

Anesthesia History Association Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 2

April, 1986

Nixon Library Acquires Rare Photograph

The P.I. Nixon Medical Historical Library of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio's Dolph Briscoe, Jr. Library has acquired a rare early photograph, known as a tintype, which documents an important event in medical history.

The photographic image, probably made between 1855 and 1860, shows Dr. Crawford Long of Athens, Georgia, demonstrating the use of ether anesthesia in surgery. The scene was staged to portray Dr. Long's original discovery and use of anesthesia in 1842, four years before it was demonstrated at Massachusetts General Hospital by William T. Morton. Dr. Long's claim was eventually verified, and he is now recognized as the discoverer of modern anesthesia, although he did not publish his findings or make them known to the medical profession.

The tintype was a photographic process developed in 1854, replacing the earlier daguerrotype. The tintype process produced a direct positive image on a sensitized iron base. The Crawford Long tintype, the only known photograph of Dr. Long, was discovered only recently by an antique dealer in Gainesville, Georgia, who purchased it from a descendant of Dr. Long. It then passed to a rare book dealer in Athens, Georgia. It was purchased for the Nixon Library by Dr. Scott Smith, a resident in anesthesiology at Medical Center Hospital, in honor of Dr. Maurice Albin, professor of anesthesiology at The Health Science Center and director of neuro-anesthesiology at Medical Center Hospital and the VA Medical Center.

The Crawford Long tintype and other historical materials relating to the discovery of anesthesia are currently on display on the fifth



floor of the Briscoe Library.

For more information, contact Joyce Ray, Curator of Historical Collections.

British to Form a History of Anaesthesia Society

All members of the Anesthesia History Association will be pleased to learn that British anaesthetists are creating a historical society. The first meeting will be convened by Dr. Tom Boulton on the morning of June 7, 1986, at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, England. A full day of activities is planned which will include the presentation of historical papers as well as the organizational session. Everyone with an interest in the history of anesthesiology will be warmly welcomed.

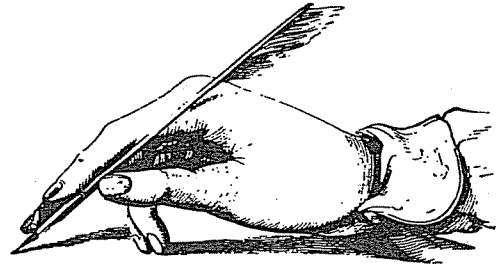
Dr. Boulton is pleased to report that 190 people have already indicated an interest in joining the society. While the organizers have not yet selected a title for the new organization, he said that neither its name nor its bylaws will suggest or imply any geographical or other restrictions on membership. He hopes that many members of the Anesthesia History Association will participate in the first European society to be dedicated to the study of the history of anesthesiology.

The organizers of the British society deserve our enthusiastic support. The first Anesthesia History Symposium was held in Rotterdam only four years ago. In 1982 only the very bold would have been willing to forecast that within a half a decade a keen interest in the history of anesthesia would lead to the creation of historical associations on either side of the Atlantic. Our congratulations to our friends in Britain.

Anyone privileged to be in England on June 7, 1986, who might be able to attend the meeting in Reading is encouraged to contact Dr. Boulton for program information. His address is:

Thomas B. Boulton, MB, FFARCS
Consultant Anaesthetist
Royal Berkshire Hospital
Reading, Berkshire
United Kingdom RG1 5AN

Editorial Jottings . . .



When an organization, an institution, or a country has existed and thrived for a period of time, it begins to look at its past and to preserve it by focusing on its accomplishments. In some instances, the pioneers leading to progress are honored, biographies are written, and even monuments erected. The indication is that the association or society has come of age, has reached a degree of maturity. So it was right and proper that, several years ago, the Anesthesia History Association became an entity, to concentrate on how and through whom this medical specialty has reached its present achievements. To reflect this probing into our past it was only natural that a Newsletter be instituted to allow those interested in this historical panorama to share in the reflections of days gone by. This Newsletter has been ably edited by Dr. Selma Calmes and published by D. Lipscomb and Associates, and to them we owe a sincere debt of gratitude for their unselfish and sometimes onerous work.

In this issue we are unabashed by publishing the review by Dr. Rod Calverly of Dr. David Little's *Classical Anesthesia Files* as originally printed in the ASA Newsletter, 50:9-10, March, 1986. We do this because it should be re-read and to remind us all of the David M. Little, Jr. prize being sponsored by the Anesthesia History Association (see A.H.A. Newsletter, 3:2, July, 1985). There is also a most favorable review of *Classical Anesthesia Files* in *Anesth. Analg.* 65:429-430, April, 1986. We urge you all to savor the delectable interpretations of our history by obtaining a copy of this book from the Wood-Library Museum.

