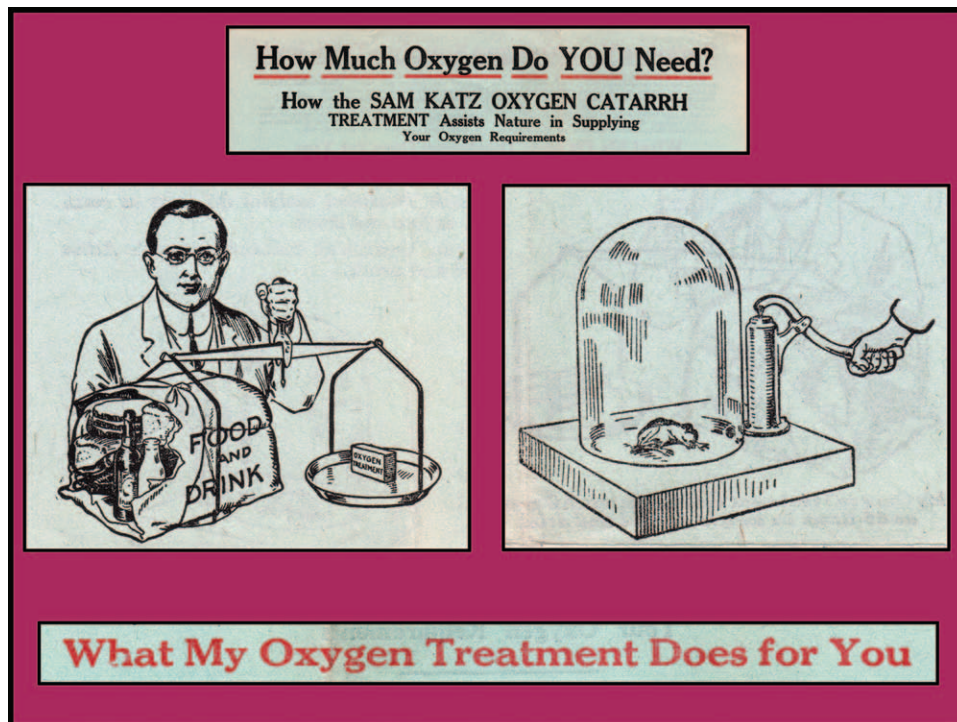


ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

Katz Oxygen Treatment for Catarrh



Just before World War I, the company of Chicago's Samuel Katz peddled his "Oxygen Treatment for Catarrh" as an oxygenating panacea. He advertised that his cure-all contained "as much Oxygen as 86 times its weight in food and drink" (*left*). Katz reminded his readers that if they placed "any living thing in a vacuum, without oxygen ... it will die" (*right*). In 1917 another Chicago-based organization, the American Medical Association (AMA) published analyses of Katz Oxygen Treatment revealing it to consist of four discrete boxes, consisting chiefly of (1) "aloes," (2) "magnesium dioxide, magnesium carbonate and ... calcium salts, with acacia," (3) "sodium perborate and tartaric acid," and (4) "cotton soaked in menthol." So ironically, Chicago provided a home to promoters (Katz and Company) and discreditors (the AMA) of the Katz Oxygen Treatment. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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