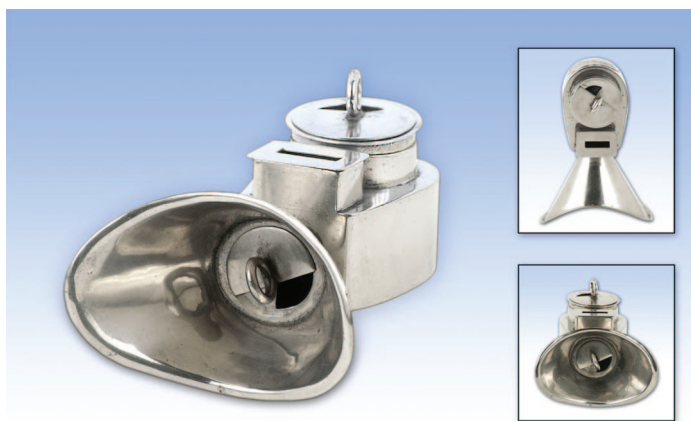


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## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

### The 1847 Murphy Chloroform Inhaler



After relocating from Dublin to London in 1840, Edward William Murphy, M.D. (1802-1877), served as University College's Professor of Midwifery (1842-1865). Misdated by many historians, his Murphy Chloroform Inhaler (see the later model above, courtesy of the Wood Library-Museum) was actually first used clinically on "the 17th December, 1847" and was even depicted in his 1848 booklet *Chloroform in the Practice of Midwifery* as a chloroform-dampened sponge surrounded by a circular box with a "tin plate . . . interposed, leaving a small fissure" for vapor to pass *via* mouth-piece to the briefly nose-pinched patient. Expirations "passed through an opening in the upper part of the mouth-piece." The professor's interests in obstetric analgesia may have been reinforced by the eight childbirths endured by his wife, a fellow Dubliner whose maiden name, ironically, was "English." (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at [www.anesthesiology.org](http://www.anesthesiology.org).)

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