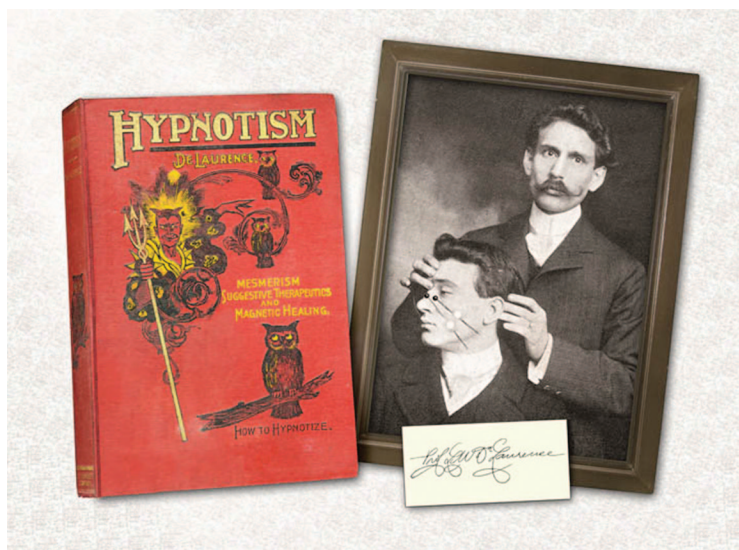


## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

### Hypnotic Anesthesia by De Laurence



A Chicagolander, Lauron William De Laurence (1868–1936) authored many classics of the occult. His *Hypnotism: Mesmerism, Suggestive Therapeutics, and Magnetic Healing* depicts “Professor L.W. De Laurence” thrusting hatpins through the cheek of a hypnotically anesthetized volunteer (see above, courtesy of the Wood Library-Museum). By 1914, the “De Laurence Company of Chicago” was advertising itself as “The Largest Publishers and Sellers of Occult and Spiritual Books in the World.” Despite unhappiness in the early 1900s with deaths during ether or chloroform anesthetics, neither the public nor anesthesia providers would ever revive mesmeric (hypnotic) anesthetics to the level of popularity seen prior to the advent of “chemical anaesthetics.” (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at [www.anesthesiology.org](http://www.anesthesiology.org).)

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