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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Morton Family Collection
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0118
Date: 1849-1911
Extent: 2.3 Cubic Feet (7 boxes)
Creator: Morton, William Thomas Green, 1819-? (dentist)
Morton, William J.
Language: English
Some materials in French.
Summary: The collection documents through correspondence, reprints of general articles, reports of Congressional committees, and materials relating to a U.S. patent and testimonials Morton's claims to priority in the discovery of the anesthetic properties of ether in medical and surgical procedures.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
Donated by William J. Morton, son of William T. G. Morton in 1921.

Provenance
The collection was transferred from the Division of History to Medical Sciences (now the Division of Medicine and Science) on August 20, 1984.

Processing Information

Preferred Citation
Morton Family Collection, 1849-1911, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions
Collection is open for research.
Biographical / Historical

William Thomas Green Morton was born on August 9, 1819 in Charlton, a village in Worcester Co., Massachusetts. He was the son of James Morton, a farmer of Charlton, and his wife Rebecca, a daughter of William Needham of Charlton.

Young William had a New England common school education at Northfield and Leicester Academies. In 1836 at the age of seventeen he went to work as a clerk and salesman in various business houses in Boston. Finding such employment of little interest, however, he enrolled in the College of Dental Surgery in Baltimore, Maryland in 1840. In the winter of 1842-1843, William Morton and Horace Wells, who had begun to practice dentistry in Hartford, Connecticut in 1836, practiced together in Boston. This partnership turned out to be unprofitable and was dissolved in the fall of 1843. Wells returned to Hartford; Morton stayed in Boston.

In March 1844 William Morton began studying medicine with Dr. Charles T. Jackson and later continued his studies at the Harvard Medical School. He also married in 1844. He did not complete Harvard's degree requirements but in 1852 was awarded an M.D. degree "honoris causa" by the Washington University of Medicine, later the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Baltimore.

During 1844 while the dentist and aspiring physician was studying with Dr. Jackson, Jackson demonstrated before his chemistry classes that inhalation of sulfuric ether causes loss of consciousness. William Morton who had continued his practice during his medical studies for financial reasons, was especially interested in the manufacture of artificial teeth and was, therefore, concerned with lessening the pain of extraction of roots. He had tried various methods such as intoxicants, opium and mesmerism but none was effective. Morton tried inhalation of sulfuric ether on himself and during the summer of 1846 he anaesthetized goldfish, a hen and his pet spaniel. They all recovered and the dentist was ready to use ether on patients. The painless extraction of an ulcerated tooth on September 30, 1846 was written up in the Boston Daily Journal of October 1, 1846. Following the newspaper accounts, Henry J. Bigelow, a Boston surgeon affiliated with Massachusetts General Hospital and John Collins Warren, the surgical chief at Massachusetts General invited Morton to demonstrate his discovery there. The removal of a tumor by Dr. Warren from the neck of a patient successfully anaeasthetized by Dr. Morton on October 16, 1846 was followed the next day by a second successful anesthesia and surgery by Dr. George Hayward. After several weeks of further trials, H. J. Bigelow announced Morton's discovery in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal on November 18, 1846.

On October 27, 1846, shortly after the first demonstration, Morton and Jackson applied for a patent which was issued November 12, 1846. They did not reveal that the anesthetic agent was sulfuric ether although it soon became apparent. On the application for patent it was labeled "Letheon". Patent No. 4848 was issued on November 12, 1846.

In 1847 a memorial to the Congress of the U.S. by the physicians and surgeons of Boston requested compensation to the discoverer of the anesthetic uses of ether, William T. G. Morton. Since this petition resulted in no action, Morton himself petitioned the Congress for financial reward. Two bills appropriating $200,000 for the discovery of practical anesthesia were introduced into three sessions of Congress but none passed. Supporters of Charles T. Jackson, Horace Wells and Crawford W. Long, each of whom had participated to some extent in the discovery of inhalation anesthesia, started a controversy which continued for years. Congressional committee and subcommittee concern dragged on for nearly two
decades without fruition. Dr. Morton's last twenty years were spent in controversy and litigation although several of the plans for compensating him resulted in honor if not in funds. He died of apoplexy at forty-nine, on July 15, 1869.

