Statikil Sparked Paul Wood’s Interest

Fifty years in the wake of losing Dr. Paul Meyer Wood, we celebrate the semicentennial of his namesake library-museum in Park Ridge, Illinois. Among the many odd items Dr. Wood collected was this bottle of Statikil, which was distributed by a firm located just 1.5 miles southwest of the New York brownstone that once harbored the Wood Library-Museum. Product labeling claimed that any garment immersed in Statikil (and then squeezed out and hung out to dry) would be rendered “spark-proof.” Statikil was yet another weapon against static electrical ignition of flammable anesthetic gases in the operating room. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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