

THE DISCOVERY OF REGIONAL ANESTHESIA IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

- Cocaine, an extract of the coca leaf, was the first effective local Anaesthetic.
- in Peru, where folk surgeons performing trephinations of the skull chewed coca leaves and allowed their saliva to fall onto the surfaces of the wound.
- Cocaine was isolated from coca leaves in 1855 by Gaedicke and was purified in 1860 by Albert Niemann.
- 1884, the action of cocaine was realized by Carl Koller, a Viennese surgical intern.
- In 1884, his friend, Sigmund Freud, became interested in the cerebrum-stimulating effects of cocaine and gave Koller a small sample in an envelope, which he placed in his pocket. When the envelope leaked, a few grains of cocaine stuck to Keller's finger, which he casually licked with his tongue. It became numb. At that moment, Koller realized that he had found the object of his search. he practiced ophthalmology for the remainder of his career.