Among early honors awarded to Dr. Morton was the Montyon Prize of 5,000 French francs awarded jointly to him and Dr. Jackson by the French Academy of Sciences. Morton refused the award saying the discovery for which it was granted was his and his alone. A testimonial of $1,000 from the trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital was accepted. He received the Order of Wasa of Sweden and Norway and the Order of St. Vladimir of Russia for his contribution to science. There were testimonials by the medical profession in several cities. His name is inscribed among those of illustrious sons of Massachusetts in the Dome of the Hall of Representatives in the State House in Boston and among those on the facade of the Boston Public Library.

Crawford Long, Horace Wells and Charles T. Jackson all played a part in the discovery of surgical anesthesia but William T. G. Morton became the best known of the contenders for priority of discovery. The controversy among them continued for years and was never clearly resolved.

Dr. William H. Welch, Johns Hopkins University Medical School, gave a definitive address at the Massachusetts General Hospital on the introduction of surgical anesthesia on the 62nd anniversary of Ether Day (October 16, 1908). According to Dr. Welch, Dr. Crawford Long of Jefferson, Jackson Co. Georgia in March 1842 removed a small tumor from the neck of a patient anaesthetized with ether, and performed eight more minor operations under ether in the next 12 years. He delayed publication however until several years after the universal acceptance of surgical anesthesia and published details are sketchy. Until Long's work became known, Horace Wells was generally credited with first using inhalation anesthesia--nitrous oxide. The failure of an important experiment resulted in Wells abandoning his experiments and withdrawing from the practice of dentistry. He later took his own life. Dr. Welch considered Wells' work "...a direct and important link in the chain of discovery which led ... to the universal adoption of surgical anesthesia."1 After careful review of the evidence and the opinions of Morton's medical contemporaries, Dr. Welch gave major honors for the discovery to Morton. 2

2. Ibid.

Scope and Contents

The material in the collection was gathered by Morton's son, W. J. Morton, in defense of his father's character and work, and presented to the Smithsonian Institution by him on April 2, 1918. It includes correspondence, reprints of articles from medical and surgical journals, other publications, reports of congressional committees, materials relating to securing a U.S. patent, and testimonials on behalf of Morton's claim. Many of the articles and other publications relate to the controversy concerning priority in discovery of the anesthetic properties of ether in connection with medical and surgical procedures. A number are the work of contemporaries. Much of the material now in the collection is in reasonably good condition, particularly the books and many of the reprints. Many handwritten documents however show evidence of extensive water damage and some are illegible.

A report of a Smithsonian committee on condemnation on November 1, 1927 recommended destruction of three trunks in which the Morton materials were shipped. These trunks had been stored in a damp cellar before coming to the Museum and many of the documents were so damaged as to be illegible. Such papers were destroyed with the trunks. Another committee on condemnation was appointed in April, 1955 to report on the disposal of duplicate printed materials in the Division of Medicine and Public Health.
no longer needed for either exhibit or study purposes. On April 20, 1955 this committee recommended transfer of such material from the Morton collection to the Armed Forces Medical Library for distribution to medical libraries throughout the country through their exchange services.

The material has been organized into two series: (1) letters and documents arranged alphabetically by subject and (2) publications arranged alphabetically by author if known or by subject if no author is designated. A bound volume of many of the pamphlets available as single publications is part of the collection. The numbers found at the end immediately following the # are the numbers stamped on the publications when they were received by the Archives Center.

Several of the documents which are listed as part of the collection are on exhibit in "Pain and Its Relief," an exhibition at the National Museum of American History. Several others, listed in the accession file or a descriptive list were not among the materials received by the Archives Center, and have been listed as missing. Where descriptive cards prepared by an intern were sent to the Archives Center, they have been filed with the pertinent document.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series.

Series 1: Letters and Documents, 1849-1866
Series 2: Publications, 1849-1911

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

- Cultures:
  - Anesthesia
  - Dentists
  - Ether
  - Medical sciences
  - Medicine
Container Listing

Series 1: Letters and Documents, 1849-1866

Agreements about Morton patent

Box 1, Folder 1  Morton, Witte, Cuyler , 1860-05-12
Box 1, Folder 1  Morton, Benjamin Cozzens and Samuel Cozzens, 1860-11-21, 1860-09-11
Box 1, Folder 2  Bill of Complaint, Circuit Court of U.S
Handwritten, badly damaged, incomplete.

