

## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

### 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 physiologist 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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