Particularly valuable drugs during the war included chloroform and ether, which were used as anesthetics for surgery or other painful procedures, and opium and morphine, which helped relieve pain, suppress cough, and reduce the severity of diarrhea. In this account, a wounded Stonewall Jackson receives chloroform.

After reaching the hospital, he [General Jackson] was placed in bed, covered with blankets, and another drink of whiskey and water given him. Two hours and a half elapsed before sufficient reaction took place, to warrant an examination. At two o’clock Sunday morning, Surgeons Black, Walls and Coleman being present, I informed him that chloroform would be given him, and his wounds examined. I told him that amputation would probably be required, and asked if it was found necessary, whether it should be done at once. He replied promptly, “Yes, certainly; Doctor McGuire, do for me whatever you think best.” Chloroform was then administered, and as he began to feel its effect, and its relief to the pain he was suffering, he exclaimed, “What an infinite blessing,” and continued to repeat the word “blessing,” until he became insensible.