Box 1, Folder 3  Douglas, Frederick, Transcript of a speech entitled 'Reconstruction', 1866-03-19
Recorded by a Chicago firm of shorthand writers. Handwritten.

Box 1, Folder 4  Historical materials for the biography of W.T.G. Morton compiled by Ben. Perly Poore; Washington G.S. Gideon, 1856
Image(s)
With handwritten additions and changes.

Box 1, Folder 5  House of Representatives 506, 38th Congress Ist Session, undated
A bill making appropriations for sundry civil expenses, including $200,000 for Dr. Morton, p. 20.

Box 1, Folder 6  Letters and documents relating to Jackson/Morton controversy, undated
Image(s)
In poor condition, handwritten. A number of these dated March & April 1852 are from members of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital to Edward Stanly in response to questions from him about the Jackson/Morton controversy. One dated April 27, 1864 is to Thaddeus Stevens, chairman of Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives argues that Jackson should share in funds granted to Morton. Several are from Jackson asking the addressee if he had signed a paper in support of Morton's claim to be the discoverer of ether.

Box 1, Folder 7  Jackson's protest of Morton's claim to priority in the discovery of inhalation anesthesia, undated
P. 5 only, remainder missing.

Box 1, Folder 8  Letters, undated
Letters - re: compensation for discovery. Letter to William Whiting, Solicitor of War Department from Committee on Ways and Means re: his opinion on Morton's claim against the government, March 22, 1864. Letter from N. Wilson, chairman Committee on Ways and Means to William Hammond, Surgeon General of Army asking for opinions on amount Morton should be paid. Draft letter to Whiting of War Dept about Morton's claim, March 28, 1864. Several letters, 1856, 1857, reassignment of Tuckerman's claim to 50 percent of
Morton's receipts from the government to the Eastern Railroad. Claim was reduced to $3,000 and in 1862 to $1,500.

Box 1, Folder 9  Jackson's memorial to Congress, 1864-06-13, 1863-02-28  
Re: compensation.

Box 1, Folder 10  Morton's plea for recognition and compensation by Congress, undated  
Badly damaged. No date.

Box 1, Folder 11  Report of Select Committee of House of Representatives on Morton's Memorials to the Congress, 1852-06-28

Box 1, Folder 12  Jackson's request for issuance of patent rights to Morton, 1846-11-10

Box 1, Folder 13  Subscription to enable Morton to visit Europe, , 1861-05-13

Box 1, Folder 14  Testimonial regarding value of ether, 1862-12-25, 1865-02-09, 1863-01-02

Box 1, Folder 15  Testimonial, re: George Barnes, 1849-02-07

Box 1, Folder 16-17  Water damaged documents, illegible, undated

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Series 2: Publications, 1849-1911


Box 4, Folder 3  "Anaesthesia," Harper's New Monthly Magazine, 31 no. 184, #62, 1865 September

Box 4, Folder 3  "An Appeal to the Patrons of Science and the Friends of Humanity", Boston: (no publisher) #51, undated


Box 4, Folder 3  An Appeal to the Public by Members of the Medical Profession in N.Y. New York: George Nesbitt and Co., #98, 1858

Box 4, Folder 3  An Appeal to the Public by Members of the Medical Profession, New York: G.F. Nesbitt and Co., #99, 1858

Box 2, Folder 1  Ayer, Washington, M.D. "The Discovery of Anaesthesia by Ether." Occidental Medical Times. Reprint. Sacramento, #114, 1896 March

Box 2, Folder 1  Barber, William, "Dr. Jackson's Discovery of Ether". Periodical article: 46-58. #80, undated

Box 2, Folder 1  Bigelow, Henry J., M.D. "Ether and Chloroform: Their Discovery and Physiological Effects," Boston: David Clapp. Reprint. Boston Medical and Surgical Journal and the Transactions of the American Medical Association, #41, 1848

Box 2, Folder 1  Bigelow, Henry J., "Ether and Chloroform: A Compendium of Their History, Surgical Use, Dangers and Discovery," Boston: David Clapp. Reprint. Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. #40, 1848

