

NEW YORK.

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Campbell, Linn & Co.,
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Dœlitz Bro., G.,
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Merrill, Chas.,
Noyes, W. R.,

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Emmons, H. H.,
Farrand, J. S.,
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Ford & Philbrick,
Grout, J. R.,
Hinman, A. B.,
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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

ON THE

MORTON TESTIMONIAL.

BUFFALO, Feb. 4th, 1865.

C. C. F. GAY, M. D., *President :*

A special meeting of the Erie County Medical Society, was held at their new rooms, in the Young Men's Association Buildings, Saturday, Feb. 4th, 1865, at 8 P. M., for the purpose of hearing some remarks by Dr. Morton, on the origin and use of practical anæsthesia. The President, Dr. Gay, introduced Dr. Morton to the Society, who proceeded to give a detailed account of the discovery by himself of anæsthesia, and its use in hospitals and on the battle fields, and the bitter experience he had in its introduction.

Upon the conclusion of his remarks, Dr. Rochester addressed the meeting, saying that a testimonial should be given to the Doctor in return for his expenditures, and his discovery, and moved a committee of eight be appointed by the chair, to take action in the matter, which was adopted. The President appointed as such committee, Drs. Rochester, Harvey, Samo, Lothrop, Barnes, C. C. F. Gay, Geo. N. Burwell and Julius F. Miner.

Upon motion, the Society adjourned till Monday, 8 P. M., for the further consideration of the subject.

Adjourned meeting, Monday, Feb. 6th, 1865. Dr. C. C. F. Gay, President, in the chair.

The committee appointed at the meeting Saturday evening, made a report, and offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted :

“The Committee appointed to express, in a proper manner, the thanks of this Society to Dr. Morton, for his full and satisfactory account of his discovery of the anæsthetic properties of Sulphuric Æther, and his statement of difficulties attending its introduction and use, submit the following report :

It appears beyond a doubt to medical men, that Dr. Morton is the discoverer of the anæsthetic properties of Sulphuric Æther, and that he was the first to clearly demonstrate that the condition of anæsthesia—a condition in which there is an entire insensibility to pain—could be safely and certainly produced. He is, therefore, the practical originator of anæsthetic inhalation.

Moreover we are indebted very greatly if not wholly to his great personal efforts, not only for its discovery, but for its adoption and use. For, this most precious gift to humanity met at first with incredulity, if not positive hostility, and no ordinary courage and energy were requisite to establish the use of an agent which has been of such incalculable benefit to humanity in preventing and suspending pain. And we may assume that its benefits are not confined to its being the most certain and safe means of alleviating pain, yet made use of in surgical practice, for its very power to prevent pain has given increased success to severe operations in surgery.

It further appears that for this important discovery taking rank among the most important gifts to humanity,—analogous to that of the great Jenner,—Dr. Morton has not only received adequate compensation, but has, in his efforts to secure its adoption, made great pecuniary sacrifices, for which he has repeatedly sought, but has as yet, failed to receive a national reward ; such a reward as has been, in discoveries of a like nature, but of less importance, given by European governments.

The great value of the Anæsthetic inhalation is now fully established. Thousands of painless operations have fully demonstrated its benefits, and its safety. It has robbed surgery of its terrors. A great amount of human suffering, which once seemed inevitable, is by its power wholly prevented. As a profession we daily witness its power and its benefits, we are therefore daily reminded of him, who first demonstrated the safety and practicability

of Anæsthetic inhalation and established its practice. To him we owe this great benefit, and to him is due the warmest gratitude of mankind. We therefore recommend the passage of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society are hereby tendered to Dr. Morton, for his clear and satisfactory statement, in which he has placed beyond doubt his claims as the originator and introducer of Anæsthetic inhalation.

Resolved, That inasmuch as he has failed of national recompense, we commend this appeal to the public to compensate him for the sacrifices he has made in establishing his claim, and especially we urge upon this community to contribute to the testimonial, in order that a most beneficent discovery may not be made a cause of pecuniary loss to the discoverer."

The committee was empowered to sign a call, inviting the citizens of Buffalo, to hear Dr. Morton give an account of the discovery and introduction of æther and chloroform, and their use in hospital and army practice, as witnessed by himself, and further to make appeals to them for contributions to the Morton Testimonial, in accordance with the plans already adopted in other cities.

On Motion, the Society adjourned.

LEON F. HARVEY, *Secretary*.

In accordance with the above proceedings, the citizens of Buffalo were invited to attend in the chapel of the Buffalo Female Academy, where Dr. Morton, on being introduced by Dr. Rochester, gave his interesting lecture. After the meeting remarks, approving the movement, were made by the Honorable Millard Fillmore, and others, when, on motion of Mr. Farnum, the chairman was authorized to appoint a committee of citizens to act in concert with the medical committee, in procuring subscriptions to the proposed testimonial.

The citizens committee appointed consisted of:

A. SHERWOOD,	CHARLES D. NORTON,
H. A. RICHMOND,	CHARLES F. WARDSWORTH,
WILLIAM DORSHEIMER,	JAMES D. SAWYER,
EBEN C. SPRAGUE,	S. S. GUTHRIE.

The result of the joint applications of these committees is highly satisfactory, between four and five thousand dollars having already been contributed.

C. C. F. GAY,

President Erie Co. Medical Society, Buffalo, N. Y.