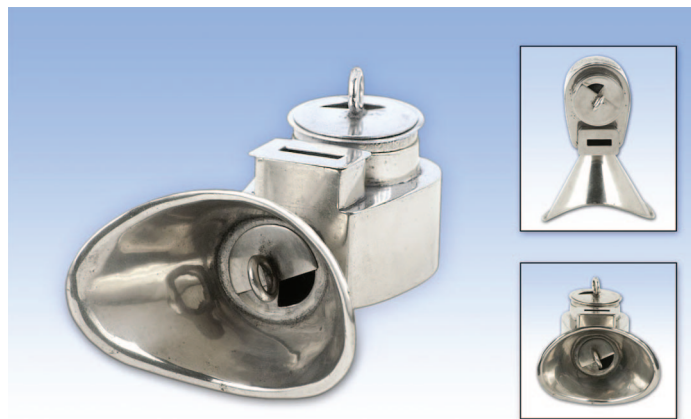


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## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

### The 1847 Murphy Chloroform Inhaler



After relocating from Dublin to London in 1840, Edward William Murphy, M.D. (1802–1877), served as University College's Professor of Midwifery (1842–1865). Misdated by many historians, his Murphy Chloroform Inhaler (*see the later model above, courtesy of the Wood Library-Museum*) was actually first used clinically on "the 17th December, 1847" and was even depicted in his 1848 booklet *Chloroform in the Practice of Midwifery* as a chloroform-dampened sponge surrounded by a circular box with a "tin plate . . . interposed, leaving a small fissure" for vapor to pass *via* mouth-piece to the briefly nose-pinch patient. Expirations "passed through an opening in the upper part of the mouth-piece." The professor's interests in obstetric analgesia may have been reinforced by the eight childbirths endured by his wife, a fellow Dubliner whose maiden name, ironically, was "English." (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at [www.anesthesiology.org](http://www.anesthesiology.org).)

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