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## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

# The Appearance and Disappearance of Dr. Edwin J. Thompson, Lynn's Celebrated Administrator of Nitrous Oxide



In 1879, I. A. Collins glued a copy of his cabinet photograph (*upper*) of a dental office in Lynn, Massachusetts, to an advertising card for dentist Edwin J. Thompson (ca. 1842 to 1912). Above the firm of Alfred Cross & Co., Clothiers, the dentist placed signage in the second-floor bay windows reading, “Teeth Extracted with Nitrous Oxide Gas” (*lower left*) by “Dr. Thompson Dentist” (*lower middle*). Through the open flanking window (*lower right*), photographer Collins may have captured the fleeting appearances of Dr. Thompson himself and an assistant gazing through the glazing. In 1912, the citizens of Lynn gazed one last time at Dr. Thompson before the then 70-yr-old dentist disappeared while fishing for salmon in Newfoundland. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.)

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