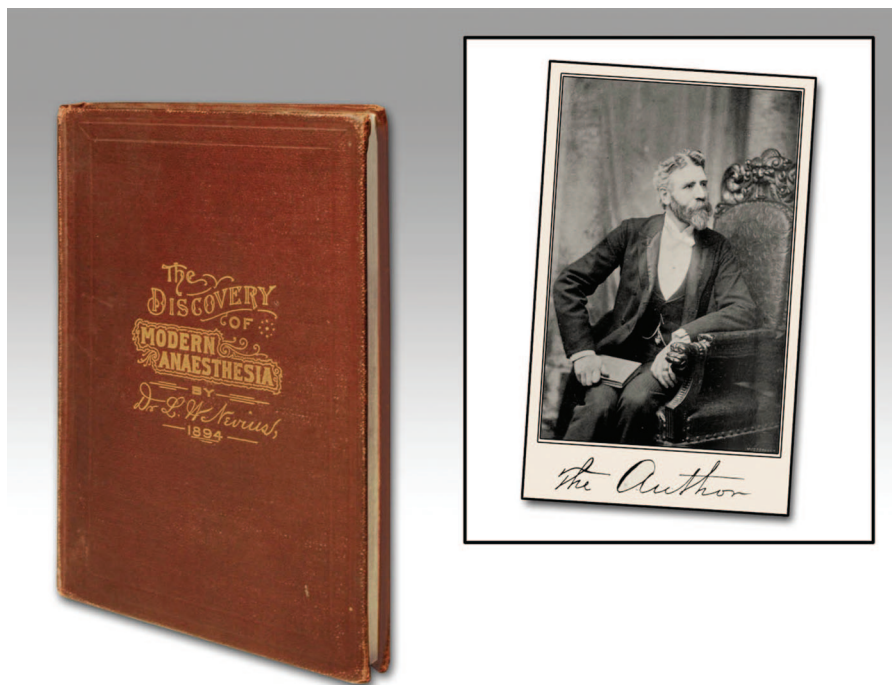


Nevius' 1894 *Discovery of Modern Anesthesia*



From the stacks of the Wood Library-Museum, this elegant volume is awkwardly titled *The Discovery of Modern Anesthesia. By Whom It Was Made. A Brief Statement of Facts*. Authored by dentist Laird W. Nevius (1845–1915), this book attempted to fairly portray the leading figures behind dental and surgical anesthesia. This was a remarkable effort, particularly since Nevius was a disciple of G. Q. Colton, who clearly backed Horace Wells as the “Discoverer of Anesthesia.” Upon reviewing Nevius’ book in 1894, the journal *Dental Cosmos* observed that the “whole controversy, from 1847 to the present time, has been no more marked by acrimony than it has been by a disposition to laud those who applied the scientific discoveries more than the original suggestors [sic] of the agents to be employed.” (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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