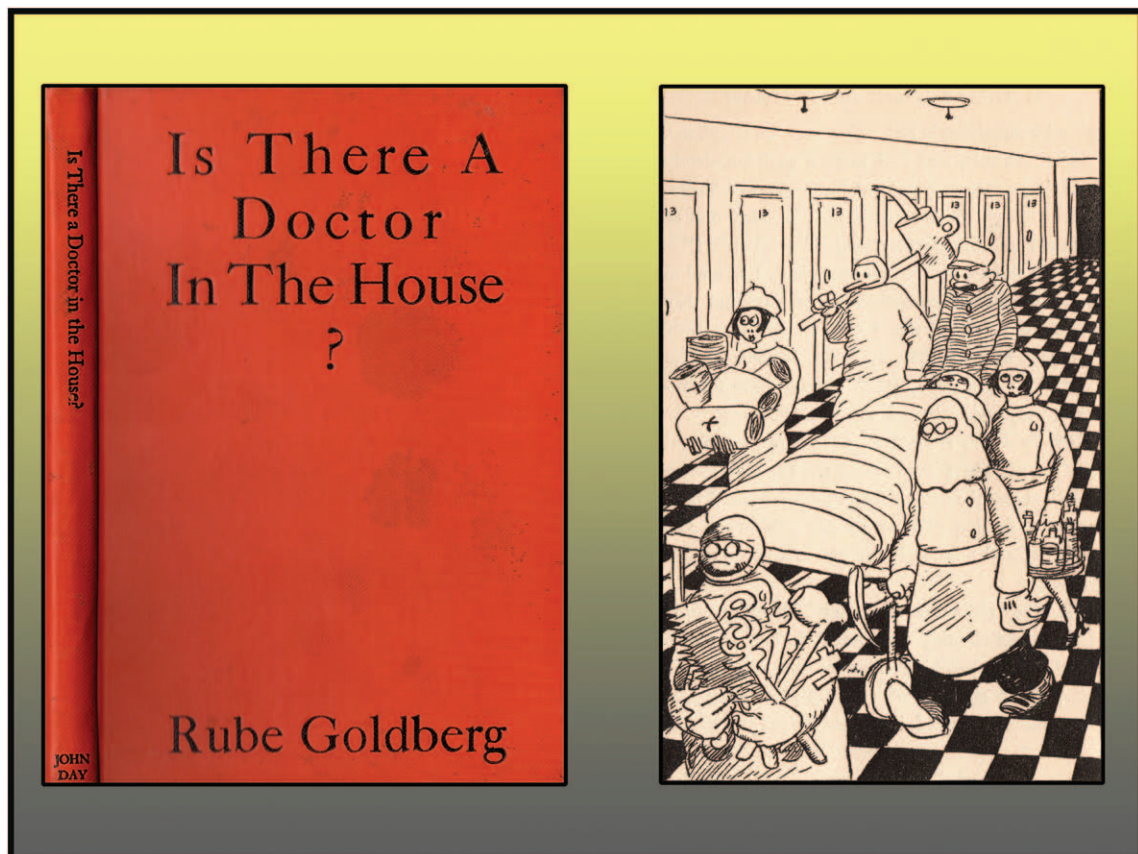


ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

“Rube” Goldberg Asks *Is There a Doctor in the House?*



Born on Independence Day in 1883, the independent-minded Reuben Lucius “Rube” Goldberg (1883–1970) labored first as a degreed engineer for—believe it or not—the Sewers Department of San Francisco. He then worked as a newspaper cartoonist successively for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco Bulletin*, *New York Evening Mail*, and finally for national syndication. In 1929 Goldberg published his book *Is There a Doctor in the House?* (left). While waiting for his wife to be whisked off to surgery, Goldberg sketched (right) that “men and women, clad completely in white, kept rushing past ... like ghosts in a Shakespearean tragedy.” The cartoonist lamented that “the unsung husband ... endures a sympathetic pain for every one of his wife’s agonies and alone suffers the full burden of ... the doctor’s final bill.” Goldberg concluded that “they ought to give ether to husbands.” (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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