

## Albert Schweitzer's Favorite Anesthetist, His Wife Helene



**Helene  
Schweitzer  
(1879 - 1957)**

During the early years in Lambaréné, Gabon, medical missionary Albert Schweitzer (1875–1965) conducted surgery as his wife Helene (1879–1957) administered anesthetics. Of the agents available there in the African jungle, Helene's favorites for clinical use were chloroform and papaveretum. The latter was a mixture of noscapine with the hydrochlorides of morphine, papaverine, and codeine. Her health compromised by protracted jungle exposures and by her imprisonment during World War I, Helene Schweitzer died 5 years after Albert received his 1952 Nobel Peace Prize. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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