Being of an historical bent, all readers should hasten to write to Dr. Rod Calverly indicating their participation in the History Exhibit at the 1986 ASA meeting in Las Vegas. Details are to be found in another part of this Newsletter.

Planning is well in hand for the annual meeting and dinner of the Anesthesia History Association. It will be held at the Alexis Park Hotel in Las Vegas at the time of the ASA meeting. The date is Saturday, October 18, with refreshments beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Alexis Park Hotel, near the strip, is one of the few establishments in Las Vegas which does not have a casino and which prides itself on its food and like amenities. The featured after-dinner speaker will be the matriarch of obstetric anesthesia, Dr. Gertie Marx, who will discuss the "Historical Aspects of Obstetric Anesthesia." Keep Saturday evening free! Incidentally, in March, Dr. Marx received an honorary degree from the Johannes Gutenberg-Universitat in Mainz, Germany. Later, she participated in the spring meeting of the Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association in Dundee, Scotland.

A special and important bulletin comes from Dr. David J. Steward, immediate Past President of the Anesthesia History Association. A fund has been established by the Association which is dedicated to the objective of researching and preserving historic anesthesia film footage. If any members of the Association have such film footage in their possession, or know where such film may be located, please contact Dr. Steward.

A special account has been opened by Dr. Gertie Marx, our Secretary-Treasurer, and she will welcome contributions from

members who wish to donate to this fund. Major support for this project is also being sought from the pharmaceutical companies, both financial and by culling their archives for suitable film footage. This material should be available to future generations and now is the time to identify it, catalogue it, and preserve it for future viewing.

Crawford Long may win out yet! Dr. Maurice S. Albin, President of the Anesthesia History Association, has graciously made available a unique tintype which recently was presented to the Nixon Library of the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Elsewhere in the Newsletter is the related story and a photograph of the tintype. Thank you, Maurice.

Philately is perhaps not as widely practiced in the United States as it is in many other countries of the world, but its adherents realize how much historical and geographical knowledge can be gained from its pursuit. One of our members, Dr. Miguel Colon-Morales, happily has agreed to share with us on a regular basis some of the medical historical facts which can be gained from philatelic adventures. Featured in this issue, coincidentally, is the stamp commemorating Dr. Crawford Long, which was issued by the United States in 1940.

While on the topic of stamps, some readers may recall that in one or two past issues of the Newsletter, information was published urging that letters be sent to the U.S. Postal authorities indicating that a stamp be issued to honor the revered Horace Wells. No doubt some of you did. However, it is time to do it again because we have been informed by Dr. Leonard F. Menczer, representing the Hartford Medical Society and the Hartford Dental Society, that the Stamp Development Branch of the Postal Service discards all materials coming to its attention after each bimonthly meeting. Therefore, if you wish to see anesthesia honored once again in a postage stamp, particularly Horace Wells, please write to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, U.S. Postal Office, Customer Services Department, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20260-6300. Help place anesthesia in the history of philately!

One of the joys of an editor is receiving correspondence from valued friends with whom one has lost touch. Such a letter came recently from Dr. Gwen Wilson in Australia, who was so kind to us during a visit to that fabulous land in 1964. Dr. Wilson is retired from active practice, but not from activity. She has written the history of 50 years of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and has compiled a bibliography of over 6,000 references to anaesthesia, intensive care and resuscitation in Australian journals from 1948 to 1962. We hope to persuade Dr. Wilson to share some of her reminiscences with us in the Newsletter.

A Newsletter is worthy of its name only when others share their thoughts of the past or present with the readership. Therefore, we welcome and indeed urge you to share your historical anecdotes, by means of articles, letters, photographs, or what have you. Please send your information to 13 Balcon Estates, St. Louis, MO 63141.

— C.R. Stephen, M.D.

Distinguished British Anaesthetist Visits UCSD

On March 26 and 27, Dr. J. Alfred Lee, the principal author of *A Synopsis of Anaesthesia*, paid a very welcome visit to the University of California, San Diego Anesthesiology Department. During the prior week Dr. Lee and his wife, Norah, had travelled from their home in Westcliff-on-Sea, England, to Las Vegas where he had presented the 1986 Harry Seldon lecture at the annual meeting of the International Anesthesia Research Society before flying to Tucson to lecture at the University of Arizona.

This would have been a rapidly-paced tour for anyone, but it was a remarkable achievement for an anaesthetist who celebrated his 80th birthday in February. His friends would not be surprised, however, for within the past two years Dr. Lee has presented the 1984 Koller Lecture in Vienna for the European Society of Regional Anesthesia and, later that year, the Stanley Rowbotham Lecture at the Royal Free Hospital, London.

