
For more than 3000 years men had striven to find relief from pain in surgery. No one person made the discovery of anesthesia. The honor of having a part in advancing the knowledge of anesthesia is great enough to be shared by all. Morton proved by his demonstration at the Massachusetts General Hospital the possibilities of ether anesthesia. Building on the foundation laid by others Morton brought to fulfillment the dream of centuries. In paying tribute to Morton's memory credit must also be given to others who searched for means of relieving pain.

F. A. M.


The new surgery which became possible after 1846 created a different atmosphere in the hospital which, once a place of despair, now became one of hope. Study of a textbook published before that date reveals the conditions of surgical practice. The surgeon was forced to perform an operation as speedily as possible. The scope of surgery remained extremely limited. The cause of this limitation was not only due to the lack of anesthesies but also to the older concept of disease. From