Box 2, Folder 1  Bigelow, Henry J., "Etherization - A Compendium of Its History, Surgical Use, Dangers and Discovery." Boston Medical and Surgical Journal 38, No. 12: 229-247. #110, 1848-04-19


Box 5, Folder 1  Bigelow, Henry J., Anesthesia: Addresses and Other Papers Boston, Little Brown and Co., 1900
Box 2, Folder 2  Borland, Committee on Military Affairs, "The Ether Controversy, Debate in the Senate," 1852. Supplement: Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, #23, 1852-10-06

Box 2, Folder 2  Borland, "Anesthesia Properties of Sulfuric Ether, Debate in the US Senate." Reprint. Appendix to the Congressional Globe. #5, 1852 August 28

Box 2, Folder 2  Biographical sketch of Dr. William T.G. Morton. Reprint. Physicians and Surgeons of America. #19 & 20 (2 copies), undated

Box 2, Folder 2  Bowditch, N.I., "The Ether Controversy." Vindication of the Hospital Report Boston, John Wilson, #31, 1848

Box 2, Folder 2  Brinton, John H., M.D., Valedictory Address to the Graduating Class of Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. #49, 1892-04-27

Box 2, Folder 2  Brown, Buckminster, M.D., On the Pathological and Physiological Effects of Ethereal Inhalation. Boston. David Clapp, #42, 1847

Box 2, Folder 2  Burroughs, Wellcome and Co. Anesthetics, Ancient and Modern. London. (2 copies) #111, undated

Box 2, Folder 2  Burwell, George N., M.D., Of the Use of Chloroform in Midwifery. #59, 1853

Box 2, Folder 2  Channing, Walter, M.D. # 45, undated


Box 2, Folder 3  Choate, Jr., Joseph H., Petition to Members of the Legislature of the State of New York for the Relief of Dr. James Morton. #76, 1913-12-29

Box 4, Folder 3  "Chloroform and Other Anesthetics." The Westminster Review 47.1, book reviews; several pages missing, #58, 1859

Box 4, Folder 3  Circular: Morton's Letheon 5th edition, Voice from Europe. Boston, #87 (Missing), 1847

Box 4, Folder 3  Copies of Letters Patent Granted to W.T.G. Morton M.D. for the Discovery of Etherization, Washington. #52, 1854


Box 2, Folder 3  Curtis, George T., Letter to Hon. C. Cushing, Attorney General of the U.S. #85, 1855-05-01

Box 2, Folder 3  Dana, Richard H. Jr., "The Ether Discovery," 1848. Littell's Living Age. (Damaged) #4, 1848-03
Box 2, Folder 3  Dana, Jr., R.H. (Editor), "Rapport des Administrateurs de l'Hopital General de Massachusetts; suivre de l'Histoire de la De-couverte de L'ether; et du Memoire Adressse par le Docteur Morton a l'Academie Francaise." Cambridge: Metcalfe and Compannie, #50, 1848

Box 4, Folder 3  "Death of Dr. Horace Wells." Reprint of newspaper comments, #78, 1848

Box 4, Folder 3  "Discovery of Etherization". Brief Embracing the Legal Points of Dr. Morton's Case, #104, undated

Box 4, Folder 3  Dodge, Hon. Rufus B. (Missing), undated

Box 4, Folder 4  Dr. Morton's Patent for the Use of Sulfuric Ether. Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, Vol. 66 No. 2, #60, 1862-02-13

Box 4, Folder 4  Dr. Morton's Patent for the Use of Sulfuric Ether. Boston Medical and Surgical Journal 66.5, #61, 1862-03-01

Box 4, Folder 4  Dr. W.T.G. Morton Cambridge Sketches. (Proof sheets) #79, undated

Box 4, Folder 4  An Examination of the Question of Anesthesia Arising on the Memorial of Charles Thomas Wells Presented to U.S. Senate, 2nd Session 32nd Congress. Referred to Select Committee, Issac R. Walker, Chairman, #71, undated

Box 4, Folder 4  A Few of the Letters from Eminent Scientific Men in Support of an Appropriation for the Use of Anesthetics. #74, undated


Box 2, Folder 3  Eliot, Charles W. The Fruits of Medical Research with the Aid of Anaesthesia and Asepticism. Boston: Barton Press, #115, 1909

Box 7  Ether Pamphlets, undated
This is a bound volume of pamphlets many of which are copies of pamphlets available in the collection as single publications. It includes one complete index of the pamphlets and one partial index both of which are handwritten in ink.