While Dr. Lee is well known as a fine lecturer and author of historical articles, his international reputation is based on the unparalleled success of his classic text, *A Synopsis of Anaesthesia*, which was first published in 1947 and will be presented in its new 10th edition in 1987. In San Diego, as in other cities, Dr. Lee autographed well-worn copies of his *Synopsis* which anesthesiologists had used during their residencies. Men approaching retirement presented rare early editions while younger anesthesiologists offered eighth or ninth editions for his signature.

Dr. Lee maintained a busy pace during his visit. He lectured, gave a video interview and conducted a resident seminar. The lecture, "Milestones of Anesthesiology," was well received by university and community anesthesiologists. The video interview shall become part of the ASA's Wood Library-Museum Living History collection and will be of great interest to historical videophiles.

During both the interview and the lecture, Dr. Lee described some of the principal events in his professional career which began 59 years ago when he graduated in 1927 from the University of Durham, at a time when most anesthetics were "rag & bottle" inhalations. He sketched the evolution of British anesthesia from the early days when hospital anesthetists dwelt in the lowest strata in a medical hierarchy through to the development of university departments. He reminded his audience that before the Second World War it was often assumed that the untrained referring general practitioner would give ether for the consultant surgeon. Despite numerous frustrations, significant advances were made at this time by a few dynamic pioneers, including Dr. Lee's classmate and colleague, Philip Ayre.

He showed that the specialty in Britain did not evolve in the same way as it did in America. Dr. Lee recounted that the first recognition of postgraduate training came in 1935 with the creation of the Diploma in Anaesthesia (DA). In 1947 when the FFARCS was initiated, Alfred Lee was among the first to be awarded this higher qualification. In that post-war period, the growth of the specialty was fostered by the introduction of the National Health Service which created co-equal status among all medical specialties, a pattern which has persisted to the present. For six decades Dr. Lee participated in the evolution of British anesthesia. The spirit of those times was captured effectively in his lecture and filmed interview.

While the formal presentation was well received, the highlight of his visit was an informal question and answer seminar held with the residents. The afternoon session allowed men and women entering the specialty an opportunity to discuss its history with a man who had observed its evolution and had helped to guide its course. They were impressed that Dr. Lee began his clinical work after only two weeks of informal instruction and that his was not an unusual experience. They were quite surprised to learn how recently the

sophistication of subspecialty practice had emerged. They were challenged to answer the questions he posed on patterns of modern practice and marvelled that one person could carry such an encyclopedic knowledge of anesthesiology past and present.

The seminar provided both Dr. Lee and his audience with a very pleasant exchange which will be recalled with warmth by his new friends in San Diego. The only shortcoming of his visit was that his stay was far too brief, but everyone is pleased that he and Norah have enjoyed a safe homecoming and that their first visit to San Diego gave them pleasure, just as it did everyone who shared time with them in this country.

— Rod Calverley



1987 London History of Anesthesia Meeting

During a recent telephone conversation, Dr. Tom Boulton reported that excellent progress has been made in developing the Second International Symposium on the History of Modern Anaesthesia which will be held in London, England from July 20-23, 1987. He told me that registration forms with detailed information for members who wish to submit abstracts will be presented in the Preliminary Program which is to be published in April. The meeting promises to be a fine experience for members and their companions as the formal sessions will be complemented by an excellent social program. During the meeting escorted tours will also be offered to several London hospitals whose museums include good collections of historical anesthetic apparatus.

Everyone interested in attending the symposium is invited to request a Preliminary Program directly from Dr. Boulton. His address is:

Thomas B. Boulton, MB, FFARCS
Consultant Anaesthetist
Royal Berkshire Hospital
Reading, Berkshire
United Kingdom RG1 5AN

— Rod Calverley

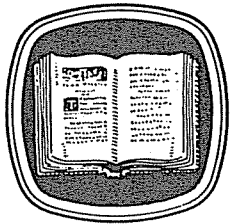


Art Exhibit to Include Historical Display

The 1986 ASA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas will again offer collectors of historical material an opportunity to display some of their treasures. The Committee on Art Exhibits will provide a locked glass cabinet for small instruments, photographs, books, letters and other objects. The History Exhibit will be an educational presentation and will not be judged. A \$5.00 registration fee will be required from each participant.

Everyone interested in participating is encouraged to request an application form at this time. Please write to:

Rod Calverley, M.D.
UCSD Medical Center H-770
225 Dickinson Street
San Diego, CA 92103



From the Literature

A.J. Wright, M.L.S.
Clinical Librarian, Department of Anesthesiology
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Brown GHK: 'That blessed sleep:' Thoughts on the history of anaesthesia. *SAAD Dig* 6:12-16, 1985.

