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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

The Cotton-Boothby Apparatus



Drs. Frederic J. Cotton (1869–1938) and Walter M. Boothby (1880–1953) published in 1912 their use of a “bubble bottle” for sight measurement of gas flows. Finally making flow rates and gas proportioning possible, their concept was adopted by Gwathmey in the United States and by Marshall and Boyle in the United Kingdom. The original production model of the Cotton-Boothby Apparatus (above, donated by Cotton to Wood Library-Museum [WLM] Founder Paul Wood) has been continuously displayed at the WLM except from 1977–1987. That decade witnessed an American Society of Anesthesiologists’ expansion at Busse Highway that not only demolished the WLM Gallery but also left this venerable apparatus buried under a wooden crate. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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