

ton of B. eucaïne or use the ethyl chloride spray to anesthetize the parts, and then use local applications of a 5% or 10% up to 25% silver nitrate solution for a first application, followed by a 10% solution of silver nitrate, every day or every other day.

Ichthyol in glycerin (10%), balsam of Peru and argyrol 25% as local applications have been used with fairly good results.

Ointments and soothing lotions and powders and rectal suppositories have been used, but all with very little success. Powders should never be used, on account of the tendency of powders to cake, and then act as a foreign body and a fistula or abscess may result and give additional suffering.

The Paquelin cautery has been tried and has been found successful in some cases, after first applying a solution of B. eucaïne or cocaine, and being very careful not to burn the skin, because a very painful ulcer follows a burn of the skin with the Paquelin cautery, and one which is also very difficult to heal.

*Surgical Treatment* is the best and quickest cure for fissura ani, and gives the most gratifying results.

(1) Divulsion of the sphincter muscle is very painful and is to be used only under general anesthesia, or where the patient objects to take a general anesthetic, use local anesthesia by the injection of cocaine or B. eucaïne into the sphincter muscle and the surrounding parts after first anesthetizing the wound. This diminishes but does not prevent pain during divulsion. Divulsion can be gradual by a dilator or preferably by the fingers well lubricated with oil or soap. Forcible divulsion under a general anesthetic is preferred, but great care must be taken not to tear the fibres of the sphincter muscle. Three to five minutes should be taken in divulsing the sphincter, and pressure must be brought to bear in all directions. Under general anesthesia, divulsion with instruments should never be used, because one cannot gauge or control the amount of pressure used as well as when divulsion is made by the well lubricated and sensitive fingers.

*Relaxation* of the sphincter muscle by divulsion, whether under general or local anesthesia, instrumental or by hand,