and two years later, he makes his first reference to the use of cold as ‘... a local means for producing insensibility during surgical operations.’ In September of the same year Arnott opened what was to prove a lifelong campaign against the dangers of inhalation anaesthesia.

‘In February, 1854 ... he wrote a tract which was published by John Churchill, with the title, ‘The Question Considered’ and the rather ponderous sub-title: ‘Is it justifiable to administer Chloroform in Surgical Operations after its having already proved suddenly fatal in upwards of fifty cases when pain can be safely prevented, without loss of consciousness, by momentary Benuumbing Cold?’ The following month he defended his title to be the instigator of the use of ‘frigorific mixtures’ against the claim of some of his Parisian colleagues in a paper. ... In 1857 he produced a long article ‘On Congelation as an Anaesthetic.’ ... 1867 saw Arnott’s last effort for his method. In the Medical Times and Gazette of March 30th he wrote ‘On the Invention of Local Anaesthesia by Refrigeration.’ ... Arnott’s work has been almost entirely forgotten except as a reference in a recent book. The revival of interest in refrigeration has provided an excuse to bring it to light again.’

J. C. M. C.


‘In 1943 Lofgren and Lundqvist, at the Organic Chemistry Institute of Stockholm University, produced a series of new compounds which in chemical composition were basic anilides different in structure from the local analgesics of the cocaine procaine group. One of these compounds was diethylamino-2,6-dimethylacetanilide, which was called xylocain, showed promise. ... At the surgical clinic of Karolinska Hospital the new preparation has been on trial since 1944. ... Clinical investigation began with wheal tests. ... No local reaction was observed in this series. If adrenaline was added in concentration of 1:100,000, a considerably longer duration of analgesia was obtained. Whereas a 1 percent procaine solution with adrenaline has a duration of about 60–90