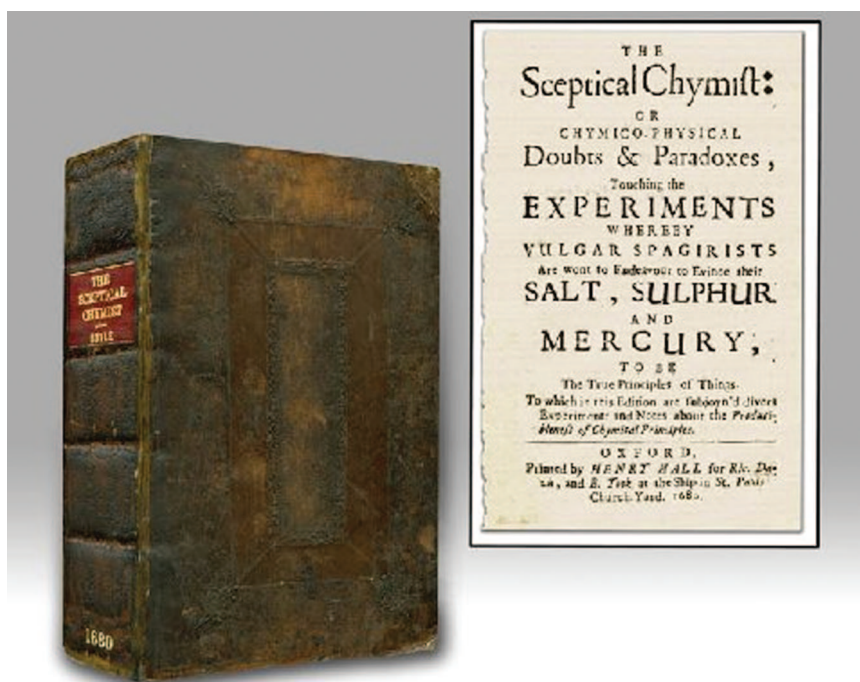


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■ ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Boyle, a Most Skeptical Chemist



In 1656 the future “Sir Christopher Wren” and Anglo-Irish chemist Robert Boyle (1627–1691) pioneered intravenous therapy by injecting opium through a goose quill into a dog’s vein. By November of 1660, Wren and Boyle were meeting with 10 other scientists, gatherings that would lead to the formal chartering of the “Royal Society of London for the Improvement of Natural Knowledge.” Not surprisingly, the Royal Society’s motto *Nullius in Verba* (“Nothing in Words”) would reflect Boyle’s emphasis on the experimental method. Boyle’s masterwork *Sceptical Chymist* was first published from London in 1661. He published what we call “Boyle’s Law” the following year. Pictured here is the Wood Library-Museum’s first complete English edition of *Sceptical Chymist* published from Oxford in 1680. That same year Boyle was elected to the presidency of the Royal Society, but the “Father of Modern Chemistry” declined the honor, citing his religion’s prohibitions against taking oaths. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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