Box 4, Folder 4  Full Exposure of the Conduct of Dr. Charles T. Jackson. #65, undated


Box 2, Folder 4  Gould, A.A. et al. Letters to Hon. Edward Stanley, Select Committee, House of Representations. #82, 1852

Box 2, Folder 4  Greenbaum, L., M.D., D.D.S., "Anesthetics from the Dental Standpoint." Items of Interest Vol. xxiii No.7, #54, 1901-07
Box 2, Folder 4
Hayden, William R., M.D., "The Discovery of Ether," 1896. The Bostonian 3.4, #37, 1897 January

Box 2, Folder 4

Box 2, Folder 4

Box 5, Folder 2

Box 4, Folder 4
Historical Memoranda Relative to the Discovery of Etherization and to the Connection with It of the Late Dr. William T.G. Morton. #64, undated

Box 5, Folder 3

Box 2, Folder 5
Hodges, R.M. et al. "Report of a Committee of the Boston Society for Medical Improvement on the Alleged Dangers which Accompany the Inhalation of the Vapor of Sulfuric Ether." Boston Medical and Surgical Journal LXV.12, #109, 1861-10-24

Box 2, Folder 5
Holmes, Oliver Wendell and others, undated

Box 2, Folder 5
Jackson, Charles T., M.D., undated

Box 2, Folder 5
Jackson, Charles T. M.D. Letter to Hon. William H. Bissell, Chairman of Select Committee on Ether Discovery Containing His Statement and the History of His Discovery. Boston, #75, 1851-12-18

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 5
Jackson, J.B.S., M.D. "Discovery of the Inhalation of Sulfuric Ether as a Preventive of Pain." Reprint. Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, #39, 1847-06-30

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 7
Box 2, Folder 5  Magruder, E.M., M.D. "Discovery of Surgical Anesthesia." Reprint. Williams Printing Co. Virginia Medical Semi-monthly. 1, 115-02-26, 1915-03-12, 115-03-26

Box 2, Folder 6  Massachusetts General Hospital. The Semi Centennial of Anesthesia, 1846-10-16 to 1896-10-16 Cambridge H.O. Houghton and Co., 1897

Box 2, Folder 5  McCrillis, Herbert O., "The Conquest of Pain." New England Magazine, #38, 1908-04

Box 4, Folder 4  Memorial to the Congress of the Surgeons and Physicians of the Massachusetts General Hospital at Boston in support of the Claims of W.T.G. Morton and Testimony Establishing the Claim of William T. G. Morton. Washington: A Boyd Hamilton. #68, 1853

Box 2, Folder 7  Mitchell, S. Weir, M.D. "The Birth and Death of Pain." A Poem, Vreeland Advertising Press. #53, undated

Box 2, Folder 7  Morton, Mrs. E.W. "The Discovery of Anesthesia." McClure's VII.4, #13, 1896-09

Box 4, Folder 5  Morton's Letheon. Boston: L.H. Bridgam, #66, undated


Box 2, Folder 7  Morton Testimonial Association. Applications to the 37th and 38th Congresses, Urging Compensation for the Use of Anesthetics in the Army and Navy of the U.S. #121

Box 2, Folder 7  Morton Testimonial Association. Proceedings in behalf of the Morton Testimonial. Boston. Rand and Avery. #91 & #92 (2 copies), 1861

Box 2, Folder 7  Morton Testimonial Association. Proceedings in behalf of the Morton Testimonial. (Cincinnati). Boston, #84, 1866

Box 2, Folder 7  Morton Testimonial Association. Proceedings in behalf of the Morton Testimonial (Cleveland). Boston: Rand and Avery, #89, [1861-1866?]

