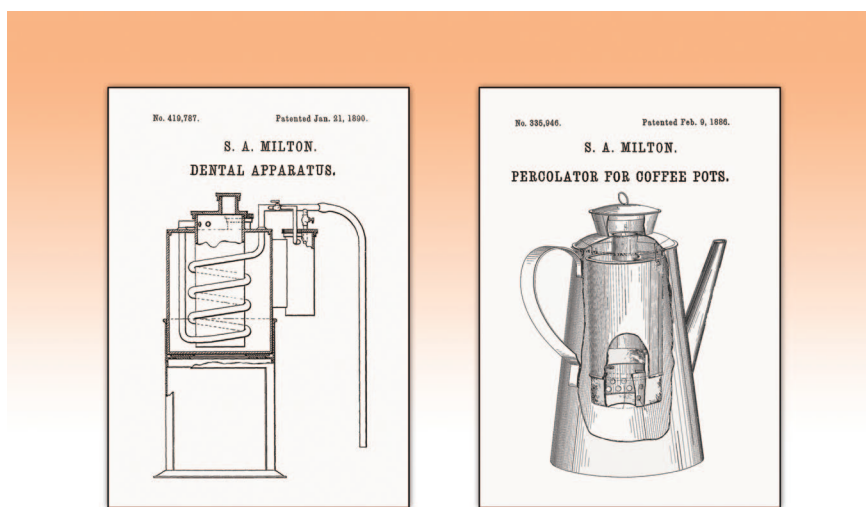


ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

The Milton Apparatus for Anesthetizing. . . and Awakening



A schoolteacher-turned-dentist, Samuel A. Milton (1847–1917) worked in his brother’s dental practice from 1866 until completing a D.D.S. in 1880 at the Philadelphia Dental College. A decade later, he received a U.S. Patent for his apparatus (*left*) for charging “heated air or nitrous oxide . . . with the vapors of . . . [numbing] volatile oils” and conveying this medicated gas stream to the tooth of a patient. Note the smaller cylinder upstream for titrating in ether or chloroform to supplement the topical (oil of cloves) or inhaled (nitrous oxide) anesthetic effect of the gas stream applied to the oral cavity. Needless to say, the Milton Apparatus could expose dentist-anesthetists to more than trace anesthetic vapors. However, since Dr. Milton had patented his coffee percolator (*right*) nearly 4 yr before his anesthetic apparatus, he likely had some caffeinated assistance in shaking off any drowsiness from his apparatus’ unscavenged anesthetic vapors. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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