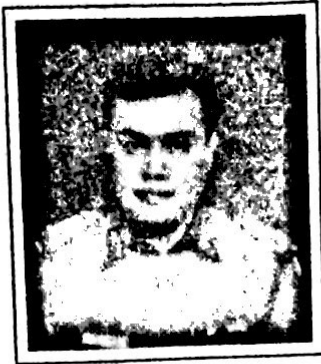


Birth of Anaesthesia



*✍ Maj. Dr. Uday Bajracharya, MD
Anaesthesiologist*



W. J. G. Morton

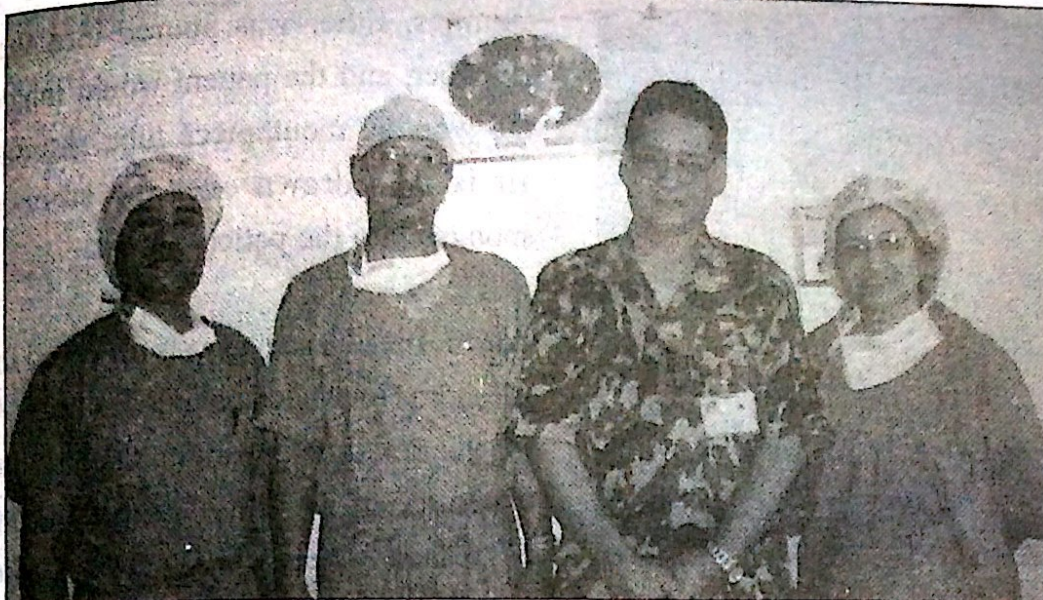
William E. Clarke was the first to use ether for relief of pain when he administered it to his acquaintance, Miss Hobbie, in January 1842, while his colleague (dentist, Elijah Pope) extracted a tooth. Regrettably he did not report the case and it seems that he did not continue the practice. Ether frolics and laughing gas parties became very popular in the U.S.A at this time. One who certainly attended them and probably hosted them at his own home in Jefferson, Georgia, was the local doctor Crawford Williamson Long. On March 30, 1842 he administered ether to James Venable. Long then removed a small tumour from his neck. In determining the first fee for anesthesia and surgery, Long settled on charge of \$2. Although the operation was painless and was followed by others, Long did not publicize the event until December 1849. However, March 30 has been celebrated as Doctor's day.

Horace Wells, a dentist of Hartford, Connecticut, saw the potential for nitrous oxide in painless surgery after witnessing a public exhibition by a travelling showman chemistry "professor" Gardner Quincy Colton. Wells used nitrous oxide on

December 11, 1844 for the extraction of one of his own teeth.

Morton visited Wells in July, 1845. Wells having continued to give nitrous oxide successfully in Hartford, several months later faced with a difficult multiple extraction. Morton ventured to procure some nitrous oxide from Charles T. Jackson, a Boston chemist. Jackson, who was out of stock for nitrous oxide at the time, suggested to use sulphuric ether. Morton obtained some ether from another chemist and on September 30, 1846 administered it to Ebenezer Frost for a successful tooth extraction.

Then he made a demonstration at 10:15 a.m. on October 16th, 1846 in the Bullfinch amphitheater operating theatre (now the "ether dome") at the Massachusetts General Hospital. On that day, Dr. John Collins Warrens painlessly removed a congenital venous malformation from the lower cervical triangle of neck of a Mr. Gilbert Abbott, after Morton anesthetized the patient with inhaled ether. The demonstration was successful and another surgeon present Henry Jacob Bigelow proclaimed



Anesthesiologists and Surgeons Celebrate "Anaesthesia Day" in the OT

"Gentlemen, this is no humbug. what we have seen today will go round the world". Morton did not immediately reveal the identity of this miraculous agent, referring to it as "Letheon". His intentions were to patent the substance and profit from its use.

