

ORAL ANAESTHESIA: LOCAL ANAESTHESIA IN THE ORAL CAVITY

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Oral Anaesthesia: Local Anaesthesia in the Oral Cavity by Kurt Hermann Thoma

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KURT HERMANN THOMA

**ORAL ANAESTHESIA:
LOCAL ANAESTHESIA
IN THE ORAL CAVITY**

ORAL ANAESTHESIA

LOCAL ANAESTHESIA IN THE ORAL CAVITY

TECHNIQUE AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION IN
THE DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF DENTISTRY

BY

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I. INTRODUCTION

IN these days of nervousness, hysteria and competition, the dentist stands before the question: How can I accomplish my work with the least discomfort to the patient, in the shortest time and with the most perfect result? Local anaesthesia fulfills these three requirements in the most ideal manner. If there is no interfering pain, there is no reason why we should not accomplish much better work in much less time.

Does general Anaesthesia or Analgesia fulfill these requirements? Certainly not. How can we perform delicate dental operations, if we have to watch a more or less complicated machine, as well as the action of the narcotic on the patient, and how unpractical is general anaesthesia for exodontia and minor oral surgery in the mouth. Mouth prop, inability of the patient to coöperate, obscured field of operation by saliva and blood, which is swallowed and inhaled, endless sponging prolonging the operation, are only some of the disadvantages. This created the desire for something better.

But not only in dentistry, also in surgery arose the demand for something safer with less strain, discomfort and danger to the patient. Professor Bier of Berlin developed the infiltration anaesthesia with cocaine. Cocaine anaesthesia was then introduced successfully into the different branches of Medicine. In dentistry cocaine was injected with much force through a very short needle, directly into the gum, producing a velum of white appearance. This decreased the pain considerably in extraction. A new way of using cocaine in dentistry was introduced by Professor Briggs of Boston in 1890. His method is called pressure anaesthesia. A pellet of cocaine is placed upon the exposure of a pulp and pressed in with a small piece