

tion of carbon dioxide in, and providing its regular elimination from, the blood; for it is the respiratory stimulant (Yandall Henderson). Other factors involved are temperature and moisture. The anesthetics are carried into the system at body temperature. This may be and is being accomplished by warming, and, in the case of ether and anesthetic chloroform, by passing the vapor through heated water, which, at body temperature, not only removes the oxidation products, but saturates the gas with moisture (Gwathmey method). The osmotic action of the alveolar cells is thus affected only to the extent of the densities of the gases introduced into the lungs, and not, as normally is the case, by temperature (always lower) and desiccation as well. In other words, by the application of the principles of modern physical chemistry, the numerous variables are so reduced as to secure the real physiological effect of the particular anesthetic drug after it enters the system. Nitrous oxide and oxygen may be used for prolonged anesthesia and successfully for eighty per cent. of surgical cases; furthermore, ether and chloroform may be used with equal safety. The real, and no supposititious, idiosyncrasy of the patient may be met. The expert anesthetist may now not only make it possible for the surgeon to perform even greater miracles, but with more comfort to himself in his work, and with greater happiness and less discomfort to the patient.

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CYRUS GUERNSEY PRINGLE

IN 1882 I had the pleasure of accompanying Dr. C. C. Parry and C. G. Pringle on a botanical expedition into Lower California. At this time Mr. Pringle was engaged in forming the Jesup collection of American woods for the

American Museum of Natural History, and this was his first trip into Mexican territory, as it was my first.

The personal instruction given me at this time, and many following favors in after years, cemented our friendship. Previous to this time Mr. Pringle was principally known as the originator of the snowflake potato, and of new varieties of wheat and oats, and his labors in this field have added many millions to the profits of the American farmer. To him Luther Burbank owes the first training that he received in originating new varieties of plants, and many others could no doubt testify to the helpfulness of the man, ever above the petty jealousies that beset some lives.

The next twenty years passed without my again meeting the man in person, when we met in Mexico City, and I journeyed with him into many fields of botanical interest—the lava fields near that city, and to the grand barrancas near Guadalajara—replete with discoveries which render his name inseparable from the annals of American botany.

Mr. Pringle carried consideration for others almost to an extreme (were this truly possible), and I have seen him select the heavier burden and give his peon servant the lighter one to carry.

In asking for data concerning his life I received the following reply: "I decided that it was hardly possible for me to comply with your request. It would be too painful to write my autobiography. Shyness has become habitual with me. Besides my aversion to publicity, I am too busy to write much. All my thought and labor goes to the building of a great and superior herbarium."

His choice of a monument is the herbarium of the University of Vermont, which bears his name. His death from pneumonia, on May 26, 1911, aged seventy-three years, was announced in the daily press.

A rich man—who has created millions—not for himself, but for his fellow man.

C. R. ORCUTT