

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SIR:

The assignment of strict historical priorities is perhaps a sterile exercise, but two New Yorkers, by adoption, cannot allow Dr. E. L. Frederickson's letter (the JOURNAL, May 1968, p. 302) to go unchallenged.

Both Dr. Crawford Long and Dr. William Morton are rightly revered as the men who made anaesthesia a beneficent reality. They both used sulphuric ether, and the order of priority which Dr. Frederickson assigns is correct as between these two pioneers. Credit for the *first* clinical use must, however, be given to Dr. W. E. Clark of Rochester, New York, who, in January 1842, gave ether to a Miss Hobbie, while Dr. Elijah Pope extracted one of her teeth (H. J. Bigelow, A History of Discovery of Modern Anesthesia, Am. J. Med. Sc. 141: 164-184, 1876).

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