This first installment of a series covers such pre-1846 developments as the discovery or use of ether, oxygen and salicylin. Boyle and Wren's intravenous administration of a drug, Davy's work with nitrous oxide, etc. No illustrations or references.

Hirsch NP, Smith GB, Hirsch PO: Alfred Kirstein: Pioneer of direct laryngoscopy. *Anaesthesia* 41:42-45, 1986.

Describes work of Kirstein, who in Berlin on April 23, 1895, made the first direct examination of the larynx interior. Illustrations include his first and modified autoscopes and a drawing of Kirstein performing direct laryngoscopy. Four illustrations, ten references.

Condon HA, Gilchrist E: Stanley Rowbotham: Twentieth-Century pioneer anaesthetist. *Anaesthesia* 41:46-52, 1986.

Describes career of Rowbotham who did innovative work in tracheal and thyroid anaesthesia, basal narcosis, use of muscle relaxants and who introduced cyclopropane in Great Britain. Seven illustrations, twenty-three references.

Chapin JW, O'Gara P: A centennial tribute to American surgeons and the introduction of local and regional anaesthesia. *Anesthesiol Rev* 12(6):10-14, 1985.

Describes the late nineteenth-century work of Koller, Halsted, Cushing, Crile and Matas on local anaesthesia. Four illustrations, thirteen references.

McAuley JE: Carl Koller: The man and the drug. *Br Dent J* 158:339-342, 1985.

Discussed 1884-1887 work of Koller and others with cocaine. Edited version of a lecture delivered to the Royal College of Surgeons of England in October, 1984. Three illustrations, forty-one references.

Leonard AGK: Stamp recognition for William Morton. *Br Dent J* 158:343, 1985.

Notes issuance of a stamp by the Transkei (a South African "black homeland") commemorating the work of William Morton as "father of anaesthetics." One illustration.

Frost EAM: History of neuroanaesthesia. *Anesthesiol Rev* 12(5):66-72, 1985.

Includes material on development of neurosurgery from ancient times through the Middle Ages, Renaissance and into the nineteenth century. Also covers anaesthesia as administered by neurosurgeons in the late nineteenth century and neuroanaesthesia developments in this century. Twenty-three references.

Clark RB: The origination of common eponyms used in anaesthesia. *Anesthesiology* 63:338-339, 1985.

Describes twenty-seven devices named after their inventors. Includes dates of first description.

Papper EM: A historical perspective on closed circuit anaesthesia. *Circular* 2:29-30, 1985.

Briefly examines the work of Dennis Jackson and especially Ralph Waters on closed circuit anaesthesia. No illustrations or references.

Bonica JJ: History of pain concepts and pain therapy. *Sem Anesth* 4:189-208, 1985.

In this extensive article Dr. Bonica discusses in depth both specific pain theories and therapies from ancient civilizations to the present. No illustrations, eighty-five references.

Kalso E: A short history of central venous catheterization. *Acta Anaesthesiol Scand* suppl 81:7-10, 1985.

Includes extensive description of central venous catheterization since the 1930s. No illustrations, forty-nine references.

Severinghaus JW, Astrup PB: History of blood gas analysis. III. Carbon dioxide tension. *J Clin Monit* 2:60-73, 1986.

Describes the work of Dr. Severinghaus, Richard Riley and numerous others in the measurement of carbon dioxide tension. Twelve illustrations, forty-six references.

Conacher ID: The first anaesthetic in Central Africa. *Anaesthesia* 40:1103-1107, 1985.

On March 20, 1876, Robert Laws, a medical missionary in what is now the Republic of Malawi, used the first surgical anaesthetic in central Africa. This article gives details about Dr. Laws' life and that operation. Three illustrations, twelve references.

Kitz RJ, Vandam LD: A history and the scope of anaesthetic practice. In Miller RD, ed. *Anesthesia* 2nd ed., Churchill Livingstone, 1986, pp. 3-25.

The "history" portion of this chapter briefly covers numerous topics and individuals associated with the development of anaesthesia prior to World War II. Four illustrations, seventeen "Suggested Readings."

Arens JF: Three decades of cardiac anaesthesia. *Mt Sinai J Med* 52:516-20, 1985.

Examines the "rich tradition" of cardiac anaesthesia, which began with the article by Harmel and Lamant, "Anaesthesia in the Surgical Treatment of Congenital Pulmonary Stenosis," published in *Anesthesiology* in 1946. Notes work in anaesthesia during open heart surgery, managing respiratory problems, etc. No illustrations or references.

The Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology

by
Patrick Sim, Librarian
Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology

The *History of Anesthesiology Reprint Series* has been published annually by the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology since 1971. As a tradition to promote the heritage of anaesthesia, a topic of historical interest in anesthesiology is chosen annually by the Board of Trustees of the Wood Library-Museum for publication. Classic articles on the chosen topic are reprinted in facsimile and presented to the reading public at the time of the ASA Annual Meeting.

The series was first conceived as a project by the Wood Library-Museum trustees in 1971 to put together a commemorative packet of reprints of the original communications of Crawford Long's first use of sulphuric ether for surgical purposes. The illustrative packet with reprints was printed as a keepsake commemorating the ASA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Crawford Long being a native son of Georgia. Appropriately, a reprinting of the documents on the first public



BOOK REVIEW

CLASSICAL ANESTHESIA FILES

by David M. Little, Jr., M.D.

Published by the Wood Library-Museum of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, 1985. 335 pp. \$35.00 prepaid by check or money order from Wood Library-Museum, 515 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

Classical Anesthesia Files, the most recent publication of the American Society of Anesthesiologists' Wood Library-Museum, will be a welcome addition to departmental libraries and the personal collections of anesthesiologists everywhere. The book is a superb collection of 150 scholarly and witty *Classical File* essays created by a master of writing, Dr. David M. Little, Jr. They first appeared in the *Survey of Anesthesiology* from 1957 until 1981. For 25 years without a single interruption, Dr. Little presented his personal perspectives on articles of historical importance.

After Dr. Little's death on November 17, 1981, a large number of his regular readers requested that his work be preserved as a bound volume. They feared that his essays might be lost as the demands of space caused old journals to be displaced from library shelves. A subcommittee appointed by the Trustees of the Wood Library-Museum accepted this responsibility under the direction of Dr. C. Ronald Stephen.

In developing *Classical Anesthesia Files*, the Subcommittee had to overcome a few potential difficulties and are to be complimented for their decisions. As an example, they realized that if every essay and companion article were to be republished without abridgement, the cost of the multi-volume sets would be prohibitive. Since their goals were to preserve Dr. Little's communications and to make them available at a popular price, the Subcommittee chose to present his introductions in their entirety and have abridged only the historical material that accompanied his work. As they report in the Preface, they chose to present "his originality of concept, breadth of treatment, and depth of knowledge . . . his clear flowing style of a storyteller (that) transformed his pleasure in writing to pleasure in reading."

The order in which the essays appear has been changed since they were not all designed to be read consecutively. Each year Dr. Little followed a pattern which moved from a consideration of important 19th and 20th century discoveries to classic advances in regional anesthesia and, finally, to landmarks in clinical and laboratory research. After weighing several alternatives, the editorial committee reorganized the files to follow a chronologic pattern. The book begins with Joseph Priestley's experiments of 1775, considers almost every important advance in anesthesiology, and ends with the introduction of pancuronium in 1967.

Every step of that history fascinated Dr. Little. Through his skillfully prepared essays he shared his enthusiasm with thousands of readers who eagerly sought out each new issue and came to love the history he taught. The opportunity to reread his stories will be welcomed by every faithful follower of the *File* as well as by those who will now enjoy their first discovery of his captivating style.

The book is exceptionally easy to read. Only a few minutes is needed to study a single essay, but the reader is continually at risk of becoming so engrossed by Little's writing that hours slip past with unexpected speed.

His reports ranged from Richard Gill's dramatic account of the traditional preparation of curare by Ecuadorian Indians to an appreciation of W.G.T. Morton's altruistic service as a Union Army anesthetist during the Battle of the Wilderness. David Little also used humor well in his own writing and appreciated the wit of other authors, including that of Richard Gordon, the British anesthetist-author of the "Doctor in the House" series. Gordon's fanciful parody of the status of British anesthetists, "Sleeping Partner," will be enjoyed by readers of this book just as it was when it first appeared in *Punch* magazine.

Dr. Little's interest in history was just one element of his remarkable career which was based upon a great love of clinical practice and a keen desire to advance the interests of anesthesiology. He was respected as a superb teacher by every resident who trained in Hartford, Connecticut, and was known internationally as a leader of the specialty. He served as President and Secretary of the American Board of Anesthesiology and as President of the Academy of Anesthesiology. He was elected President of the American Society of Anesthesiologists in 1974 and was presented with our Society's Distinguished Service Award five years later. His actions helped shape the evolution of American anesthesiology.

Classical Anesthesia Files is a fitting memorial to a vital part of the career of its remarkable author, David Mason Little, Jr., M.D.

