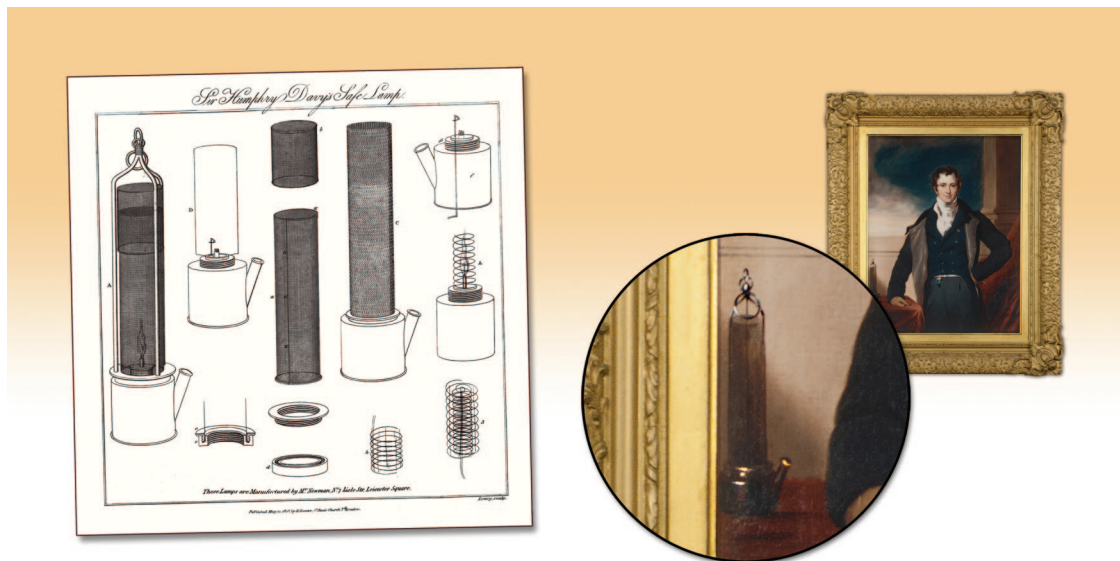


ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

The Davy Safety Lamp and “Miner’s Lung”



Titled “Sir Humphry Davy’s Safe Lamp,” this diagram (*left*) was published on May 21, 1818, from St. Paul’s Church Yard, London by “R. Hunter.” A painted version of that lamp (*middle*) also appears in the lower left corner of this issue’s cover portrait of Sir Humphry Davy. These Davy safety lamps replaced miners’ canaries for detecting asphyxial and/or flammable gases in the mines—without igniting explosions of methane. Because of such safety lamps, miners were able to spend more years laboring underground. So, the safety of the Davy lamp contributed, ironically, to an increase in deaths from an occupational disease later known as “miner’s lung.” (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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