

Starkey's Compound Oxygen as a Hygienic for Ailments Chronic



Following Quaker schooling in Rhode Island and college in his native Maine, George Rogers Starkey (1823–1896) graduated from the Homeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1855. By 1869 frail health forced Starkey to abandon teaching anatomy and surgery at his medical *alma mater*, which had since been renamed Hahnemann Medical College. As a general cure for chronic diseases, the “Compound Oxygen” he peddled would evolve from the inhaling of dilute concentrations of nitrous oxide to the imbibing of bottled aqueous nitrate solutions of ammonia and lead. Delighted to sell his Compound to both homeopaths and allopaths, Starkey considered Compound Oxygen as a system of hygiene supplementing whatever other physicians prescribed. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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