

degree as in areas farther to the rear. . . . Ether will probably prove to be the general anesthetic most commonly employed in intermediate areas. . . . Spinal anesthesia has almost no sphere of usefulness in advanced areas, but should be of value in intermediate stations. . . .

"The desirability of having readily available an apparatus that can be used for satisfactory artificial respiration [must be] . . . emphasized; an apparatus that delivers oxygen, a good bag, and a tightly fitting mask are sufficient for this. . . . Anesthesia in rear areas should approximate that employed in civilian life. . . . 4 references.

J. C. M. C.

JACOBS, W. H.: *Horace Wells*. Connecticut State M. J. 8: 729-735 (Nov.) 1944.

"To be honest with the facts of history, it must be stated that all was not new in the discovery of Wells. Nitrous oxide gas had been known for a long time and had been inhaled many times. . . . The manner in which the discovery was made is best described in the book, 'Notes on the History of Anesthesia,' by Dr. James McManus, . . . part of which reads as follows: 'Early in December 1844, Professor G. Q. Colton gave a course of lectures on chemistry and natural philosophy in Hartford. . . . Dr. Horace Wells, well known in Hartford as a skilful dentist, attended with his wife the lecture given on the evening of December 11, 1844. Dr. Wells inhaled the gas. . . . Dr. Wells went to that lecture to see, hear and learn. He inhaled the gas and subsequently watched its effects on others. . . . Dr. Wells, turning to David Clark, said, 'I believe a man, by taking that gas, could have a tooth extracted or a limb amputated and not feel the pain.' Before leaving the lecture hall, Dr. Wells asked Professor Colton whether

one could inhale the gas and have a tooth extracted without feeling pain. The professor replied that he had not given the subject any thought and that, while he had been giving demonstrations of laughing-gas for more than a year, the idea of using it thus had never occurred to him. Dr. Wells said that he was inclined to try the experiment on himself, and have a troublesome tooth extracted if Professor Colton would bring a bag of the gas to his office the next day. Late that evening Dr. Wells called on Dr. Riggs to tell him of his experience at the lecture. . . . As requested, Professor Colton brought a bag of gas to Dr. Wells' office the next morning. . . . Dr. Wells sat down in the operating chair, took the bag in his hands and, at the possible risk of his life, inhaled the gas until he was insensible. Then Dr. Riggs extracted an upper wisdom tooth. Dr. Wells remained unconscious for a short time and, on recovering, exclaimed: 'I did not feel so much as the prick of a pin. A new era in tooth-pulling has come. It is the greatest discovery ever made.' . . .

"The fact remains that immediately after Wells had been convinced of the possibility of the discovery, he hastened to one of the greatest medical centers in the United States at that time, Boston, to make known to the entire medical and scientific world the realization of surgical anesthesia. . . . It was arranged to give Wells a chance to demonstrate the use of the gas in a surgical operation before the Cambridge Medical College. . . . The patient, a boy, made an outcry as the tooth was extracted. The students and spectators hissed and denounced Wells as a faker. Thus the first and only public trial was termed a failure. Wells, extremely sensitive and of a retiring nature, returned to Hartford discouraged and disheartened. . . .

Wells was quite shocked when Dr. W. T. G. Morton and Professor Jackson announced the discovery of their 'compound letheon' (sulphuric ether aromatized) as an anesthetic after a successful demonstration in Massachusetts General Hospital on October 16, 1846. Soon after this announcement, Morton and Jackson quarreled as to who was the real discoverer, and who owned the patent rights, etc. . . . In May 1847, the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut passed resolutions stating that Wells was the discoverer of anesthesia. . . . It seems ironic that the fame and honor due Wells for arousing the medical and dental world to the discovery of anesthesia were not forthcoming until after his death. . . ." 25 references.

J. C. M. C.

KRAFKA, JOSEPH, JR.: *Long, Eve and Dugas: The Ether Controversy*. J. M. A. Georgia **33**: 330-334 (Nov.) 1944.

"Few controversies in medical history have been accorded the attention given that of anesthesia. Except for an occasional dissenter, the medical profession now credits Crawford W. Long with the first use of ether in the performance of a surgical operation. . . . That his reputation had spread to some distance is shown by the fact that he was in 1848 called to Augusta by Dr. Paul F. Eve to address the medical students at the Medical College of Georgia. . . . To one acquainted with the medical history of Georgia during this period, Dr. Long's dereliction in delaying publication of his findings is not difficult to understand. . . . The Southern Medical and Surgical Journal was founded by Milton Antony at Augusta, Georgia. . . . Eve . . . assumed the editorship in 1845. . . . It is interesting to follow the ether-chloroform controversy during the period 1849 to 1853 as presented by the

data in this journal. The first publication on ether appears in the 1847 volume. As editor, Eve had a wide acquaintance with the leading physicians in the United States. . . . Eve does not seem to have become seriously interested in anesthesia until 1848 corresponding with the visit of Long. . . . It is doubtful if Eve recognized the significance of Long's claim. . . . With the resignation of Eve as professor of surgery in 1850, Dugas succeeded to the control of both the school and The Journal. He became editor in 1853 and at once wrote to Jackson for a paper on ether anesthesia. . . . Dugas, as editor, says: 'We regard it as an honor to be favored with the contribution of the great discoverer of anesthetic properties of sulphuric ether.' How he could have overlooked Long's claim is amazing since in his section on 'publications received' . . . he acknowledged the report of the Hon. E. Stanley's discovery of ether. . . . The A. M. A. refused to enter the dispute, which had become highly involved and rankling of charlatanism. The transactions of the A. M. A. for 1847 . . . carry an extensive account briefed from the report of Bigelow in which he lists, as an appendix, one hundred and fifty-four operations performed under ether and chloroform. Eve reported case histories but no mention of Long's claim was made. The Transactions for 1848-49-50-51-52-53-54 make no reference to Long. He was not to be recognized until Marion Sims, after an accidental meeting with Wilhite, established his case of priority in 1877.

J. C. M. C.

THOMPSON, EDITH E., AND CULLEN, S. C.: *Anesthesia for the Woman About to Deliver*. J. Iowa M. Soc. **34**: 487-490 (Dec.) 1944.

"The discussion of anesthesia for the obstetric patient is confined in this