by conditioned air is the filtration of pollen, a certain amount of cooling and dehumidification appears to be desirable. A comfortable temperature between 70 and 75 F and a relative humidity well below 50 per cent proved satisfactory[28]. Direct drafts, overcooling or overheating are apt to initiate or aggravate the symptoms.

Limitations of Air Conditioning Methods

The results obtained with air filtration or other air conditioning processes in the control of allergic conditions are fairly comparable to those obtained by desensitization treatment so long as the patients remain in the pollen free atmosphere. For all practical purposes filtration gives only temporary relief. In mild cases sleeping in an air conditioned space may make it possible for the individual to pass more comfortable nights. With rare exceptions, the symptoms recur on exposure to pollen laden air. Moreover the usefulness of air conditioning methods is limited because all cases are not caused by air-borne substances. Cases of bacterial asthma do not respond to treatment with filtered air.

Despite these limitations air conditioning methods possess definite advantages in the simplicity of treatment, convenience, and under certain conditions almost immediate relief[29]. Pollen cases are usually relieved of most of their symptoms within 1 to 3 hr after exposure to properly filtered air. A pollen-free atmosphere is especially valuable when desensitization has given little or no relief, and when desensitization is not advisable owing to intercurrent illness.

OXYGEN THERAPY

Oxygen therapy is used to prevent or relieve anoxia. Some of the more important clinical conditions in which oxygen treatment is beneficial ininclude pneumonia, severe anemia, cardiac decompensation, pulmonary atelectasis, asphyxia and asthma. The effectiveness of oxygen therapy is dependent on the concentration of the oxygen in the inspired air or the partial pressure of oxygen in the pulmonary alveoli.

Oxygen is usually administered by nasal catheter, face mask or tent[30]. The necessity of air conditioning in oxygen therapy arises from the fact that oxygen is too expensive a gas to waste in the ventilation of oxygen tents and oxygen chambers. Air conditioning is applied to the oxygen tent or chamber through reconditioning of the atmosphere in a closed circuit. Excessive heat, moisture and carbon dioxide are removed.

Oxygen Tents

In oxygen tents the air enriched with oxygen is usually circulated by means of a small motor blower which sends the air over soda lime to remove carbon dioxide and then over ice to remove excess heat and moisture. The concentration of oxygen in the tent is regulated by means of a pressure reducing valve and flow meter. In an inadequately cooled tent, high temperatures and humidities are inevitable, increasing the discomfort of the

patient and imposing an added strain on an already overburdened heart. Oxygen therapy under such conditions may do more harm than good. An ice melting rate of approximately 10 lb per hour gives satisfactory results in patients with fever in a medium size oxygen tent.

Oxygen tents are confining to the patient. They may terrify the restless and delirious patient. Medical and nursing care is complicated, as the tent must be opened or removed with attendant loss of oxygen. Oxygen concentrations of 50 per cent or more are difficult to maintain, and it is a problem to keep the temperature and humidity low enough in hot weather. However, with attention to details, the patient can be made quite comfortable.

Oxygen Chambers

The conventional oxygen chamber is an air-tight sheet metal enclosure of fire-proof construction, large enough to accommodate one or two patients. Trap doors or curtains are provided for the personnel, food and service, to avoid loss of oxygen. Glass windows in the ceiling and walls admit light from outside the chamber. The air conditioning system may be of the gravity type, or of the fan type using mechanical refrigeration or air drying agents.

The temperature and humidity requirement in oxygen therapy depends primarily upon the physical condition of the patient, and secondarily upon the type of disease. In pneumonias[31] prescribed conditions should be a temperature of 60 to 75 F, humidity 20–50 per cent, moderate air movement, oxygen concentration of 50 per cent, and carbon dioxide of less than one per cent.

Oxygen in Aviation

An important application of the principle of oxygen therapy is in aviation. At the present time all high altitude military airplanes in this country are provided with gaseous oxygen equipment and military personnel are required to utilize oxygen at all times while in flight above 15,000 ft, or between 12,000 to 15,000 ft for longer than two hours, or between 10,000 to 12,000 ft for longer than six hours. The use of oxygen in commercial aviation will depend on the height and duration of the flights as well as the state of health of the passengers. The necessity for portable, comfortable equipment, the possible fire hazards due to smoking, and the use of oxygen on sleeper planes are some of the difficulties facing civil airline operators. The pressure cabin airplane is a solution to the problem.

GENERAL HOSPITAL AIR CONDITIONING

Complete conditioning of a large hospital involves a capital investment and running expenses which may not be justified. In clean and quiet districts, the requirements of almost all general and private wards during the cool season of the year can be satisfactorily fulfilled by the use of conventional heating equipment in conjunction with window air supply and gravity or mechanical exhaust. Insulation against heat and sound is much more important than humidification in winter; it will also help in keeping the building cool in warm weather. Excessive outside noise and dust may require the use of silencers and air filters in the openings.

Cooling and dehumidification in warm weather are important. In new hospitals particularly, the desirability of cooling certain sections of the building should be given serious consideration. Financial reasons may