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A Japanese pioneer in the use of anesthesia in surgery was Seishu Hanoka, who, 40 years before Long used ether, had removed breast cancers and kidney stones from sleeping patients. He dosed them with a narcotic compound of six plant extracts, including henbane and jimsonweed, members of the nightshade family; the method is reminiscent of much earlier attempts. This painting on silk, specially commissioned and presented to the International College of Surgeons, depicts a legend that grew around the surgeon's experiment. His elderly mother suggested that, as she expected to die shortly anyway, the proposed anesthetic be tried on her. But Hanoka administered it to his wife for, as all three agreed, he could find another wife but he could never get another mother. The painting is reproduced here to help introduce a new regular Journal feature, Anesthesia Problem of the Month (p. 789).