

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Gillray Etches *New Discoveries in PNEUMATICKS!*



Scientific Researches! — New Discoveries in PNEUMATICKS! — or — an Experimental Lecture on the Powers of Air —

Published in 1802, *Scientific Researches! — New Discoveries in PNEUMATICKS!, or, Experimental Lecture on the Powers of Air* was created by James Gillray (died 1815). In this etching, he caricatured a lecturer—most likely physician and chemist Thomas Garnett (1766–1802)—as administering gas at London’s Royal Institution to a particularly long-winded (and flatulent!) Member of Parliament, Sir John Coxe Hippisley (1748–1825). Squeezing the bellows (of laughing gas?) next to the pair is the grinning future Sir Humphry Davy. Just over a week after Hannah Humphrey published Gillray’s etching, Davy would replace Garnett as the Royal Institution’s Lecturer of Chemistry. In contrast to Garnett’s complicated and listless diatribes, Davy’s animated lectures were so popular that London had to initiate its first one-way street to handle arriving traffic. In contrast, already devastated by the loss of his wife in childbirth on Christmas Day of 1798, the hapless Garnett would die of typhus less than a month after resigning from the Royal Institution. (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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