

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Hales' 1733 *Haemastaticks*



In 1733 the Reverend Stephen Hales (1677–1761) recorded in his *Haemastaticks* volume of *Statical Essays* how, years earlier, he had conducted the first direct measurement of arterial blood pressure. The English physiologist and clergyman wrote, "I caused a mare to be tied down alive on her back; she was . . . neither very lean, nor yet lusty. Having laid open the left crural Artery about three inches from her belly, I inserted into it a brass Pipe, whose bore was one-sixth of an inch in diameter; and to that, by means of another brass Pipe which was fitly adapted to it, I fixed a glass Tube, of nearly the same diameter, which was nine feet in Length. Then untying the Ligature on the Artery, the blood rose in the Tube eight feet three inches perpendicular above the level of the left Ventricle of the Heart." (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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