

acid was substituted. These acids are combined with some amino alcohol or a related compound (for nupercaine a diamino radical) which supplies the basic properties. The ester-like loose combination between the acid and the amino alcohol is the essential indispensable characteristic.

Physiologically all efficient local anesthetics have been found to be convulsants and stimulants of the cerebral cortex, the convulsive power being approximately parallel to the efficiency of the local anesthetic in most cases.

The most notable exception to these rules is diothane, which is chemically different and an efficient local anesthetic, with a relatively lower convulsant power, but these advantages are more than offset by the irritation caused by this drug and the possibility of tissue edema.

Apparently it is more than a casual coincidence that all efficient local anesthetics are convulsants. They must possess a marked affinity to the nerve cells in order to depress selectively the terminal nerve fiber without injuring other cells.

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MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

WHITE AUDITORIUM, MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL,
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December 8, 1942—8 P. M.

The Anesthetist and Fluid Balance.

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