

### Anæsthetics.

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In the early days of my practice I had a novel experience in extracting several teeth. A stalwart farmer (at least in physique) who could tip the scales at fully three hundred, but more timidity could not possibly have been crowded into the same amount of avoirdupois. He had been in my chair before I *knew* him. With almost herculean effort he could face the music for one tooth, but when it came to eight or ten it was too much for his peculiar make-up. He took the chair with dreadful anticipations, and many exclamations, directions, etc., etc. I advised him to lie back in the chair and keep quiet; then I began to lay out the forceps, at the sight of which he fainted. He soon was as blue as indigo and as limp as a rag. My first thought was for restoratives, but my presence of mind saved me and I resolved to avail myself of an extempore anæsthetic, and out came the teeth quicker than the time taken to write this. Looking at him still in a deadly faint, the blood pouring, I could scarcely realize myself what I had been doing. Then I commenced with my restoratives, dashed cold water in his face and put the bottle of ammonia to his nose. I soon had the satisfaction of seeing his eyes rolling about, but dazed, confused; and not until he saw the blood running over the linen did he take in the situation, and immediately his tongue went on a voyage of discovery; and when he found his teeth all out he was a happy mortal. It is the only instance of the kind in all my long practice of fifty years.

From actual practice of nearly hal. a century with the various anæsthetics that have been in use, both by local application, inhalation and by hypodermic injection, I propose briefly to give your readers my observation upon the best anæsthetics in use, the manner of administering, and a few hints about inhalers and the management of patients. In 1847 my attention was brought to the use of ether (which antedates chloroform), the inhalation of which would produce complete unconsciousness, and teeth could be extracted without pain. I immediately ordered a bottle of ether and an inhaler from Buffalo, accompanying which came instructions for the administration, which I thoroughly mastered, and then was looking out for a patient, whom I soon found in the person of an itinerant singing master. Being ambitious and