

This year a decided gain is noted in the number of children without defects. There is a marked diminution in the number of cases of defective nasal breathing, both anterior and posterior, and of hypertrophied tonsils.

The decrease in cervical glands continues, and, as stated last year, this is partly due to the fact that school physicians have been instructed not to report slightly palpable glands when secondary to adenoids, tonsils, carious teeth, pediculosis, or other allied condition. These cases are kept under observation, and only the primary causes reported.

Figures indicate that malnutrition is quite prevalent in our schools. The number of cases are about the same as for the two previous years. The diagnosis is necessarily uncertain, and comparative statistics are not as reliable as in certain morbid conditions which can be more accurately diagnosed. War conditions, with the increased cost of living, have augmented the number of cases.

The principal causes of malnutrition existing in school children are insufficient and improperly prepared food, impaired digestion due to imperfect mastication, bolting of food, lack of fresh air, proper exercise, etc. All may be important factors in the cause of the disease, and should be corrected by training the child to take the properly balanced diet, or substitutes; to masticate the food thoroughly; by instructions to mothers on the selection and preparation of food, the value of exercise, fresh air, and other hygienic measures. The physicians, nurses, and teachers have been instructed to make special effort to improve the condition of these children.

### Correspondence.

#### PROCAINE AND NOVOCAINE IDENTICAL.

Mr. Editor:

It appears that in certain quarters the attitude is taken that the local anesthetic sold as procaine is not identical with that marketed as novocaine. The Subcommittee on Synthetic Drugs of the National Research Council believes it important that this misunderstanding should be corrected, and hence offers the following explanation:

The monohydrochloride of para-amino-benzoyldiethyl-amino-ethanol, which was formerly made in Germany by the Farbwerke vorm. Meister, Lucius and Bruening, Hoechst A.M., and sold under the trademarked name Novocaine, is now manufactured in the United States. Under the provisions of the Trading with the Enemy Act, the Federal Trade Commission has taken over the patent that gave monopoly for the manufacture and sale of the local anesthetic to the German corporation, and has issued licenses to American concerns for the manufacture of the prod-

uct. This license makes it a condition that the product first introduced under the proprietary name "Novocaine" shall be called procaine, and that it shall in every way be the same as the article formerly obtained from Germany. To insure this identity with the German novocaine, the Federal Trade Commission has submitted the product of each firm licensed to the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory to establish its chemical identity and purity, and to the Cornell pharmacologist, Dr. R. A. Hatcher, to determine that it is not unduly toxic.

So far, the following firms have been licensed to manufacture and sell procaine:

The Abbott Laboratories, Ravenswood, Chicago.

Farbwerke-Hoechst Company, New York, N. Y.

Rector Chemical Co., Inc., New York, N. Y.

Calco Chemical Company, Bound Brook, N. J.

Of these, the first three firms are offering their products for sale at this time, and have secured their admission to New and Nonofficial Remedies as brands of procaine which comply with the New and Nonofficial Remedies standards.

While all firms are required to sell their product under the official name "Procaine," the Farbwerke-Hoechst Company is permitted to use the trade designation "novocaine," in addition, since it holds the right to this designation by virtue of trademark registration.

In conclusion: Procaine is identical with the substance first introduced as novocaine. In the interest of rational nomenclature, the first term should be used in prescriptions and scientific contributions. If it is deemed necessary to designate the product of a particular firm, this may be done by writing "Procaine-Abbott," "Procaine Rector," or "Procaine-Farbwerke," or Procaine (Novocaine brand).

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#### RECENT DEATHS.

DR. JOSEPH CYRUS STEDMAN, of Jamaica Plain, one of Boston's best known practitioners, died recently of heart ailment at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore.

Dr. Stedman was born in Jamaica Plain, Feb. 28, 1867, the son of Dr. Joseph Stedman, whose clientele included a majority of the families on the south side of the city. He studied medicine at the New York University and was graduated in 1890. He devoted two years to practice in New York and held membership on the staff of the Postgraduate Hospital.

He then came to Boston and took up an active practice. For years he was surgeon at the Faulkner Hospital, and only relinquished the duties when failing health forced him to give up active work. He was a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the New York County Medical Association, the Boston Society for Medical Improvement, Boston Medical Library and Massachusetts Automobile Club. At the time of his death he was supervising censor for the Norfolk District Medical Society. His home had been at 7 Lakeville Place, Jamaica Plain.

ERNEST VARIAN SCRIBNER, M.D., died June 14, 1918, in the Worcester State Hospital, of which he had been superintendent for six years, after an illness of five weeks. He was born in Lewiston, Me., Feb. 28, 1855, was graduated from Bates College in 1878, and from Bowdoin College Medical School in 1881. Dr. Scribner had been for thirty-seven years connected with the Grafton State Hospital and the Worcester State Hospital, in Worcester, serving as assistant physician and as superintendent in both institutions during the period. He is survived by his widow and two sons.

He had been a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society since 1882, and had served the Society as a councilor. He was president of the Worcester District Medical Society in 1907.