

greater achievements than the tremendous advances of the past one hundred years. 20 references.

F. A. M.

TALLMADGE, G. K.: *Some Anesthetics of Antiquity*. J. Hist. Med. & Allied Sc. 1: 515-520 (Oct.) 1946.

The history of anesthesia begins with the first use of the poppy, the mandragora, the hyoseyamus, and alcohol in the relief of human pain. Poppy was used to produce sleep, to relieve cough, and to relieve pain. It was known to produce lethargy and death. Tears of poppy—opium, were well known. Hyoseyamus was known to be poisonous and to lack uniformity in its effects. It was generally combined with opium. Mandragora was used for surgical anesthesia for many centuries. Wild lettuce was used as a soporific. Mulberry, a species of hemp, was used by the Seythians, the Chinese and by surgeons of the Western world. It had a small reputation as a soporific. 1 reference.

F. A. M.

HORINE, E. F.: *Episodes in the History of Anesthesia*. J. Hist. Med. & Allied Sc. 1: 521-526 (Oct.) 1946.

In 1846 sulfuric ether was demonstrated to be relatively safe as an agent for the alleviation of the pain of operations. The controversy concerning the discovery of the anesthetic properties of ether attracted attention which undoubtedly contributed to the rapid popularization of its use. Oliver Wendell Holmes deserves credit for the independent coinage of the words anesthesia and anaesthetic; however, Dioscorides used the word anesthesia as well as rectal and local anesthesia. Mandragora and alcohol were used in early attempts to relieve pain. The demonstration of ether anesthesia by Morton was the culmination of a long period of research and discovery. In

the books concerning anesthesia a surprising number of errors will be found. Coincidence also plays a part in the development of anesthesia. 23 references.

F. A. M.

ROSEN, GEORGE: *Mesmerism and Surgery; a Strange Chapter in the History of Anesthesia*. J. Hist. Med. & Allied Sc. 1: 527-550 (Oct.) 1946.

Mesmerism in surgery was part of the mesmeric movement that began in England in 1837 under the leadership of John Elliotson. An Irishman, Chenevix, who gave demonstrations of mesmeric phenomena was asked by Elliotson to try mesmerism on certain patients at St. Thomas's Hospital in 1829. In 1837 a Frenchman, Dupotet became associated with Elliotson at the North London Hospital. Mesmeric demonstrations were soon the talk of London. Medical and lay persons flocked to the hospital. Opposition to Elliotson's demonstrations developed within the hospital and eventually resulted in Elliotson's resignation. He continued to demonstrate the truth of mesmerism. He and his sympathizers published a journal, "The Zoist: A Journal of Cerebral Physiology and Mesmerism, and their Application to Human Welfare." Jules Cloquet, a French surgeon, performed a mastectomy on a patient in mesmeric sleep in 1829. Reports of the use of mesmeric anesthesia for surgical operations, some from America, appeared in The Zoist. In America the opposition was not as vituperative as that of the British medical journals. James Esdaile read reports of Elliotson's activities and tried mesmerism in surgical cases. Esdaile later tried ether for anesthesia. The margin of uncertainty in producing anesthesia was greater with mesmerism than with ether and chloroform. The surgical use of mesmerism declined.