

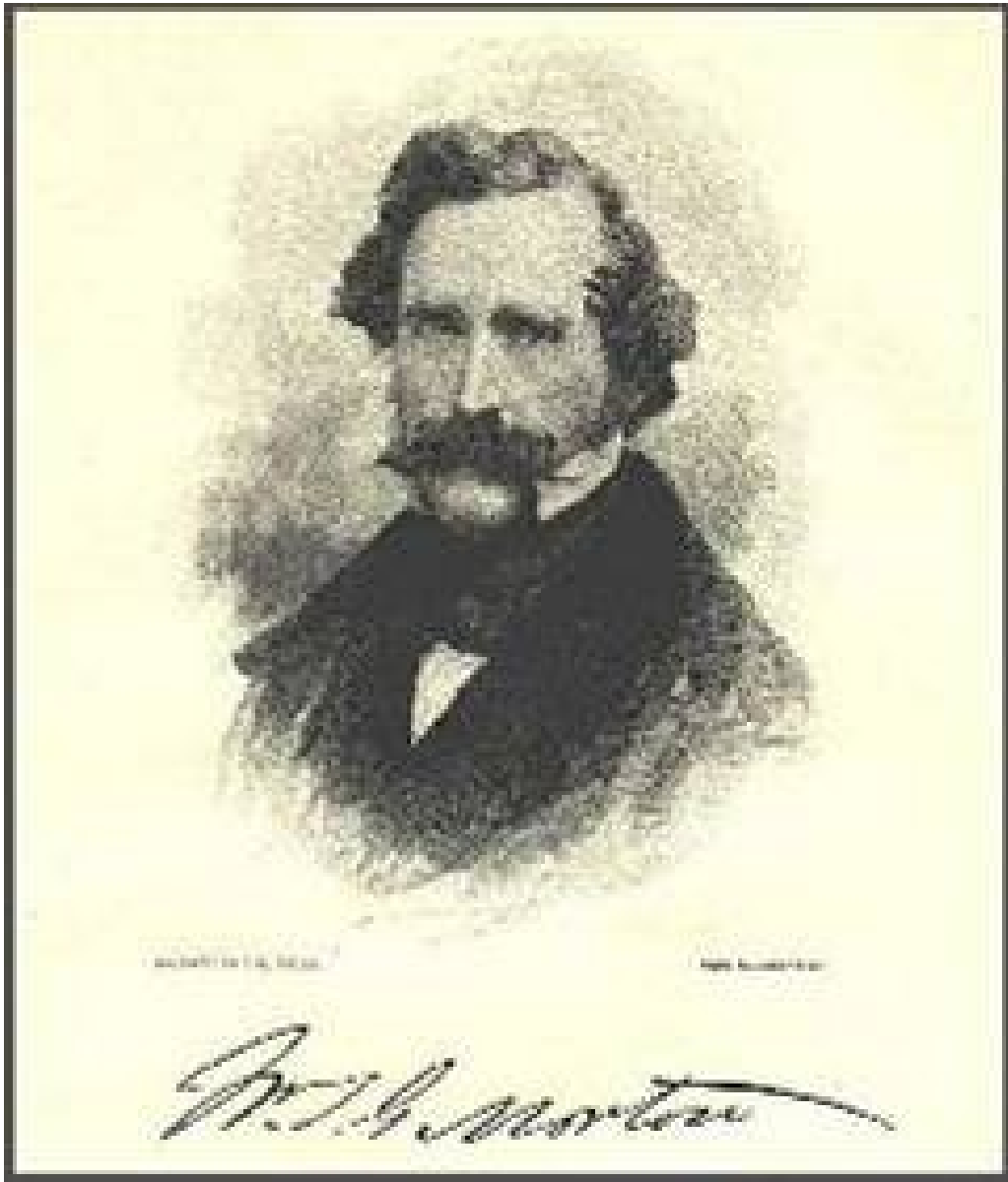
# Anaesthesia

Sri Ramajeyam  
Om Anandamayi Chaithanyamayi Sathyamayi Parame!

*A situation like this, which prevailed in olden days*



*Was changed by this great man*



**William Thomas Green Morton  
(1819 – 1868)**

**By the demonstration of Surgical Anaesthesia with  
Ether**

**On the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 1846**

***At  
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston***



**The Bulfinch Building,  
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston**

**(Water colour painting by Dr. Leroy D. Vandam)**

**The place where the demonstration was done is  
preserved as a monument known as “Ether Dome”**

**(The demonstration took place in the Bulfinch building. This building was the first home of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Today, the former operating room and building is referred to as the "Ether Dome.")**