— Rod Calverley

Wood Library-Museum Publishes The History of Anesthesiology Reprint Series

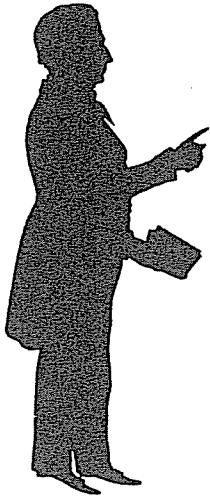
The demonstration of ether anesthesia by William T.G. Morton at the Massachusetts General Hospital was published for the series in 1972 when the ASA met in Boston. This was followed by a collection of pioneering works on spinal anesthesia in 1973, with Tait and Cagliari's "Experimental and Clinical Notes on the Subarachnoid Space" as a key article. Again, the choice of topic for 1973 was obvious. Tait and Cagliari performed the first successful spinal anesthesia in the United States in San Francisco, where the ASA met in 1973.

Subsequently, this annual publication project became a permanent series. Annual reprint topics for the series to date include: Signs and Stages of Anesthesia (1974); Carbon Dioxide Absorption (1975); Obstetric Anesthesia (1976); Physical Theories of Anesthetic Action (1977); Neuroanesthesia (1978); Pediatric Anesthesia (1979); Endotracheal Anesthesia (1980); Nitrous Oxide (1981); Intravenous Anesthesia (1982); Curare (1983); Introduction of Local Anesthesia (1984); Uptake and Distribution of Inhalation Anesthetics (1985).

Complementing, and perhaps, synthesizing each individual series of reprint articles is an original introductory essay written by the editor of the series which provides an overview on the contributions to anesthesiology in a given area brought about by the papers presented. These original essays collectively paint a panoramic picture of the development of the arts and science of anesthesiology. Among the authors of these essays are Betty Bamforth, B. Raymond Fink, Keith Miller, Charles Tandy and Leroy Vandam.

Each of the reprint series is packaged in a packet illustrated with interesting and relevant pictures. Most of the illustrations were taken from the Wood Library-Museum Collection, and are historically relevant to the themes of the reprint series presented.

This annual historical reprint series is available from the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology at \$7.50 per annual packet. The purchase of a set of the first ten parts of the series has a price of \$45.00, which provides a 40% discount. For further information, write or call the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology at 515 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068, (312) 825-5586.



How to Present The Results of Your Historical Research



by
Selma H. Calmes, M.D.

Two previous articles in the AHA Newsletter discussed how to get started in historical research and how to do oral history (see "Getting Started in Historical Research," July, 1985, p. 3, and "How to Do Oral History," September, 1985, p. 3). Suppose you did get started and found some new information on the history of anesthesia? Why keep it to yourself? Many people, especially in this organization, would like to know about it and, no doubt, comment on it or perhaps use your findings to explain some of their own research results.

What is the next step, after you've made your great discoveries? As was discussed in the first article on getting started, the process is very much like scientific research. First, you must synthesize your material into some unifying thesis. For example, AHA member Marty Pernick's new book, *A Calculus of Suffering*, has the thesis that not every surgical patient got anesthesia after the famous demonstration of 1846 and that physicians' decisions about who did get anesthesia were influenced by cultural and therapeutic ideas of that era.

After postulating a thesis, then go back over your sources very carefully. Does your evidence REALLY support that thesis? Could your references be inaccurate or interpreted in another way? This need to doubt your sources was discussed by Dr. Richard Ellis, the 1985 Wright Lecturer, when he spoke at the October AHA dinner meeting, and is a most important consideration.

Once you've got thesis and supporting evidence together, you're ready to present the material in oral or written form to a larger audience. Here again, there is similarity to science, because an oral presentation is probably the best first step. This could be to a local history of medicine society, the American Association for the History of Medicine's annual meeting, or similar groups. (In the future, there may be opportunities through this organization.) At that oral presentation, hopefully, your interpretations and sources will be attacked, and you will have to defend them. And, hopefully, people will ask questions that you can't answer at the moment, but which will provide a whole new viewpoint when you finally do search out the answer.

An example here comes from my own experience. I presented a paper on the number and percent of women physicians in anesthesia in the period 1920-1940 at an AAHM meeting, and someone asked, "When did Blue Cross start paying for anesthesia services?" I didn't have the answer, but the questioner said that was probably the key to the increasing percentage of men entering anesthesia after World War II. So, I went on to look at the economics of anesthesia practice (a formidable project, by the way). Payment by insurance companies for anesthesia services turned out to be a critical factor in providing adequate incomes for anesthesiologists, one I hadn't thought of until

that question was asked.

