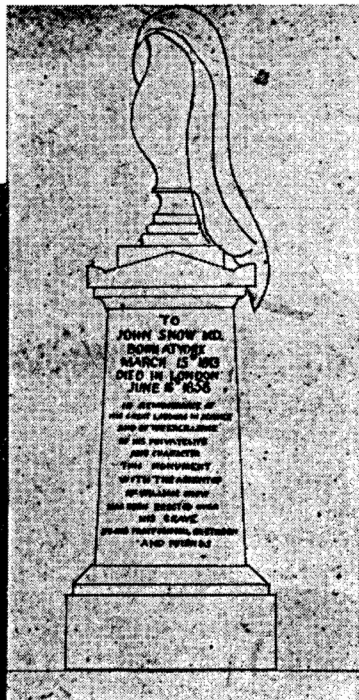


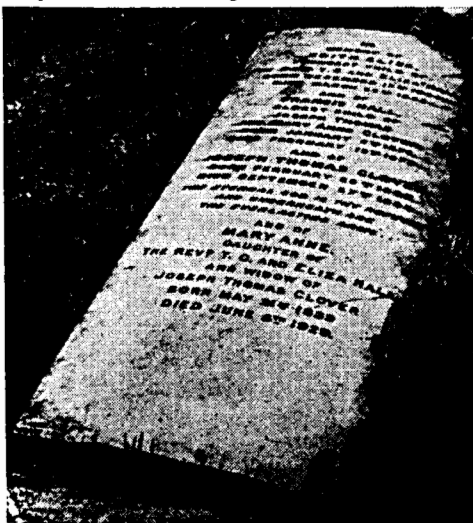
The graves of John Snow and Joseph Thomas Clover

British Anaesthetists visiting Madison (USA) in the early 1930's were chided by Ralph Waters because they were unaware of their indebtedness to John Snow. Waters gave a memorable paper on carbon dioxide absorption at the Royal Society of Medicine in October 1936. More memorable still was the jolt experienced by the majority of the audience when, in his opening remarks, he announced that the greatest anaesthetist was an Englishman – adding, after a slight pause, the name of John Snow, someone of whom they had not heard. On this visit Waters drew my attention to the sad state of disrepair into which Snow's tombstone (erected 1858) had fallen. I circularised the members of the Section of Anaesthetics of the RSM, deliberately restricting contributions to 5/- – and my memory tells me that all responded. Unhappily the restoration was destroyed during an air raid in 1941 and the facsimile monument was put up by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (*Anaesthesia* (1950) 5, 48).

John Snow's Memorial. Drawing from which the original monument was constructed. (compare restoration by Association in 1950).



Joseph Thomas Clover's grave



Fifteen years ago some funds became available to me with which the tombstone of Clover (died 1882) was renovated. Although the marble stone remains in quite good condition, it is overgrown and looks derelict—as indeed it is.

Britain was fortunate in having men of this calibre make anaesthetics their prime interest immediately after reports on ether reached this country from Boston. Snow achieved the MD of the University of London in 1844, being placed 'in the First Division'. His treatise *On Ether*, surely the most remarkable book on anaesthetics ever written, was published in 1847, less than a year after the first administration at University College Hospital. His second and better known book *On Chloroform and other Anaesthetics* was published very shortly after his death. As an undergraduate, Clover acquired many Certificates of Honour of University College, London, before qualifying in 1847. He became FRCS (of England) in 1850. His health was poor and his services were in great demand by the leading surgeons of the day, so that he wrote comparatively little. His well-known inhaler was in wide-spread use for over fifty years after his death. His other contributions were many—and he deserves well of us.

Both are buried in the Brompton Cemetery some 200 yards apart. Snow's grave, near the Brompton Road entrance, is well known to the gate-keeper because of the regular enquiries he received from visitors, presumably both epidemiologists and anaesthetists. It would appear that Clover's grave (No U.113122) is never visited, possibly because anaesthetists have not been told where it is.

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