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COMMENT FROM MONTH TO MONTH.

Rectal Anesthesia.—An interesting paper, by Dr. Noel Bleecker Leggett, of New York, dealing with this subject, appears in the October number of the *Annals of Surgery*. After giving a brief history of the development of this method of anesthesia, and after showing the principal difficulties with which the different investigators had to contend, he brings us down to the paper by Dr. J. H. Cunningham, of Boston, published a few years since in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, wherein Dr. Cunningham demonstrated the practicability of his method of anesthesia, which may be explained in brief as follows:

“The vapor of ether is forced into the rectum in such a way that there is no condensation, and absorption takes place with such rapidity that it is not possible for fluid ether to be forced into the gut. This is done by keeping the ether heated, yet constantly below 37 deg. C., which is its boiling point, and forcing the fumes into the bowel by means of a rubber hand-bulb.” A special apparatus is, of course, required. “The rectal tube is inserted 8 to 12 inches. Ether fumes are then slowly forced into