

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Hart's Chloroform Analgesia by "Reynolds Obstetrical Inhaler"



According to Lawrence M. Hart, D.O., of Seattle, "no more chloroform" should be added to the "Reynolds Obstetrical inhaler than will be absorbed by the gauze, otherwise a drop of the anesthetic may flow into the patient's nostril and cause serious discomfort." With ether or particularly chloroform, obstetrical use of this rabbit-ear-like nasal inhaler (*above*) peaked between 1910 and 1920. According to Washington osteopath Hart, late in the first stage or early in her second stage, a laboring mother-to-be should be prompted to "place the instrument to her nostrils at the beginning of each pain and to inhale as long as the pain lasts." Dr. Hart considered this analgesic safe for the parturient because "the inhaler will drop from her hand at the beginning of narcosis." (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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