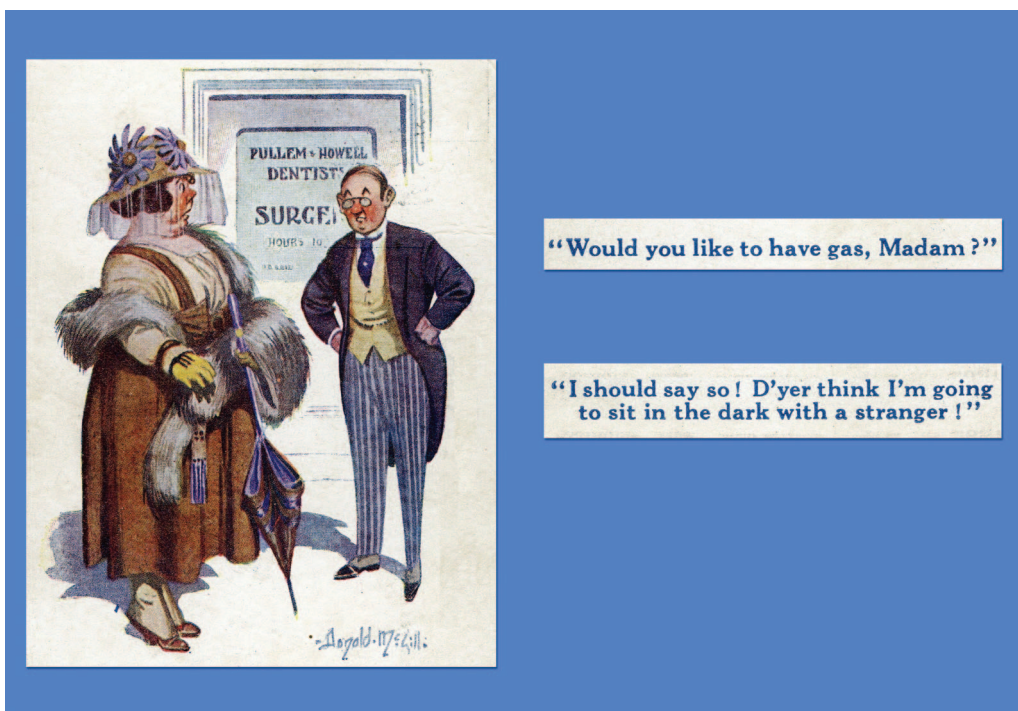


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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

A Dental Anesthetic for Tolerating a Stranger in the Dark?



“Would you like to have gas, Madam?”

“I should say so! D’yer think I’m going to sit in the dark with a stranger!”

About 9 months after the end of World War I, a visitor to the English seaside affixed a red one-penny King George V stamp to a mailing illustrated by “the king of the saucy postcard,” Donald McGill (1875–1962). After canceling the stamp on August 20, 1919, the Royal Mail managed to deliver the postcard without postmarking McGill’s artwork (*left*), which featured an overdressed woman outside the surgery of “Pullem & Howell, Dentists.” She is portrayed as insisting on receiving nitrous oxide in order to tolerate sitting “in the dark with a stranger” (*right*). McGill has apparently identified yet another use for laughing gas . . . (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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