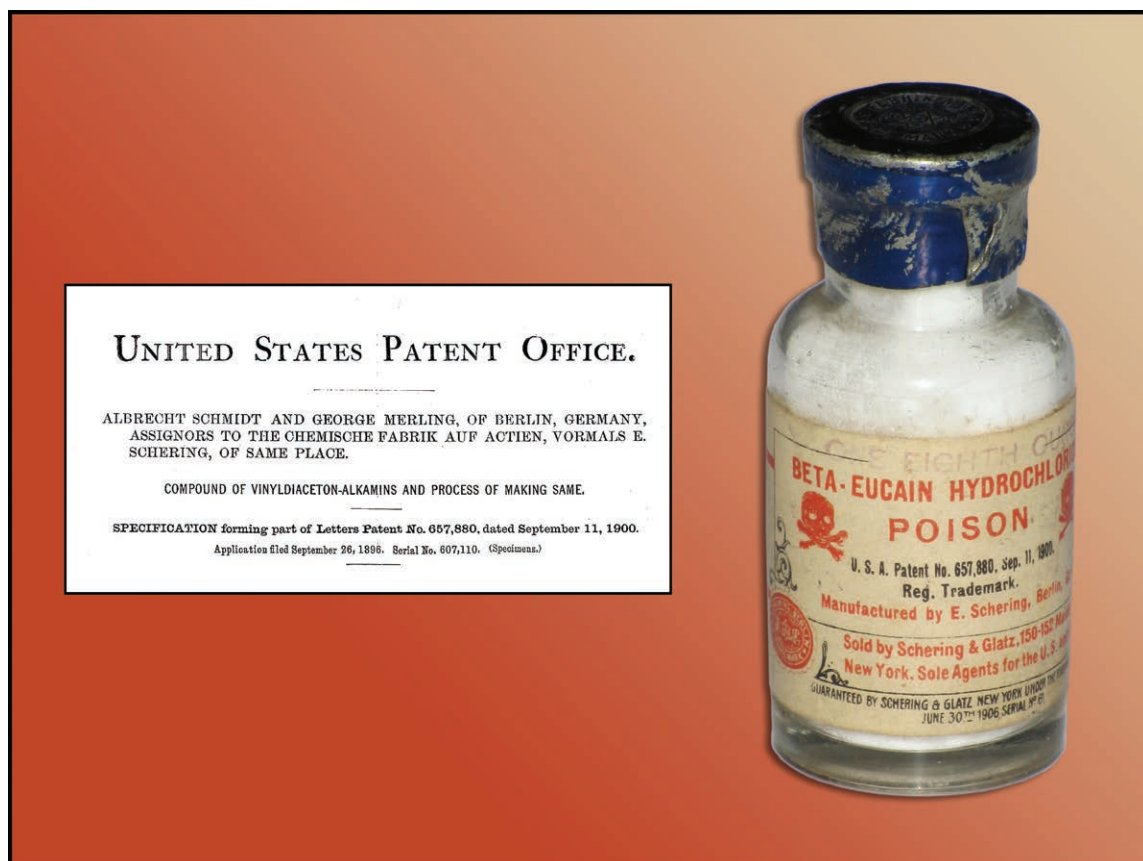


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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

Sharing “Beta-Eucain” with Schering: Albrecht Schmidt and George Merling



In September of 1896, two Berlin chemists, Albrecht Schmidt and George Merling, submitted sample chemical specimens of beta-eucaine, their novel local anesthetic, with an application they filed with the United States Patent Office. On September 11, 1900, U.S. Patent No. 657,880 was granted for their “Compound of vinylidiaceton-alkamins and process of making same” (*left*). Patent rights were assigned to a spin-off of E. Schering, a corporation founded by Ernst Christian Friedrich Schering (1824 to 1889), a German pharmaceutical chemist and industrialist. Manufactured in the chemical factory *Chemischen Fabrik auf Actien* (formerly E. Schering), this bottle of white crystalline “Beta-Eucain Hydrochloride” (*right*) was distributed by the New York firm of Schering & Glatz. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.)

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