

on mortality in the acute respiratory distress syndrome. *N Engl J Med* 1998; 338:347–54

20. Ferguson ND, Cook DJ, Guyatt GH, Mehta S, Hand L, Austin P, Zhou Q, Matte A, Walter SD, Lamontagne F, Granton JT, Arabi YM, Arroliga AC, Stewart TE, Slutsky AS, Meade MO; OSCILLATE Trial Investigators; Canadian Critical Care Trials Group: High-frequency

oscillation in early acute respiratory distress syndrome. *N Engl J Med* 2013; 368:795–805

21. Cressoni M, Cadringer P, Chiurazzi C, Amini M, Gallazzi E, Marino A, Brioni M, Carlesso E, Chiumello D, Quintel M, Bugeo G, Gattinoni L: Lung inhomogeneity in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2014; 189:149–58

## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

# From “Secret Preparation” to “Vitalized Air”: Doctored Nitrous Oxide



From the Wood Library-Museum’s Ben Z. Swanson Collection, this Albany Dental Association trade card used vivid images of a bird and flowers, even in this wintry scene (*left*). With nearly twice the number of franchises of the pioneering Colton Dental Association, Albany Dental administered no “Colton gas” (nitrous oxide) to patients; rather, they used a proprietary “secret preparation” (*right*), as mentioned on the reverse of this card from the Reading, Pennsylvania, franchise. By 1891, newspaper advertising in Reading had revealed the secret branding as “vitalized air”—just nitrous oxide supplemented with trace amounts of chloroform and alcohol. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.)

*George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., Honorary Curator and Laureate of the History of Anesthesia, Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Schaumburg, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. UJYC@aol.com.*