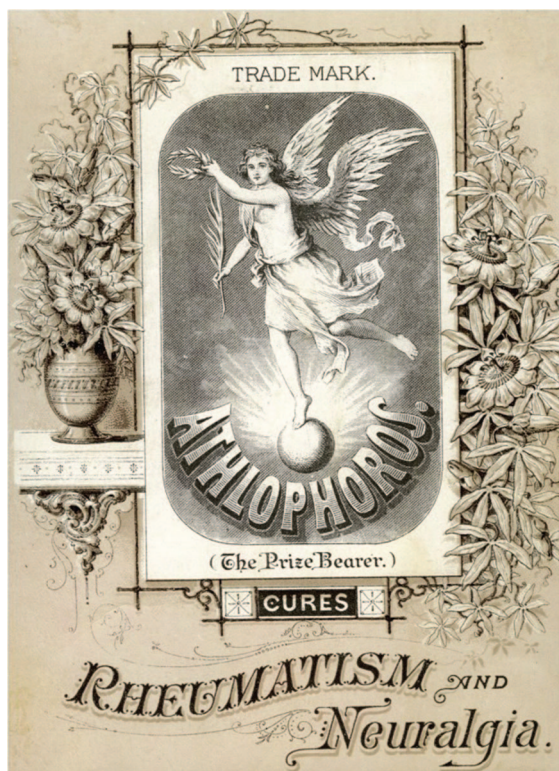


ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

“Prize-Bearing” Salicylates of Athlophoros



“Put your hand in a vise, turn the screw until the pain is all you can bear, and that’s *rheumatism*; turn the screw once more and that’s *neuralgia*...” From the 1880s to the 1910s, both ailments were advertised as “cured” by a salicylate preparation named after the ancient Greek word for prize-bearer, *Athlophoros*. Its namesake company trademarked itself by surrounding the goddess Nike’s image as winged Victory with sedative-laden Purple Passionflowers (see *above*, courtesy of the Wood Library-Museum). Rather than that botanical, the popularity of the nostrum’s original compounding likely stemmed from its 6.5-mg oral dose of morphine sulfate (every 3 h “until relieved”)—perhaps the real “prize” borne by this analgesic. Not surprisingly, laxative “Athlo-Tablets” were soon needed to relieve “constipated rheumatics” who had overindulged in this opiate-laden panacea. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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