

The efficiency of the lung in extracting oxygen from the inspired air has been expressed as the ventilation equivalent for oxygen¹⁰ where the index is equal to the number of liters of air that must be inspired to give 100 cc. of oxygen

$$\frac{\text{Inspired air in liters}}{100 \text{ cc. of oxygen extracted}} = V. E.$$

In normal persons this value is seldom over 3. It can be seen in table 2 that before treatment this index was abnormally elevated in all cases, reaching 4.4 in

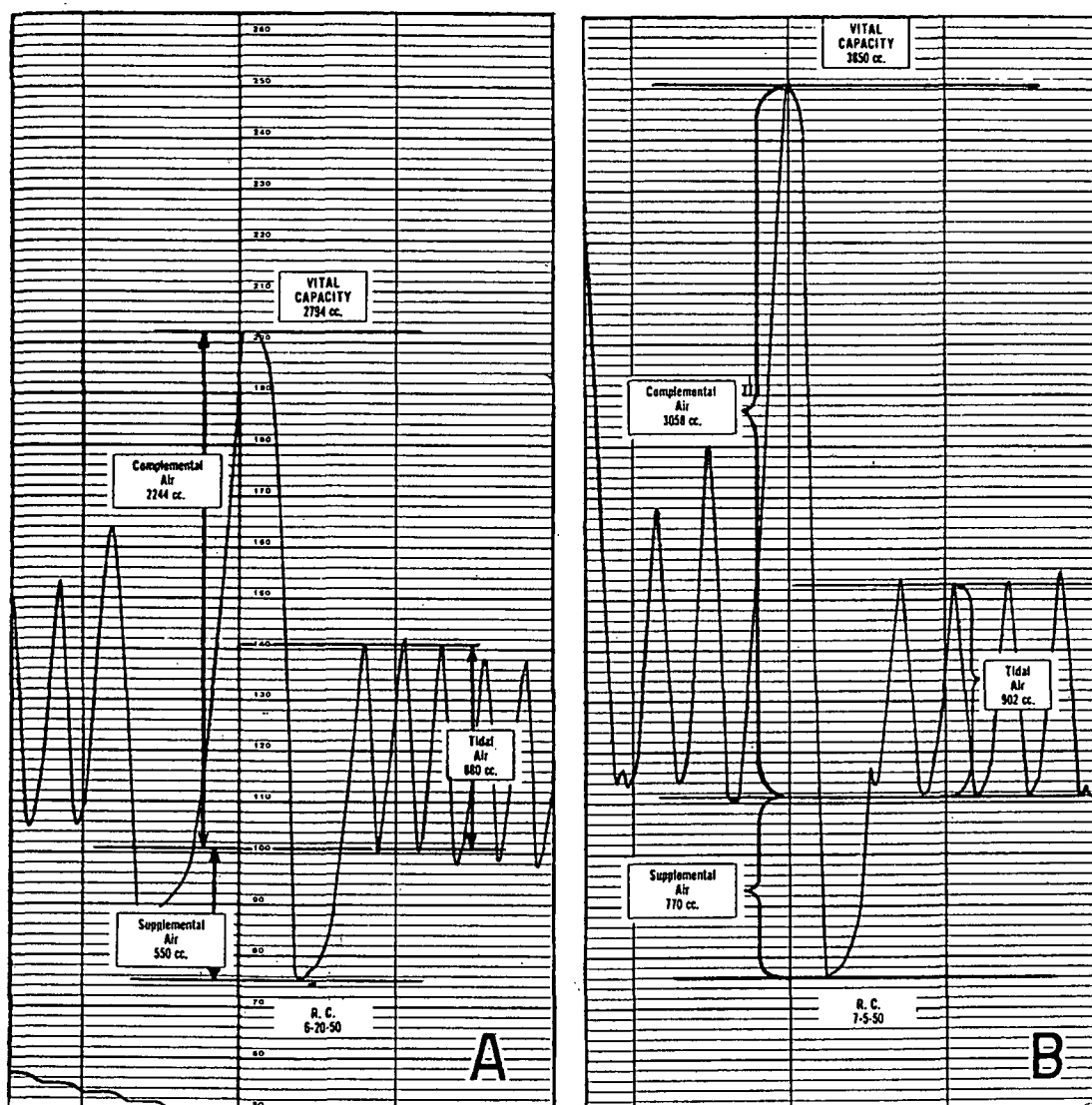


Fig. 8 (case 2).—Spirometric tracings of patient R. C.: *A*, made with the Collins respirometer, showing a reduction in the vital capacity (68 per cent normal) before therapy with a normal breathing pattern. *B*, made on the fifteenth day of ACTH therapy, showing marked improvement.

R. C. (case 2), the patient who also had the lowest values for oxygen saturation of arterial blood. During treatment the index fell toward normal in this patient. In the others it reached normal limits.

10. Knipping, H. W., and Moncrieff, A.: The Ventilation Equivalent for Oxygen, *Quart. J. Med.* 1:17 (Jan.) 1932.