After oral presentations, and any necessary revisions as the result of that, your project can be written up and submitted for publication. At the present time, there is not a perfect place to send anesthesia history papers. If you just want to share your work with anesthesia colleagues, the anesthesia journals have published historical articles. If you want some standing as an historian, the history of medicine journals are the places to go. But they suffer from prolonged peer review processes and extremely long acceptance-to-publication times.

I hope this brief series of articles has been helpful in getting you started in historical research. A word of warning, however: This becomes exciting and habit-forming! You may soon find yourself spending all your spare time in dusty old archives, accumulating huge files and thinking historically about every conceivable situation! But, it's all lots of fun, and I urge you to get started!



Letter to the Editor

Dear Doctor:

I've always been interested in history, but an organization with the history of my own profession!! I'm very excited about joining A.H.A. My father (Dr. Lawrence Ruttle) was one of the founding fathers of the Wood Library and interviewed Griffith for the library. He received one of the original vials of curare that Griffith ever made for the Wood.

Please allow me to join and my \$25.00 check is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Mark Ruttle, M.D.



Nurse Anesthetist History Reprinted

Virginia Thatcher's "History of Anesthesia with Emphasis on the Nurse Specialist," published in 1953 by J.B. Lippincott, has been reprinted recently by Garland Press of New York at a cost of \$41.00. The book will be of interest to members who have wanted to purchase Thatcher's account of the pioneers of nurse anesthesia and the development of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. The book is not a new edition, as the text and illustrations are unchanged.

— Rod Calverley, M.D.

Sir Victor Horsley

Sir Victory Horsley (1857-1916) was one of the great pioneers in neurosurgery and the neurosciences. He probably performed (June 9, 1887) the first successful laminectomy with removal of a tumor in a patient with spastic paraplegia who had a complete recovery of neurologic function. Horsley did important physiologic mapping of the cerebellum, was among the first to use wax for hemostasis, described the relationships (with Spencer) between intracranial pressure and cardiovascular responses more than nine years before Cushing; and noted (with Francis Gotch) that one can record electrical currents from the mammalian brain in a publication (1888) that contributed to the development of the EEG.

Horsley's connection with anesthesia appears to be less known, yet in July, 1901, the British Medical Association appointed a Chloroform Committee charged with investigating techniques for quantitating chloroform in gases and in blood. The Committee consisted of Barr, Buxton, Sherrington, Waller and Horsley. Also included was a scientific expert, A.G.V. Harcourt, a physical chemist from Christ Church, Oxford, who developed a vaporizer with a calibrated output. In a paper called "The technique of operations on the central nervous system" that appeared in the *Lancet* (August 25, 1906), Horsley said that "the immediate problem is how to regulate the dosage of chloroform, and let me say in passing that the whole of my consideration of this question is applicable to all operations and not only to those on the central nervous system." Horsley advocated the use of a vaporizer or "regulator," such as that developed by Harcourt, in order to be able to titrate the vapor concentration to an adequate depth of anesthesia.

Politics was another aspect of Horsley's many interests and he was very concerned with the question of women's rights and the suffragette movement. While he was a member of the ruling party, he dis-

25, Cadendish Square,

W.

29.11.10.

My dear Mills

Most certainly I am independent of the party altogether on the suffrage question. I consider that Asquith's conduct has been entirely responsible for the militant movement & I shall support as I say in my address any measure to remove the sex disability.

I am sure we are absolutely of one mind.

yours as ever

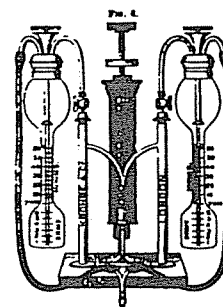
Victor Horsley

The important thing is to personally canvass arts and science graduates.

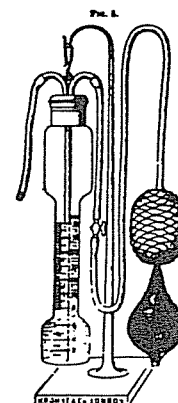
agreed with the way Lord Asquith (Prime Minister) was handling this problem and the letter noted here explains his feelings toward equality of the sexes.



Lancet, 1898, June 4. 1555. Krohne & Sese-mann's improved Junker's inhalers. They were fitted with the Buxton filling funnel and the feather breathing indicator on the expiratory valve. In their tropical model all the rubber tubing except the exit tubes were replaced by metal tubes. A vulcanite or metal air-pump with a screw stop on its piston rod was used instead of a rubber bulb. Owing to the constrictions in the bottles the chloroform can be regulated to 1/100th minim. The eighth drachm is divided into minims. 18 minims of chloroform will produce deep anaesthesia.

