and the late Dr. J. M. Riggs extracted a molar. Upon his recovery, Wells exclaimed, "A new era in tooth-pulling!" Wells carried it into general surgery as well as dental practice. No one can deny to his memory the lasting tribute of applying nitrous oxide as an anæsthetic.

However, historical accuracy and the correct use of words demand that there shall be no mistake as to the "discovery." Sir Benjamin W. Richardson, in an article in *Longman's Magazine*, proves that "by every rule of justice and of truth, Sir Humphrey Davy deserves the credit of the discovery, and that Horace Wells is entitled to the credit of the practical application of the discovery by a test performed upon himself." In 1759, Sir Humphrey tried the effects of nitrous oxide upon himself, and has left us a graphic description, and suggested in the following words its practical use: "As nitrous oxide, in its extensive operation, appears capable of destroying physical pain, it may probably be used with advantage during surgical operations in which no great effusion of blood takes place." His "Researches on Nitrous Oxide," published early in the present century, prove, moreover, that he used it to relieve himself of violent attacks of toothache.

Harris' "Principles and Practice": "The anæsthetic effects of nitrous oxide was first suggested by Sir Humphrey Davy in 1776, and practically demonstrated by Dr. Horace Wells." Harris' Dictionary of Dental Science: "Sir Humphrey Davy, in 1799, first discovered its anæsthetic properties upon inhalation, and in 1844, Dr. Horace Wells, of Connecticut, applied it to dental purposes."

Dr. James E. Garretson's "System of Oral Surgery": "Nitrous oxide owes its discovery to Priestley, 1776. Credit for its use as a pain-obtunding agent is due both to Sir Humphrey Davy and Dr. Horace Wells; to the latter particularly."

"The History of American Dentistry," prepared under direction of the American Academy of Dental Science. 1876: "This gas, as such, was discovered by Priestley in 1776. Its exhilarant and anæsthetic properties were first noticed in 1800 by Sir Humphrey Davy."

Dental Cosmos, June, 1860, page 594: "With regard to priority in suggesting the use of nitrous oxide in surgical operations, the credit undoubtedly belongs to Sir Humphrey Davy," and . . . "the credit of first making a practical application of this suggestion unquestionably belongs to Horace Wells."

Dr. J. F. B. Flagg, in his work on "Ether and Chloroform," refers to the history of the introduction of nitrous oxide by Dr. Wells, but recognizes Sir Humphrey Davy's claim of first suggestion.

However, that is a very unimportant matter in comparison with the value of Dr. Wells' share. The dental and medical professions recognize the great blessing which followed the unselfish and