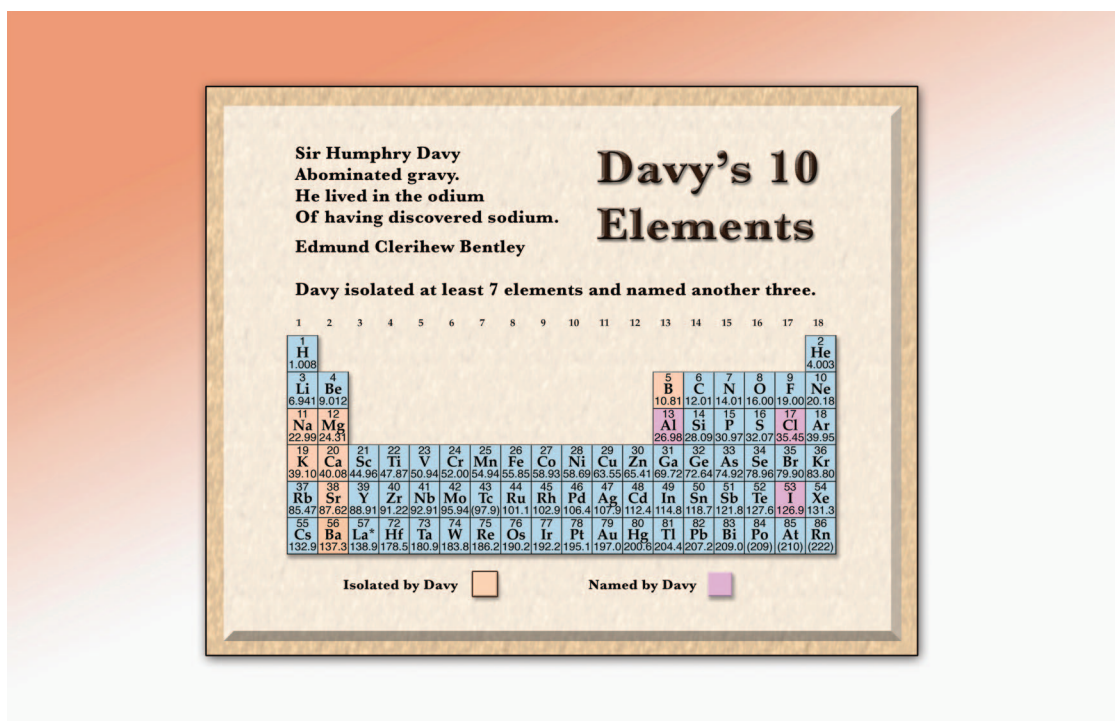


ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Davy's Ease Discovering Elements and Difficulty Naming Alumi(n)(i)um



Humphry Davy isolated or named more chemical elements than any chemist before or since. From electrolysis and other techniques, Davy had good fortune in discovering “new” elements. However, Davy had bad luck determining a name for, of course, the 13th chemical element. In 1807 Davy named that element “Alumium”; in 1812 he renamed it “Aluminum.” Later that year, editors encouraged Davy to adopt “Aluminium,” the spelling and pronunciation which most of the world uses to this day. Unfortunately for the United States, in 1925 “isolationists” in the American Chemical Society resurrected Davy’s second name for the 13th element, “Aluminum.” (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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