The Panis Apparatus: An Exercise in Artificial Respiration

In June of 1924, Germain Panis of France filed a U.S. Patent on an “Apparatus for Producing Artificial Respiration.” According to the inventor, his device “enables the so-called Schaeffer [sic] method of artificial respiration to be . . . continued for a comparatively long time. . . .” (The original “hands-on” Schäfer method positioned the rescuer’s knees alongside the prone victim’s hips as the rescuer’s hands rhythmically compressed the victim’s lower ribs while rocking back and forth.) Ironically, any patient successfully resuscitated by the Panis Apparatus who lived to old age might enjoy choosing from a wide array of modern exercise machines which cite Panis’ invention in their patent applications. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the Anesthesiology Reflections online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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doi: 10.1097/ALN.0b013e31821f1bc3