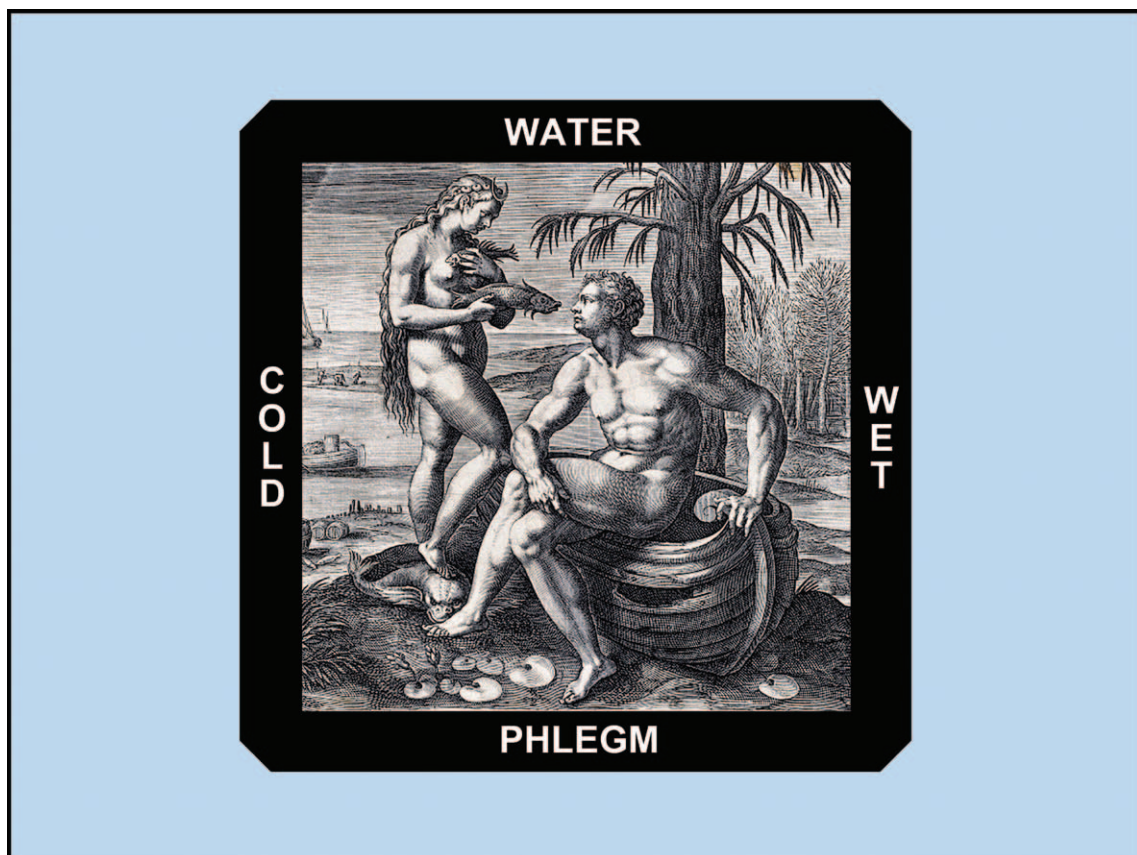


ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

Phlegmatic Temperamental Education for 1893 Classes by “Masters of Anaesthesia”



Flemish artist Maerten de Vos' **watercraft-seated Phlegmaticus** (1583) reminds us that a patient of phlegmatic temperament flows with the cold, wet "phlegm" humor linked by ancient Greeks with elemental **water**. By 1893 at Chicago's Post-Graduate School of Anaesthesia (PGSA), professors were tutoring future "Master of the Science of Anaesthesia" candidates to anticipate that a phlegmatic patient's anesthesia might comprise—what today's anesthesiologists would characterize as—(1) a swift induction, (2) a risk for heart-depressing anesthetic overdosage (termed "concussion" by the PGSA), and (3) a smooth emergence. PGSA Professor James M. Clyde, D.D.S., M.S.A., taught that phlegmatic patients might not only resist preanesthetic calming but also be vulnerable to an anesthesiologically "over-charged atmosphere ... [which could] paralyze the medulla and cause death" from cardiac "concussion." (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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