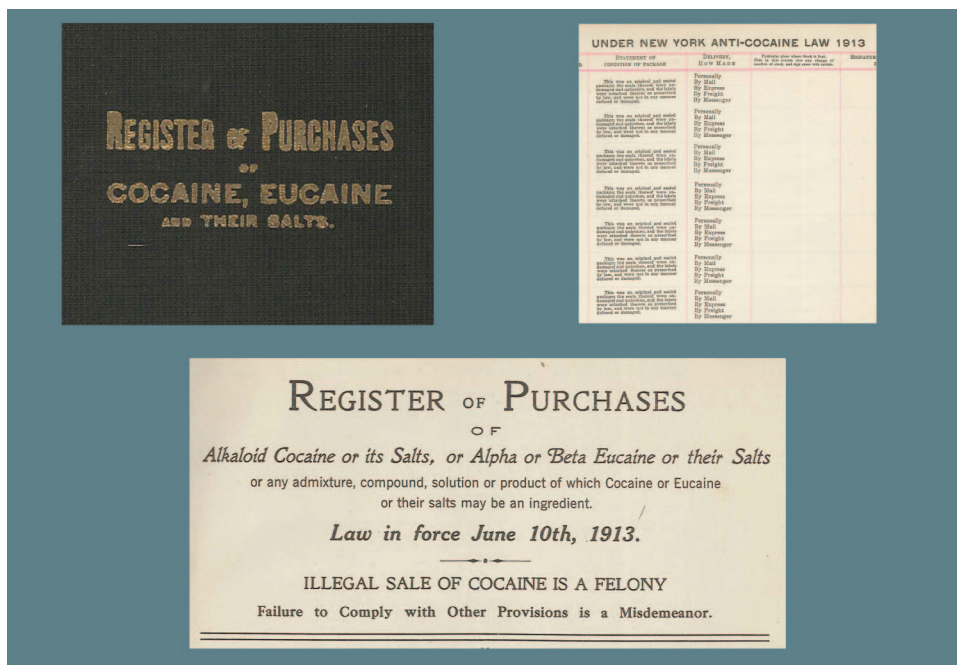


ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

Cocaine and Eucaine “Register of Purchases”



On June 10, 1913, the State of New York began enforcing registration of what were understood to be addictive local anesthetics like “Alkaloid Cocaine or its Salts, or Alpha or Beta Eucaine or their Salts . . .” (*bottom*). Consequently, all businesses involved in acquisitions of these alkaloids were required to maintain a formal *Register of Purchases of Cocaine, Eucaine or Their Salts* (*top left*). The register had columns (*top right*) for recording the manner of institutional delivery of these local anesthetics, the condition of their packaging, and their storage location. With the increasing availability of unregistered local anesthetics, such as procaine (Novocain), tight controls over cocaine and eucaine only served to further decrease demand for anesthetic use of these agents. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., *Honorary Curator, ASA’s Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Park Ridge, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.* UJYC@aol.com.