
■ ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Beta-Eucaine Bottle

While searching for antiques in Lahaska, Pennsylvania, near the artists' colony of New Hope, Mrs. Ramona Bause happened upon this early bottle of Beta-Eucaine. An early synthetic substitute for cocaine as a local or topical anesthetic, beta-eucaine was much less irritating than alpha-eucaine for dental, ophthalmic, or urethral procedures. After both alpha- and beta-formulations were listed alongside opium, cocaine, and heroin in the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, both eucaines fell out of favor. Their popularity declined even further with the synthesis of less toxic local anesthetics, such as procaine (Novocain®). (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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