It was not long before letheon was shown to be ether, and within weeks it was in use in the U.S. and Europe .Morton was unsuccessful in his attempts to patent ether, even after three petitions to U.S. Congress and an interview with the President. What followed was a bitter struggle for recognition as the "discoverer " of anaesthesia, involving Morton , Long, Wells and Jackson.

Both Long and Wells have a secure place in history, but to quote Sir William Osler, "... in science, the credit goes to the man who convinces the world, not the man to whom the idea first occurs. Morton convinced the world; the credit is his."

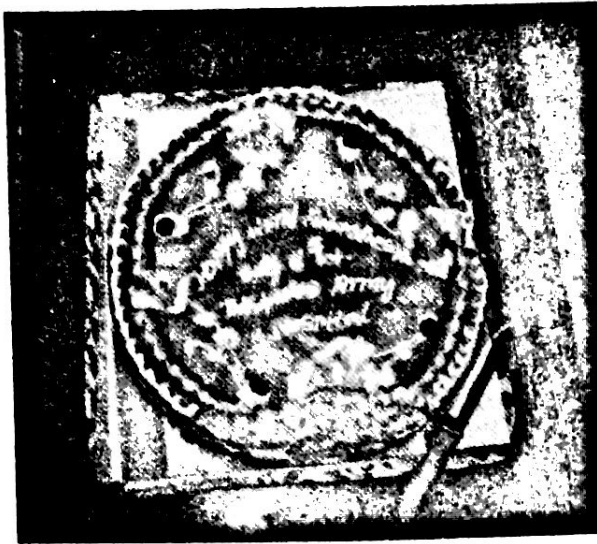
Therefore, William Thomas Green Morton

(1819 – 1868), at the age of 27 years, gave the first Successful public demonstration of ether as an inhalational anesthetic agent, and
*" Inventor & Revealer of inhalation anaesthesia,
 Before whom all time surgery was agony,
 By whom pain in surgery was averted & annulled,
 Since whom science has control of pain."*

is considered by many to be the " inventor and revealer" of anesthesia. Although not the first person to use ether to achieve surgical anesthesia, Morton's accomplishment inspired the medical and scientific pursuit now referred to as anesthesiology.

H.J.Bigelow has composed the following writing for Morton at Mt. Auburn Cemetry where Morton's dead body was buried.

Morton was a dentist, who studied under, and later became a partner of Wells in Hartford. He left dentistry to study medicine at Harvard, and was present at Wells' unsuccessful demonstration of nitrous oxide



as an inhaled anesthetic in 1845. His own work on dental anesthesia, with some help from Jackson, led to his experimentation with inhaled ether.

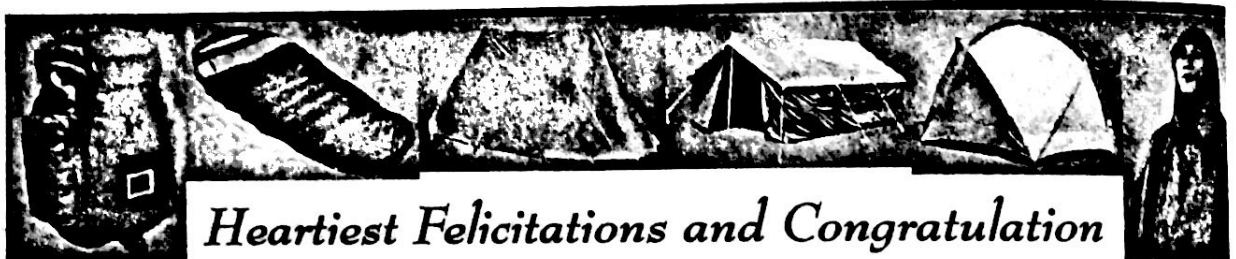
The inhaler used in demonstration was constructed of a blown glass globe (known as "Ether globe"), that was stuffed with

sponges. Ether was poured into the glass chamber, and the patient would inhale from the wooden mouthpiece tube. Atmospheric air is then drawn over the ether-soaked sponges into the patient's lungs.

World Anesthesia Day was observed in Shree Birendra Hospital, Chhauni on Oct. 16th, 2006 for the first time by cutting the birthday cake by Brig. Gen. Dr. GR. Shakya in the presence of the faculty members, Col. DN Prasiko, Lt. Col. N Dali & Maj. U. Bajracharya.

Reference

1. Anesthesia and Intensive Care, Vol. 24 No.1, Feb. 11
2. Anesthesia and Intensive Care, Vol. 24 No.3, June 11
3. Anesthesia and Intensive Care, Vol. 24 No.4, Aug. 11
4. Anesthesia and Intensive Care, Vol. 24 No.5, Oct. 11



Heartiest Felicitations and Congratulation

*on the Auspicious Occasion of the
78th Anniversary Celebrations
of your esteemed Hospital
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The Army Chief visits the multislice CT Scanner.



"Blood Donation with a smile" on the 78th Flag Hoisting Ceremony (Bhadra 24,2060)



"The Doctor's Lady Wives" at the 77th Anniversary Function of SBH.