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Original Articles.

COCAINE ANESTHESIA.*

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Gentlemen,—When your President so kindly invited me to give a paper before your Society, I accepted with pleasure, not only on account of the honor you conferred on me by the invitation, but also for the pleasure it would give me in meeting again the members of the medical profession in London.

In searching for a subject which would interest you, I decided on Cocaine Anesthesia as one which would afford ample room for discussion. When in Berlin, in 1894, I visited Dr. Schleich's clinic and saw him make quite an extensive removal of a recurrent mammary carcinoma with his infiltration method. The efficiency of his very weak solutions of cocaine in producing complete anesthesia, together with the entire absence of toxic symptoms, was very striking indeed, and yet it was a long time before I felt justified in opening an abdomen with simply this form of anesthesia.

During the last few years I have used the infiltration of a weak solution of cocaine in a variety of cases, and the results have been all that could be desired. At first one feels hesita-

*Read at meeting of London Medical Society.