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## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

### Eucaïne Lactate from H. K. Mulford Company of Philadelphia



Using a pharmacy schoolmate's financing and presidential leadership, Henry K. Mulford (1866 to 1937) reorganized his own namesake corporation in 1891 with himself as vice president. Soon "H. K. Mulford Company of Philadelphia" began synthesizing and compounding an astonishing array of pharmaceuticals, including (beta)-eucaïne lactate. Less toxic than alpha-eucaïne, beta-eucaïne had the additional advantage of stability in aqueous solutions sterilized by prolonged boiling. Sold by Mulford as "one-quarter grain" hypodermic tablets (*above*), the lactate formulation of eucaïne was less irritating to patients than was the hydrochlorate one. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists' Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.)

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