

and have not seen the slightest ill consequence. I make it a rule to employ it in all cases of persistent purulent discharge from the nose, with the view of proving or excluding the presence of pus in the maxillary antrum, and have been astonished at the number of cases in which I have met with a positive result.—*E. Furniss Potter, M.D.Brux., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.Lond., in British Medical Journal, March 13th, 1897.*

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTION OF EUCAINE. — Charteris (reprint from *Proceedings of Royal Society of Edinburgh*, Sess. 1895-96), assisted by MacLennan, has made a series of experiments on the physiological action of solutions of the hydrochlorate of eucaine and solutions of hydrochlorate of cocaine. Solutions of these salts were injected hypodermically into guinea-pigs of the same weight, and the results were compared. At first the quantity used was small, but it was gradually increased until the lethal dose of each was accurately ascertained. After repeated experiments they came to the conclusion that the lethal dose of eucaine per kilog. body weight is 0.09 g., and the lethal dose of cocaine per kilog. body weight 0.068 g. They also found that the mode of death by the two substances varied. With the cocaine salt they observed more rotatory movements of the head, more opisthotonos, more salivation, and more labored breathing, than with the eucaine salt. It was also noticed that the physiological action produced by a given dose of the eucaine salt, under identical conditions with regard to the weight of the animal experimented on. Hence the action of eucaine is slower in onset and less in intensity. As regards local anæsthetic effect, three drops of a solution of hydrochlorate of eucaine (1 in 10), when injected into the eye of a guinea-pig, induced in sixty seconds complete anæsthesia of the cornea. The pupil was not affected, and there was no subsequent irritation. When used in operations on the eye, the evidence is clear that it has no effect on the pupil. Berger, of Paris, in operating for cataract, employs first a drop of a 1 per cent. solution, and after three minutes a drop of a 2 per cent. solution. This procedure, he says, causes complete anæsthesia of the cornea. In dental practice it is found that five drops of a solution (1 in 10) injected into the gum before extraction of a tooth are sufficient to render this operation painless. — *British Medical Journal, March 27th.*

A CLINICAL LECTURE ON A CASE OF HYPERTROPHY OF THE GUMS (Delivered at University College Hospital by Christopher Heath, F.R.C.S., Holme Professor of Clinical Surgery).—I have had recently in my wards a remarkable and somewhat uncommon case of hypertrophy of the gums, on which I propose to make a