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■ ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Chloroform Blues



“Blue, just as blue as all true hearts are red,
Wish that my poor old blue body was dead,
‘Bout to swallow chloro[form]. . . .”

So began *Chloroform Blues*, a song written and published in 1921 by Chicago’s John W. Felton. Prohibition of drinking alcohol had meant that many would escape reality by resorting to the dangerous practice of drinking chloroform. Felton’s chorus continued with:

“I’ve got those chloroform blues so bad,
Blue as a dog that’s mad,
Screaming to cash in my check.
Oh, I’m just aching and quaking pet,
Moping and hoping yet,
You’ll come and stop the sad wreck.”

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