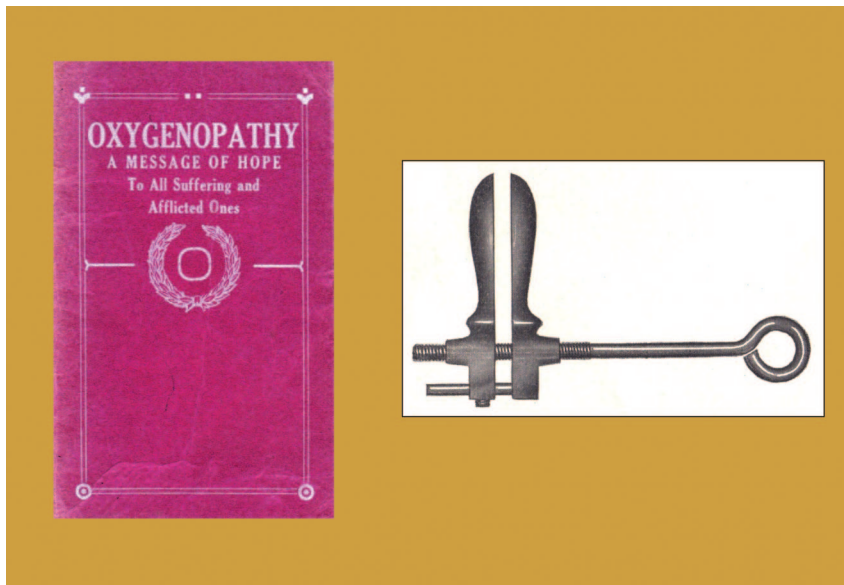


## The Faraday Company “Distention Attachment” for “Oxygen Cure” of Piles



Before many anesthesiologists and other physicians became involved in respiratory therapy, there were quacks marketing “oxygen cures.” Not long after federal laws in 1906 forced disclosure of ingredients upon nostrum manufacturers, charlatans like the Faraday Company of New Haven, Connecticut began selling ersatz apparatus in a booklet (*left*) promoting, among other things, “cures” for hemorrhoids: *Oxygenopathy: A Message of Hope to All Suffering and Afflicted Ones*. Wired to a piece of plumbing, the Connecticut firm’s “Distention Attachment” (*right*) was supposed to be anally inserted for 20- to 30-minute sessions at least three to four times daily, until a patient with piles found relief from constipation. According to oxygenopaths, this constipation cure would in turn improve “Asthma, Bronchitis, Liver and Stomach Disorders,” palpitations, “Neurasthenia, Headache, Spinal Irritation, Insomnia, Female Complaints, Paralysis, Neuralgia, Vertigo, Hysteria, Epilepsy, Dyspepsia, etc. . . .” (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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