

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

A Postal Cover from Dr. R. N. Hudson: A Vocal Tenor and Vocal Nitrous Oxide Specialist



During the American Civil War, a quartet of brothers sang and played musical instruments at Union Army recruiting centers throughout Pennsylvania and New York. By 1868, the tenor in the quartet, Dr. R. N. Hudson, was generating his own laughing gas and advocating that other dentists dispense it for anesthesia as he did, from a gasometer. On July 1, 1875, for professional services rendered in his dental parlors at 125 Genesee Street in Auburn, New York, Dr. Hudson posted an itemized bill seeking \$1.00 from patient Samuel E. Tubbs. The bill was enveloped in a "postal cover" (above), which depicted Dr. Hudson and advertised that his services included "NITROUS OXIDE GAS A SPECIALTY." This postal cover is part of the Wood Library-Museum's Ben Z. Swanson Collection. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., Honorary Curator, ASA's Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Schaumburg, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. UJYC@aol.com.