

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD-LIBRARY MUSEUM

Edmund Andrews' "Oxygen Mixture"



After earning his A.B. and his M.D. in Michigan and then medically serving Generals Grant and Sherman during the Civil War, Edmund Andrews (1824–1904) spent most of his surgical career in Chicago. Yet like Horace Wells and Gardner Q. Colton, Andrews was actually a Vermont native. However, unlike those nitrous oxide pioneers, he avoided hypoxic gas mixtures by supplementing his laughing gas with oxygen. Anesthesiologists salute Andrews for publishing in *The Chicago Medical Examiner* that with nitrous oxide “the best proportion of oxygen will be ... one-fifth by volume,” an “oxygen mixture” for anesthetizing patients “for the longest as well as for the shortest surgical operations...” (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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