Box 2, Folder 7  Morton Testimonial Association. Proceedings in behalf of the Morton Testimonial (Newburgh). Boston, #25, undated

Box 2, Folder 7  Morton Testimonial Association. A Representation to Congress Urging Compensation for the Use of Anesthetics in the Army and Navy 38th Congress. #120, 1864

Box 2, Folder 7  Morton Testimonial Association. Testimonial to William T.G. Morton. Boston, #81., 1861 April

Box 3, Folder 1  Morton, William J., M.D. "Anesthetic Inhalation: Rival Claimants to the Discovery." N.Y. Times. . Reprint. (2 copies) #7 and #122, 1879-09-09
Box 3, Folder 1  Morton, William J., M.D. "The Invention of Anesthetic Inhalation or Discovery of Anesthesia." *The Virginia Medical Monthly*, #47, 1880 March


Box 3, Folder 1  Morton, William J., M.D. "Memoranda Relating to the Discovery of Surgical Anesthesia, and Dr. William T.G. Morton's Relation to This Event." Reprint. *Post Graduate*, #32, 1905 April

Box 3, Folder 1  Morton, William T.G., M.D. Anesthetic Agents: The Respectful Notice, Protest and Memorial of W.T.G. Morton, M.D. Washington: George S. Gideon, #101, 1854


Box 3, Folder 1  Morton, William T.G., M.D. Physiological Effects of Sulfuric Ether and Its Superiority to Chloroform. Boston: David Clapp, #6, 1850

Box 3, Folder 1  Morton, William T.G., M.D. Remarks on the Proper Mode of Administering Sulfuric Ether. Boston: Dutton and Wentworth, #93, 1847

Box 3, Folder 1  Morton, William T.G., M.D. "The Use of Ether as an Anesthetic at the Battle of the Wilderness in the Civil War." Chicago: Reprint. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, #29 (missing), 1904 April 23

Box 3, Folder 2  Ottolengui, R., M.D.S. "Anesthesia Discovered by a Dentist. True Story of the Discovery of Anesthesia." *Items of Interest, A Monthly Magazine of Dental Art, Science and Literature*, #34, 1897 September

Box 3, Folder 2  Paget, Sir James, Bart. "Escape from Pain: the History of a Discovery." The Nineteenth Century, #1, 1879 December

Box 3, Folder 2  Park, Roswell, A.M., M.D. "The History and Introduction of Anesthesia in Surgery." *Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal XIII.10*, #2, 1896 December

Box 3, Folder 2  Parker, Charles. Report to the Executive Committee of Physicians and Surgeons. Interested in Raising a National Testimonial for the Discoverer of the Anesthetic Uses of Sulfuric Ether. New York: Km. C. Bryant & Co., #102, 1859

Box 3, Folder 2  Poore, Perley, Ben. Historical Materials for the Biography of W.T.G. Morton, M.D. Washington: G.S. Gideon, #56, 1856

Box 4, Folder 5  "Remarks made by Doctors Charles T. Jackson and Warner on the Discovery of Anesthesia." *Journal of the Gynecological Society of Boston 5.1*, 18-20, #11, 1871 July

Box 6, Folder 1  Report of Select Committee of House of Representatives on Morton's Memorial, undated
Box 6, Folder 2 Testimony by Morton Submitted to Select Committee of the Senate, undated
Box 6, Folder 3 Reprints of Newspaper and Periodical Comments, Memoranda Relating to the Discovery of Anesthesia, Origin of the Term "Anesthetic." #126, undated
Box 5, Folder 4 Rice, Nathan P., Trials of a Public Benefactor. New York: Pudney and Russell, 1859
Box 3, Folder 3 Sedililot, C. "De l'Etherisation et des Operations sans Douleur." Reprint. La Gazette Medicale de Strasbourg, #117, 1847-02-20
Box 3, Folder 3 Simpson, J.Y., M.D., F.R.S.E. "On Chloroform, an Account of a New Anesthetic Agent as a Substitute for sulfuric Ether in Surgery and Midwifery." New York, #44 (Missing), 1848
Box 3, Folder 3 Simpson, J.Y., M.D., F.R.S.E. "Remarks on the Super-induction of Anesthesia in Natural and Morbid Parturition." Medical and Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh 1, #30, 1847-12
Box 3, Folder 3 Slade, Daniel Denison, M.D. "Historic Moments: The first Capital Operation Under the Influence of Ether." Scribner's Magazine xii, #36, 1892-10
Box 3, Folder 4 Smith, Truman. Who is Entitled to the Credit of Making the Great Discovery? N.Y.: Robert Larter, #16, 1864
Box 3, Folder 5 Sneli, E.L. "Dr. Morton's Discovery of Anesthesia." The Century Magazine 48.4, #10, 1894-08
Box 3, Folder 5 State Street Trust Co. Forty of Boston's Immortals (Pictures and short biographies, including Dr. W.T.G. Morton). Boston: Walton Advertising and Printing Co., #107, 1910
Box 3, Folder 5 Stokes, William Royal, M.D. "Four Great Anglo-American Medical Discoveries." Reprint. The Journal of the Alumni Association of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, #9, 1905-01
Box 3, Folder 5  
Straith, Dr. S. "Nitrous Oxide Gas, the Ideal Anesthetic." Read before the Saginaw Valley Dental Association, 1901-04-06. Society Papers pp. 519-522. #55, 1901-04-06

