

MODERN ANAESTHESIA:

A CONCISE GUIDE TO THE STUDY AND
PRACTICE IN ANAESTHESIA.

FIRST EDITION



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BOOK PREVIEW

Joshua Jataunamo Oscar

MODERN ANAESTHESIA:
A CONCISE GUIDE TO THE STUDY AND PRACTICE OF
ANAESTHESIA.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION TO ANAESTHESIA

Introduction

Anaesthesia started from the beginning of the creation of earth and the universe by God Almighty who decided to make a partner for Adams in the Garden of Eden. God was the first anaesthetist and surgeon in the history of Mankind. Genesis 2:21 (Amplified), And the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and while he slept, he took one of his ribs or a part of his side and close up the (place with) flesh. Anaesthesia means the loss of feeling or sensation in a part or in the whole body usually induced by drugs. Anaesthesia is a specialization of medicine/nursing that deals with reversible, controllable and predictable methods of pain relief for operative surgery with or without loss of consciousness.

Anaesthesia is concerned with the administration of medication and anaesthetic agents to relieve pain and support physiologic function during a surgical procedure. It is a specialty that requires knowledge of biochemistry, clinical pharmacology, cardiology, and respiratory physiology. Nurse Anaesthesia is a branch of clinical nursing specialty. When anaesthesia is administered by a nurse anaesthetist, it is still recognized as the practice of nursing rather than a practice of medicine. "Once nurses and physicians arrive at anaesthesia training, we use the same text books and same cases. The training is not different between the two groups. We all deliver anaesthesia the same way."

Anaesthesia has been around in one form or another since around the 12th century and in some sense hundreds to thousands of years B.C. In the last 150 years however a revolution of anaesthesia has occurred with exponential growth in knowledge and substances available for use in anaesthesia making it one of the most advanced specialties in modern medicine. However some of the

substances used in this period still hold strong today such as opium and some are even being ‘rediscovered’ such as Cannabis in chronic pain. Arabic chemist were perhaps some of the most advanced in their beliefs on anaesthesia in the 12th and 13th centuries employing techniques such as the soporific sponge which was a sponge steeped in hashish, opium and other herbal aromatics. When required for surgery it would be moistened and held over the face inducing a state of unconsciousness. Sir Richard Burton’s translation of *The Arabian nights* (2021).

The first illustration of an attempt to relieve pain of surgery by a locally applied method was possibly that on the tomb of Ankhmahor, Vizier of state of Egyptian Pharaoh Teti, the first, in 2300 BC. The hiero-glyphic shows a medical attendant applying medication to numb the pain of circumcision at the operation.

Historical Review

The anaesthetic qualities of drugs such as nitrous oxide, ether, and chloroform were first demonstrated in the United States by 1840’s, and paved the way for modern surgical procedures. Florence Nightingale’s work as a nurse in the Crimean War during the 1850’s ushered in the advent of professional nursing, and women began to choose nursing as a vocation. Soon after, nurses first gave anaesthesia while caring for wounded soldiers on the battlefields of the Civil War. It is from these beginning that the specialty of nurse anaesthesia was formed. Nurses were the first professional group to provide Anaesthesia services in United States, established in the late 1800s, nurse Anaesthesia has since become recognized as the first clinical nursing specialty. The first nurse anaesthetist of record was Catherine S. Lawrence, who with other nurses gave anaesthesia during civil war (1861-1865).