It would be ungrateful if on this occasion, dedicated to the triumph over pain, I did not devote a few words to the history of anesthesia in Guatemala. It was exactly four years ago, in December, that we met in this blessed house of pain, which is called Hospital de San Juan de Dios, to celebrate the practice of ether anesthesia in Guatemala. There are the commemorative plaques to record the event. It was in this blessed house, always filled with suffering, rich in a tradition which reforming impulses are trying in vain to eradicate, that Dr. José Luna tested etherism on November 30, 1847. It was here also that the students of medicine, Juan José Cañas and Felipe Arana, offered for the sake of science to be anesthetized by ether."

F. A. M.


It is impossible to establish with certainty, from authenticated documents, either the date or the first use of anesthetics in Venezuela. According to Doctor Santiago Rodriguez Rivero, Blas Valbuena used ether as an anesthetic in Maracaibo in the year 1847. Veneente Peña, after studying the question concluded that a surgical operation performed May, 1849 by Eliseo Acosta, was the first in which chloroform was used.

F. A. M.


Ether was introduced into China by the Reverend Doctor Peter Parker of the Canton Hospital in 1847. Chloroform was also used by this same Peter Parker soon after its introduction by Simpson. 9 references.

F. A. M.


Ether was introduced into Turkey relatively late. Chloroform was preferred by physicians who were trained in France and ether by those who were trained in Germany.

F. A. M.


"The Massachusetts General Hospital has sent out invitations to the celebration of the centennial of the first public demonstration of surgical anesthesia in that venerable institution, October 16, 1846. . . . This event is typical of the activities of this Massachusetts hospital in keeping alive the memory of Morton’s administration of ether one hundred years ago. . . . I now wish Georgia doctors would become this enthusiastic over the real first anesthetic, that given by a Georgia doctor in Jefferson, Georgia, March 30, 1842, four and one half years before Morton gave his first anesthetic. We commemorate Crawford Long Day in Athens every 30th day of March, and all members of the Medical Association of Georgia know about it and are invited to it, but it is a rare thing ever to see as many as a half dozen doctors present. We congratulate the Massachusetts General Hospital upon this historic occasion, and wish for it the greatest success, and a long continuation of similar celebrations."

F. A. M.