Box 3, Folder 5  
Sunderland, La Roy. "Confessions of a Magnetizer." Boston: Redding and Co., #124, 1845

Box 3, Folder 5  

Box 4, Folder 5  

Box 3, Folder 5  
Turnbull, Laurence, M.D. "Artificial Anesthesia." Journal of the American Medical Association, 529. #57, 1885-11-07

Box 3, Folder 6  
U.S. House of Representatives, 30th Congress 2nd Session. Report 114. Dr. T.O. Edwards, Chairman, Select Committee. #95, 1849-02-23

Box 3, Folder 6  

Box 3, Folder 6  
U.S. House of Representatives, 32nd Congress, 1st Session. Report of Select Committee. Dr. William H. Bissell, Chairman. #97 (missing), 1852

Box 3, Folder 6  

Box 3, Folder 6  
U.S. House of Representatives 32d Congress. Extracts from Report of Select Committee on Ether Discovery. Brief of points and proofs in regard to the proposed appropriation to enable the President to procure the surrender of the patent issued to Dr. Wm. T.G. Morton for the discovery of the anesthetic properties of sulfuric ether. pp. 1-23. Discovery of Etherization. Brief embracing the legal points of Dr. Morton's case. pp. 1-7. #108, undated

Box 3, Folder 7  

Box 4, Folder 3  
U.S. Senate, 32nd Congress 2nd Session, Report the Select Committee on the Subject of Anesthesia with Remarks of the Hon. J.P. Walker, USS Chairman, undated

Box 4, Folder 3  
U.S. Senate, 37th Congress, 3d Session, Report of Committee, no. 89. Report of the Committee on Military Affairs, Henry Wilson, Chairman. (with Appendix.) (Contains Morton's penciled sentiments). #73, 1863-02-14
Box 4, Folder 3  U.S. Senate, 37th Congress, 3d Session, . Report of Committee no. 89. Report of the Committee on Military Affairs, Henry Wilson, Chairman. (Without appendix). #72, 1863-02-14


Box 3, Folder 8  Wales, J. Discovery by the Late Dr. Horace Wells of the Applicability of Nitrons Oxide Gas, Sulfuric Ether and Other Vapors in Surgical Operations. Wartford: Elihu Geer, 2nd edition. #12, 1852

Box 3, Folder 8  Walker, Issac P. Report of the Select Committee of the U.S. Senate on the Subject of Anesthesia with Remarks by the Hon. J.P. Walker, Chairman (privately printed) #70, undated

Box 3, Folder 8  Walker, Issac P. Chairman, Select Committee of the Senate. Answer to an Examination of the Question of Anesthesia. Washington: Lemuel Towers, #8, 1853

Box 3, Folder 8  Warren, Edward. Some Account of the Letheon or Who is the discoverer? Boston: Dutton and Wentwork, 3rd edition. #3, 1847


Box 4, Folder 1  Warren, John Collins, I.D. #22, undated


Box 4, Folder 2  Who conquered Pain (Dr. Wells the Discoverer of Anesthesia). New York: 14, 1860

Box 4, Folder 2  Williams, Henry Smith, M.D. "The Century's Progress in Scientific Medicine." Harpers Magazine 589, #35, 1899-06

Box 4, Folder 2  The Worcester and Southbridge Street Railway. Worcester, Mass. (Includes pictures of and references to Dr. Wm. T.G. Morton). #125, 1903
Box 4, Folder 2  
Washington, D.C.: Judd and Detweiler, #123, 1903

Box 7, Folder 1  
Ether Pamphlets, undated

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