

to the preparations of cocain as a local anæsthetic. Others think cold water combined with sugar and salt makes a good local anæsthetic. It acts only mechanically through high pressure and low temperature ; the tissues are thus deprived of their supply of blood and a temporary paralysis of the nerves results. The action of cocain is purely chemical. Even a two per cent. solution of cocain when employed alone and uncombined with other medical agents would in my mind be unsafe to inject sub-mucously, while in my practice I have frequently used a solution a little stronger than eight per cent. cocain when combined with antipyrin, menthol, oil of cloves, ether, glycerine and water without bad results.

My attention has been drawn with much interest to an article under the heading of "Hints" in the January (1896) number of *Items of Interest*. Perhaps not all of you have chanced to see it ; however, please bear with me for one moment only while I draw attention to a new method of local anæsthesia by which the operator performs capital operations. This was most wonderfully demonstrated at the Philadelphia County Medical Society of November 13th, by Theophilus Parvin.

This method was developed by Professor Schleich, of Germany. The method consists of the injection deep into the tissues of a solution made up of one-quarter part morphine, one part cocain, two parts common salt and one thousand parts pure water. Professor Schleich removes tumors and performs amputations by the use of this local anæsthetic alone. Parvin himself allowed his arm to be deeply cut and sewed up as a demonstration of the wonderful things that are possible by the use of only a local anæsthetic, and his illustration is a splendid one. I believe local anæsthetics have come to stay, notwithstanding the variation in their stages of development. I also believe there are greater possibilities than have ever yet been demonstrated to the world through the application of the local anæsthetic, and the field of experiment is open to the competition of the world, the best and most efficient to win. I can but bid every man of progress to take a hand in this great and grand opportunity, it being possible for the humblest of us to attain greatness. Nitrous oxide, ether and chloroform are fast taking the rear seat and giving place to the latest and most improved, the local anæsthetic.

In using local anæsthetics containing cocain, care must be taken not to inject into the deep tissues. Second, not to inject too large a quantity at once. Third, not to drop any into the mouth. In my own experience about the only toxic effects I have ever observed was when I happened to drop a little of the anæsthetic in the mouth. All who have seen a patient under such circumstances, I think, will agree with me that it is much pleasanter, at least, both