

for patient and operator in all such cases to guard against rather than have to remedy carelessness. Cocain seems to have a stimulating tendency upon the nervous system, and when large doses are employed it has a depressing action on the respiration and heart. The tendency to excitement and the difficulty with the respiratory organs is said to be the most important complications we have to meet, for the reason that they are likely to occur when we least expect them, the size of the dose not controlling, while the depressing effects on the heart are likely to proceed from weak conditions of that organ, or after the respiratory difficulties, or the use of large doses. Cocain, I think, would be classed as a powerful poison, and our experiments with it should be characterized accordingly. A combination of trinitrin with cocain and distilled water asserts a right of recognition as a successful local anæsthetic. The trinitrin is used to prevent anemia of the brain. About the only time we have trouble in getting the anæsthetic effect with local remedies is where inflammation exists to a greater or less degree.

The following preparation is highly recommended by Dr. Geo. Staples in such cases: "Thoroughly dissolve twenty grains of cocain in one ounce of ether (concentrated), and add one ounce of pure oil of peppermint; shake well before using." This, when applied from six to twelve minutes, gives excellent results. I have seen the theory advanced that the application of a ten per cent. emulsion of cocain applied externally upon the gum under pressure would empty the tissues of the blood and make them more susceptible to the action of cocain, this being thought the safest way to apply a local anæsthetic containing cocain. A great deal can be said for and against the use of local anæsthetics, yet not all the disrepute of the local anæsthetic comes through any inherent fault of itself. More blame should attach to the users of the medicine for the noted lack of care and good judgment than to the anæsthetic alone. Men of common understanding know that they must handle fire carefully or run the risk of being burned. The properties of cocain were not as well known at its first appearance as at the present day, and like the unknown power lurking in the fire many got burned in its indiscriminate use. But this is in the natural order of things in this life; the impatient, restless disposition of man makes it necessary for him to have to burn his fingers in order to teach him to be cautious.

Care should always be taken in obtaining cocain to get the pure article. The practitioner should be on his guard and demand a cocain that is free from secondary alkaloids, also from such inorganic substances as sodium, calcium, etc., that are necessarily employed in the process of manufacture.

There is much more that might be said about local anæsthetics,