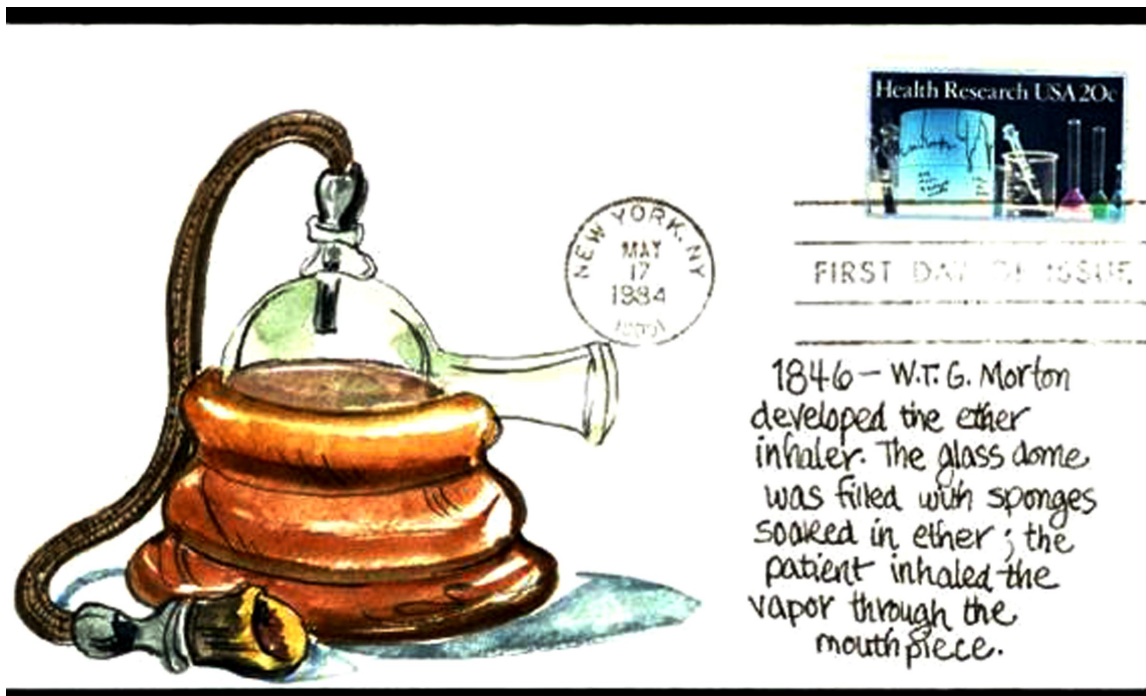
***Like this***



**For surgical removal a tumour in the jaw of  
Gilbert Abbott, when Dr. John Collins Warren  
operated on him**

**Surrounded by a silent and unsympathetic audience,  
Morton went quietly to work**





**With this simple equipment**

(A glass dome was filled with sponges soaked in ether; the patient inhaled the vapour through the mouth piece)

**“The operation was begun. The patient showed no sign of pain, yet he was alive and breathing”**

**“I have seen something today that will go around the world”**

**- Dr. Henry J. Bigelow**

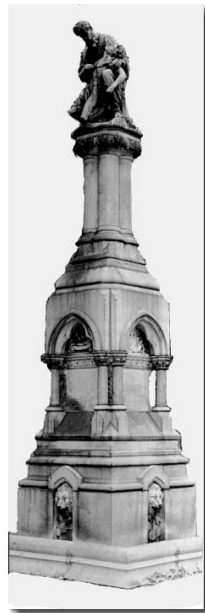
(Remark by the eminent surgeon attending the demonstration)

**“This priceless gift to humanity went forth from the operating theatre of Massachusetts General Hospital and this man to whom the world owes it is W. T. G. Morton”**

**- Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes**

**“Impossible made possible”. One can be alive still not feels the surgical pain. “Surgeon’s knife made soft and safe**

**The success of the event was largely due to the more powerful and more easily handled drug, which he used, and due to his cool temperament. He showed more courage during the ordeal of the first demonstration.**



**The Ether Monument is the oldest statue in Boston's historic Public Garden**

**(A memorial in Boston in memory of this great event)**

**Following initial disbelief, news of the successful demonstration spread rapidly. Within a month, Ether was in use in other cities of United States and had been used in Great Britain as well.**

**Within five months of introduction, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1847, Ether was used in India at Calcutta.**



### **The Tomb of Morton**

**A monument erected by citizens of Boston over the grave of Morton in Mount Auburn Cemetery near Boston bears the following inscription written by Dr. Henry J. Bigelow**

## **William T. G. Morton**

Inventor and Revealer of Anaesthetic Inhalation

“Before Whom, in All Time, Surgery Was Agony”

“By Whom Pain in Surgery Was Averted and Annulled”

“Since Whom Science Has Control of Pain”

(This is the actual way it is inscribed with Capital letter for each word.)



**Mrs. Elizabeth Morton, 1845, aged 18**

At Morton's graveside, his widow reportedly said:  
"My husband's great gift, which he devoted to the service of  
mankind, proved a curse to himself and to his family."





**Etherton Cottage at Wellesley, Mass.  
Home of Dr. Morton**

**Here only he did his early experiments**

***Ether Anaesthesia started 160 years ago  
On October 16<sup>th</sup> 1846  
Had undergone gradual metamorphosis to  
the sophisticated state as we do like this  
today***



***The world will be ever grateful to W.T. G. Morton for his gift of  
pain relief for Human beings.***

***We as Anaesthesiologists, must be very proud that we follow his  
footsteps in relief of human suffering in a better way with the  
developments of science***

## Some words of great men to think over

“The relief of pain is purchased always at a price. The price in both morbidity and mortality does not greatly differ whatever the agent or agents used.”

• **R. M. Waters**

“It is not the drug that is dangerous, but the man who administers it is.”

- **Sir. Robert Macintosh**

“Eternal vigilance is the price of safety.”

“Primum non nocere” – First of all do no harm.

“The proper dose of any drug is enough.”

“It is a great mistake to suppose that nature always stands in need of the assistance of an art... Nor do I think it below me to acknowledge that when no manifest indication pointed out to me what was to be done, I have consulted the safety of my patient and my own reputation effectually by doing nothing at all.”

- **Thomas Sydenham**