McCarthy’s 1953 Compilation: A Secondary Saturation of McKesson’s “Anesthesia Papers”

One of the founders of the National (later International) Anesthesia Research Society, Elmer Isaac “Ira” McKesson (1881 to 1935, left) led a trio of physician-anesthetists from Toledo, Ohio, who promoted unsupplemented nitrous oxide-oxygen anesthesia. Besides brief use of 100% laughing gas at anesthetic induction (“primary saturation”), the Toledo trio promoted another brief blast of pure laughing gas for muscle relaxation of already-anesthetized patients (“secondary saturation”). After McKesson died, his partner Frederick W. Clement, M.D., saturated readers with McKessonalia in three editions of *Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen Anesthesia*, all published three or more years after brain lesions were associated with hypoxic nitrous oxide techniques. In 1953 the youngest of the Toledo trio, Kenneth C. McCarthy, M.D., published a red-covered “secondary saturation” of McKesson “Anesthesia Papers” (middle), formally titled (right) as *Some Papers on Nitrous Oxide-Oxygen Anesthesia*. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology)

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