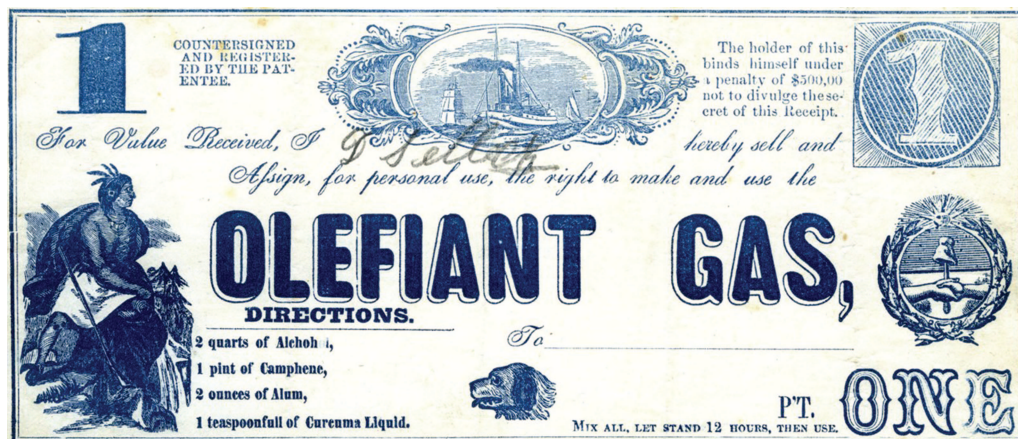


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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

“Olefiant Gas” Dollar-Bill Receipts



During the decades immediately before and after the American Civil War, many printers popularized advertising handbills and business receipts which resembled American paper money. Around 1858, a certain “D. Seller” paid \$1.00 as a patent royalty “for personal use, the right to make and use the OLEFIANT GAS.” Olefiant or “oil-making” referred to the alkene’s ability, in the presence of chlorine, to form oily liquids (such as “Dutch oil,” which was named after four Dutch chemists who produced it). Peak use of ethylene (“olefiant gas”) as a general anesthetic in America would not occur until the mid-1920s to the mid-1930s. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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