

time as being admirably adapted for this purpose, but one by one they have been laid aside for something more reliable: Cocaine mur. has probably stood the test of time better than any other single drug, and with proper precautions it is invaluable. Lately, a sister drug to cocaine has been introduced by some German chemists and called eucaïne. The desired object in producing this new drug was to obtain the anæsthetic properties of cocaine without its heart-depressing element. The result on the whole has been very successful, as eucaïne gives very satisfactory results in minor surgery. One drawback, however, soon developed, which limited its use in minor surgery and almost prohibited it in ophthalmic work, viz., its irritative and congestive qualities. To overcome this a eucaïne has been produced synthetically, which is much less irritating, although not nearly so soluble. The new preparation is styled Eucaïne "B," to distinguish from the older form Eucaïne "A."

The great advantages claimed over cocaine are that a much larger quantity can be used without danger, and thus complete and extensive anæsthesia is always obtainable, and that the solution is easily sterilized by boiling, without injury. On the other hand, cocaine is more rapid in its action, less irritating, and causes anæmia of the part, but is a powerful cardiac depressant and is unstable in solution.

Many drugs have been tried as antidotes to this depressing action, especially those having an opposite physiological action, as nitrite of amyl, but without marked success. Dr. G. Lenox Curtis, oral surgeon, of New York, has been experimenting for two years past with a compound called "Volasem," which he finds answers admirably. By its use he is enabled to use cocaine in sufficient quantities to anæsthetize any desired area without bad results. A report of his observations may be seen in a current number of the "Items of Interest." Stimulants are always in order in using cocaine, the best being tr. digitalis 5-10 m. or strychn. sulph. gr. 1/30—1/15 and spts. frumenti. These given hypodermically together with hot nourishing drinks enable the patient to withstand any depressing effects of the anæsthetic or subsequent shock with much greater ease.

Dr. Schleich, a German surgeon, has introduced a me-