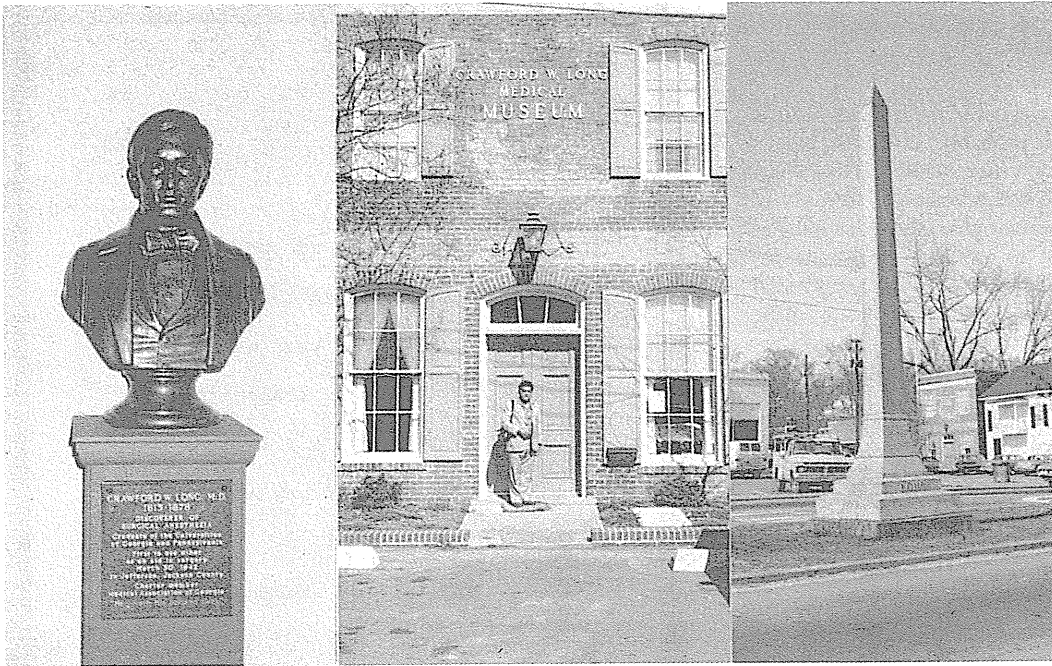


Lancet, 1900, Jan. 12. 132. Clayton Lane, Lt., I.M.S. criticises Krohne's inhaler. Quotes a death in which it had been used. "It cannot be too strongly insisted on that by no merely mechanical means can chloroform be given with safety ..." "... at its best it is little more than an economiser of chloroform." The facepiece may prevent cyanosis being noticed on time.



Lancet, 1900, Jan. 27. 227. James Edmunds. Agrees that no inhaler can supply the user with skill or sense. But it is good to give exact doses. We do not guess the dose of morphia or strychnine, but measure it exactly.

Handwritten notes:
 29.11.10.
 I am independent of the party altogether on the suffrage question. I consider that Asquith's conduct has been entirely responsible for the militant movement. & I shall support as I say in my address any measure to remove the sex disability. I am sure we are absolutely of one mind.
 Yours as ever Victor Horsley



THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN STAMPS . . .
Dr. Crawford W. Long

by
 Miguel Colon Morales, M.D.

Born at Danielsville, Georgia, November 1, 1815, Crawford Long studied medicine in the office of Dr. Grant in Jefferson, Georgia, and at Transylvania College, Lexington, Kentucky. He transferred to the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1836. After an internship in New York, he gained a reputation as a surgeon.

In 1841, Doctor Long returned to Jefferson, Georgia, and bought the office of his tutor, Doctor Grant.

In the early 1840s, a new fad of inhaling "laughing gas" at parties had developed. While at Jefferson, a group of young men planned a party, and asked Long to provide some "laughing gas." He offered them sulphuric ether instead, attended the party, and was able to observe the effect of ether inhaled in small amounts, resulting in silly behavior. When inhaled in larger amounts, people would stagger and

fall, but no pain was felt when they were injured.

It occurred to Doctor Long to use ether to render surgery painless. On March 30, 1842, when *James Venable* requested the removal of a cyst on his neck, Doctor Long tested his theory using ether for anesthesia. Mr. Venable insisted that he felt no pain. Long continued using ether for numerous minor operations, and no effort was made to patent his discovery.

It was not until four years after Doctor Long performed the first operation using ether, that William Morton used this agent during a tooth extraction. Morton announced his discovery of anesthesia with sulphuric ether and attempted to secure a patent for his discovery. The national government was requested to award him \$100,000, which request resulted in a controversy and the award was not given.

Dr. Crawford W. Long was commemorated on a postage stamp (Scott No. 875) by the United States in 1940, as shown in the illustration.

Anesthesia History Association

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