A CASE OF ACUTE POISONING BY BETA EUCAINE.

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Poisoning by beta eucaine being so rare I venture to report a case which occurred while I was doing a circumcision on a young healthy soldier. The solution of beta eucaine and sodium chloride had been freshly prepared and a few drops of adrenalin added. A quantity of this solution containing rather less than two grains had been injected into the body and root of the penis. As the operation was about to be started the patient became very quiet and pale, and said he felt faint. His limbs began to twitch, and the little finger of the right hand became tightly clenched. His breathing became slow and laboured, the pulse-rate was increased, and the pupils contracted almost to the size of a pin’s point. He became very much cyanosed, his breathing nearly stopped, and he completely lost consciousness. Artificial respiration was carried out and strychnine injected. Under this treatment he soon revived and the operation was carried out. For the next twenty-four hours he was very drowsy and sweated profusely, otherwise he made an uneventful recovery.

The interest of the case lies, I think, in: (1) The rarity of such poisoning; (2) the indication that the patient should never be left after the anaesthetic has been given; (3) the fact of the pupil being contracted, whereas in cocaine poisoning it is dilated; (4) the small amount of the drug which caused such a sudden and severe case of poisoning, the dose being five to ten grains.

AMBLYOPIA AND INVALIDING.

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The expression amblyopia means weak or blunt sight and is used to designate a somewhat vague disturbance of vision for which treatment is of no avail. With our standard of vision for enlistment the condition is probably fairly common in the Army. I have known cases invalided as astigmatism when the real cause of the defective vision was amblyopia. An amblyopic is invariably a bad shot and his vision cannot be improved with glasses.

I wish to bring to notice nine cases of invaliding for amblyopia from India, and would emphasize the fact that many such cases have come to light and were allowed to remain in the service as the acuteness of vision was sufficient to pass the standard. These cases all conform to

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1 Husband's "Forensic Medicine and Toxicology."
2 Whitla's "Materia Medica."