The Plaque to “Ethylene-Oxygen Anesthesia”

As pictured in the close-up (left), a commemorative plaque was placed in the operating room in Chicago’s Presbyterian Hospital in which on “March 14, 1923 ethylene-oxygen anesthesia was administered for the first time to a human surgical patient.” Witnessed by at least 10 physicians, that anesthetic was administered by Dr. Lester R. Dragstedt (not pictured). The photographed woman (right) was Dr. Mary Lyons, who, along with Dr. Isabella Herb, would become famous as physician-anesthetists who pioneered anesthetic use of ethylene. Next to Dr. Lyons is physician Arno Luckhardt, M.D., who must have been relieved that—just 3 days before the American Medical Association published his article on self-experimenting with ethylene—his University of Chicago colleagues had been the first to successfully anesthetize a human surgical patient with that gas. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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