

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Bateman's Drops of Tinctured Opium



On March 31, 1726, King George I granted British Patent No. 483 to businessman Benjamin Okell for "Pectoral drops for rheumatism, gravel, etc." Supposedly formulated by a Doctor Bateman, "Bateman's Pectoral Drops" were advertised as a "Chymicall Preparacion . . . for the Rheumatism, . . . the Afflictions of the Stone, Gravel, Pains, Agues, and Hysterias. . . ." "Bateman's Drops" were distributed in tall glass vials. On its paper label, the example depicted (*above*) reads "BATEMAN'S DROPS / Contains not over 50% ALCOHOL & 20min. TINCT. OPIUM to each fluid ounce." (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., Honorary Curator, ASA's Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Park Ridge, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. UJYC@aol.com.