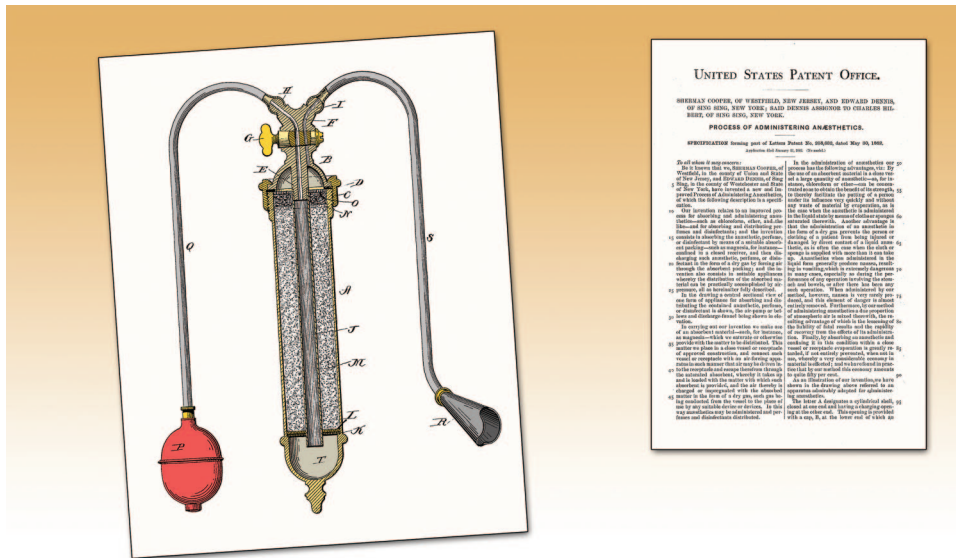


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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

The Cooper-Dennis “Process for Administering Anaesthetics”



In January of 1882, Sherman Cooper of New Jersey and Edward Dennis of New York filed a U.S. patent application for their “Process for Administering Anaesthetics.” According to their application “absorbent packing . . . such as magnesia” was saturated with ether or chloroform prior to forcing air through the closed container by a rubber “bulb or other air forcing device” (left). Their U.S. Patent No. 258,632 claimed many advantages for their process, including greater economy and swifter onset of anesthesia, less nausea and clothing damage, and fewer injuries and fatalities. Perhaps more confident in their entrepreneurship than in their “anaesthetic process,” Cooper and Dennis hedged their patent filing by noting its potential use in applying perfumes. (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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