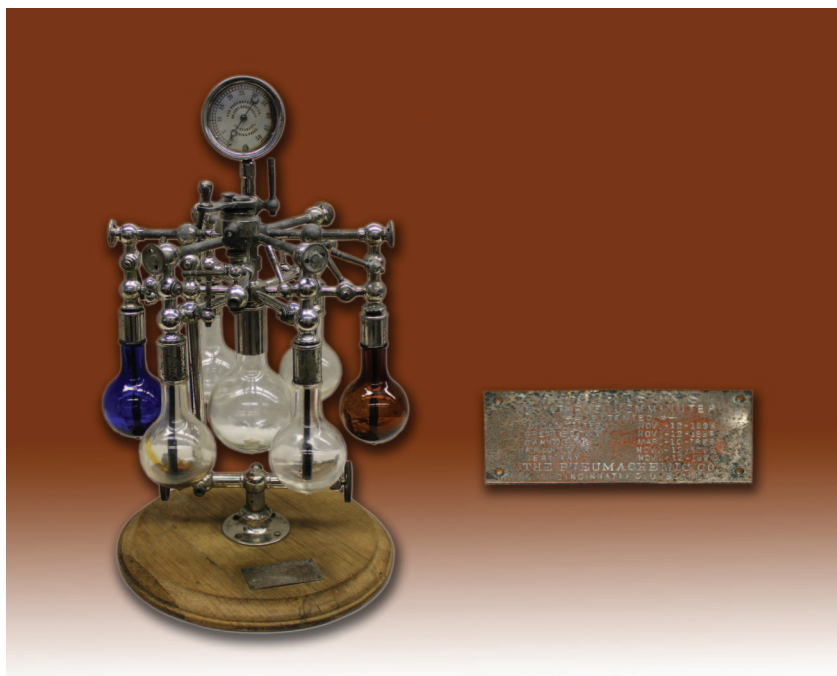


## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

### Robertson's Multiple Comminuter



Nowadays, we think of comminuters as devices that pulverize or shred solids. However, back in November of 1895, John Robertson of Cincinnati was granted a U.S. patent for his "Atomizer" (*left*) that he would advertise as "Robertson's Multiple Comminuter." As its corroded nameplate records (*right*) this "Comminuter" was also patented in Great Britain, France, Germany, and eventually Canada. Robertson eventually perfected a vibrating valve "for administering pulmonary, nasal, or aural massage with scientific accuracy." With its two to eight colorful glass globes with different liquid contents, Robertson's Multiple Comminuter was a commercially successful forerunner of nebulizers employed today in respiratory therapy. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at [www.anesthesiology.org](http://www.anesthesiology.org).)

George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., Honorary Curator, ASA's Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Park Ridge, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. [UJYC@aol.com](mailto:UJYC@aol.com).