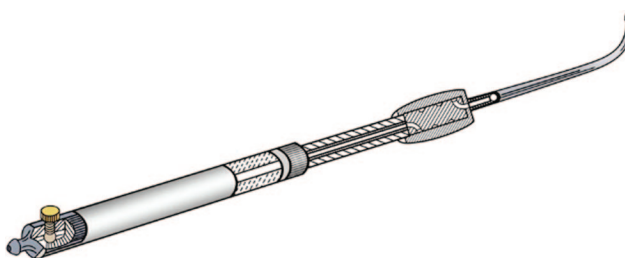

■ ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

The Lennox “Anaesthetic Wand”



Several years after attending Philadelphia Dental College, Dr. Charles Parker Lennox (c.1833–1898) sided against two of his Union-sympathizing brothers by joining a Confederate regiment that their uncle had mustered in Kentucky. After deserting his commission as a Major in the Confederacy in 1864, Parker fled to Canada and eventually resumed the civilian practice of dentistry in Toronto. In 1891 Parker filed his U.S. Patent application for a “Dental Tool” (pictured above, courtesy of the Wood Library-Museum), which permitted nitrous oxide to pass through a hollow metal wand’s proximal nipple, *via* a chloroform chamber, through a handle, and around a spiral-grooved warming chamber, before jetting out a distal aperture into a dental patient’s mouth. Parker’s strange “anaesthetic wand” likely worked as a combined inhalational and topical analgesic. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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