

Preparations, Inventions, etc.

EUCAINE.

THIS may be briefly described as the latest and, perhaps, almost the best local anæsthetic. Its importance in surgical practice can hardly be exaggerated; because everyone is aware how often minor surgical operations in general practice have to be performed single-handed, and how greatly it increases anxiety to administer chloroform or ether for the purpose of preventing the necessary pain or securing the essential quietude of the patient during the proceeding.

Two Eucaines are now used, an Alpha-Eucaine and a Beta-Eucaine.

The first to be prepared was Alpha-Eucaine, which is the hydrochloride of benzoyl-n-methyl-tetra-methyl-gamma-oxypiperidine-carboxylic acid. This was found to be equal in anæsthetic properties to cocaine, but was much less toxic. It has been employed with great success in cases of minor surgery, in operations upon the throat, nose, and ear; but, unfortunately, when using it upon the more delicate mucous membranes, such as the eye, the gums, and the urethra, it was found to cause so much burning and irritation of the parts that its other advantages over cocaine were counterbalanced. It was found necessary, therefore, to prepare, if possible, another synthetic product which would not exhibit these disadvantages, but would still retain equal anæsthetic properties. After a time this was accomplished by the production of Beta-Eucaine, which is closely allied to Alpha-Eucaine and cocaine, but still more so to tropa-cocaine.

Beta-Eucaine is found to be equal in anæsthetic properties to cocaine and Alpha-Eucaine; less toxic than Alpha-Eucaine, and consequently much less so than cocaine, and it possesses the further and great advantage over Alpha-Eucaine, in ophthalmic and dental cases, that it does not cause any smarting or irritation.

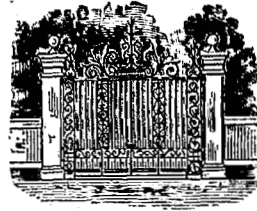
It should be remembered, therefore, that while *either* Alpha-Eucaine or Beta-Eucaine can be used in minor surgery, rhinology, and laryngology, Beta-Eucaine *only* should be used in cases of ophthalmology, dentistry, and in any operation on the genito-urinary tract.

The literature of Eucaine has been published within the last two or three years, and it will be useful to give a few excerpts from the opinions expressed by various operators in this country and abroad who have given the preparation more or less extensive trial in future issues.

Our readers will remember that an interesting letter on the use of Beta-Eucaine in operations was published in our columns a short time since.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



THE Queen keeps an autograph book, which has been carefully preserved by Her Majesty during the sixty-one years of her reign, and contains a remarkably rich collection of autographs, including those of a Pope, four Tsars, and several German Kings and Emperors. Amongst French autographs in the royal album are those of King Louis Philippe and Napoleon III. The late Shah and the Sultan Abdul Aziz also inscribed their names on the historic roll. The Kaiser is probably the last personage to inscribe his name in the Queen's autograph book.

The annual business meeting of the general committee of the National Liberal Federation opened at Manchester (in the Memorial Hall, Albert Square), on Wednesday. Notices have been received from several Liberal Associations of the country of their intention to move resolutions on the subjects of franchise reform, the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women, the amendment of the London Government Act of 1899 in the direction of extending to women the right to sit as councillors and aldermen in the new London Municipalities, and housing of the poor.

The next exhibition at Earl's Court under the auspices of the present company will be entirely devoted to "Woman: Her Art and Her Work." Mr. Imre Kiralfy and his co-directors have been fortunate in securing the cordial co-operation of a large army of helpers, including many distinguished men and women in Great Britain and Ireland, in the colonies, and on the Continent. There should, therefore, be nothing insular about the character of next year's exhibition. We hope the Nursing Section will not be done in a hole and corner, as on the last occasion, but will be organised by experienced nurses.

Women as gardeners seem to be highly successful. A recent appointment of a woman head gardener to the Marquis of Bute's grounds is a great encouragement to students of this calling. A lady in Ireland was obliged to call in the assistance of a skilled woman for her gardens and houses because her old Scotch gardener allowed her no control of her flowers and fruit, grudgingly supplying the table and rooms. To give away any of the produce he rendered well-nigh impossible. Her new experiment is most successful. She gives her feminine gardener £100 a year, a free house, coal and light, and pays two under-gardeners, both girls, and one man for rough heavy work. The result is corn in Egypt, plenty of everything, and no grumbling. There is something very sympathetic to a woman in gardening, who feels towards her plants in some degree as towards children.

The Health Protection Society of Cleveland, U.S.A., have undertaken a campaign against the side-saddle for women, which they hold to be injurious, and they advocate the ordinary masculine position on horseback for females.

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