

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Ivan the Terrible Anesthetist



So just how was the nose of the “dummy patient” damaged (*simulated on right*) at the 1939 New York World’s Fair? Well, at the Medicine and Public Health Building of the 1939 New York World’s Fair (*left*), anesthesia exhibitors had affectionately given their “dummy anesthetist” the nickname “Ivan.” According to *New York Times* reporter Meyer Berger, all that the mechanized mannequin was required to do was “to clap the metal ether cone on the dummy patient’s face.” When electrical wiring failed, “Ivan began pounding the patient as if to do him in.” As the power was switched off, Berger observed that “Ivan stopped the assault, holding the cone in midair.” (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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