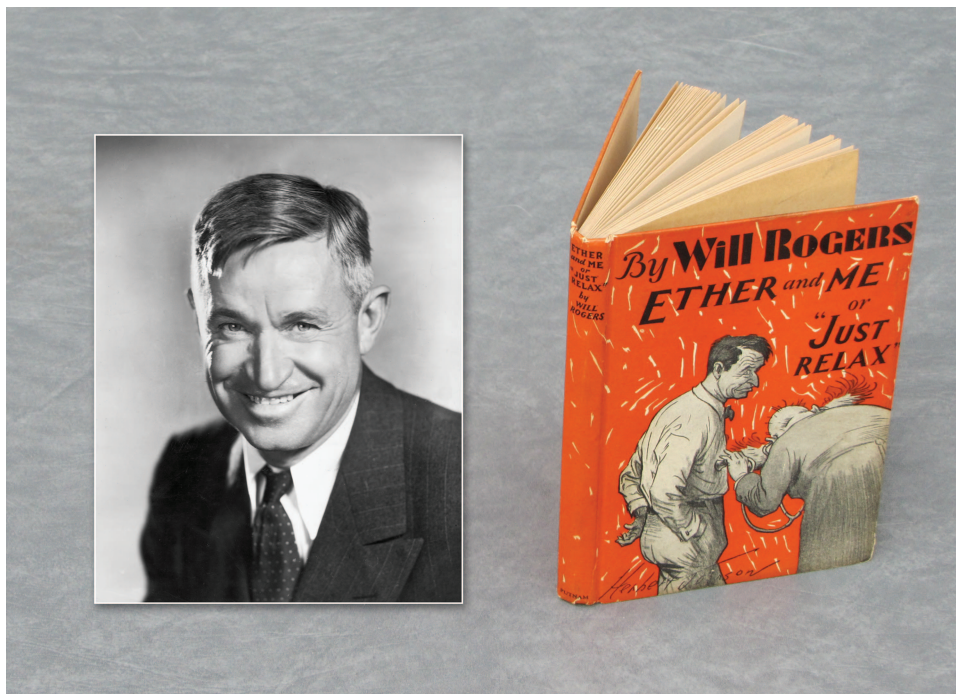


ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Ether and Me by Will Rogers



In 1929 humorist Will Rogers republished some of his *Saturday Evening Post* self-described “scribblings” as *Ether and Me* or “*Just Relax*.” In this 77-page book (right), Rogers described how he was wheeled into the operating room for gallbladder surgery and how he recognized his anesthesiologist as the “fellow [who] had a kind of a hose with a big nozzle on the end of it.” As “I just opened my mouth to utter my comical wheeze,” Rogers recalled later, “this old hose boy just gently slipped that nozzle right over my mouth and nose both.” Muscle relaxation was provided by “internes . . . who in reality were wrestlers on vacation [and] . . . had me by each hand.” Rogers observed his anesthetic sequence as: “you see the first thing they bump you off with is [laughing] gas; that puts you where you won’t tell any bum gags. Then they give you the ether; that’s the postgraduate course in knock-out drops.” (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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