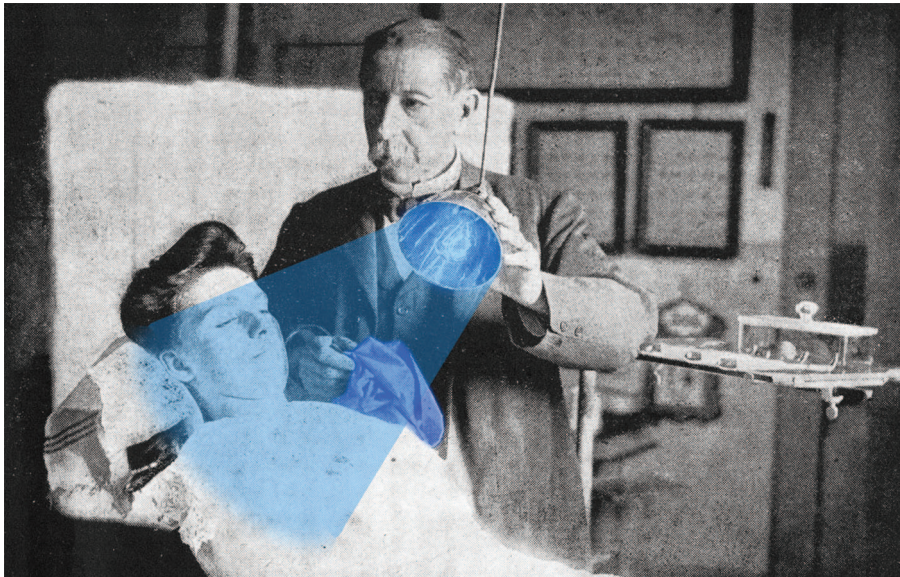


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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

The “Blue Light Anaesthesia” of Redard



Some 14 yr after his 1890 presentations on ethyl chloride and cocaine as local anesthetics in Berlin, Swiss physician Camille Redard (1841–1910) received publicity worldwide (see *above*) for using blue light as an anesthetic for dental extractions. He asked patients “to gaze fixedly” at a reflector-fitted light bulb and then to open their eyes while assuring them that they would “feel no pain.” Redard enhanced blueness of the light by draping a “blue veil of satinette” over both light and patient. Sleep occurred in 3 min — or less time, if soothing music was played. Although Redard felt that hypnosis might be occurring, he suggested that “an optic nerve effect” was involved, since only blue-colored light rays were soporific. (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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