



*Elmer Isaac McKesson, M.D.*

1881-1935

ELMER ISAAC McKESSON was born in Walkerton, Indiana, March 8, 1881, the son of Isaac and Mary Josephine (Heminger) McKesson. He attended Northwestern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso, as well as Northwestern University and the University of Chicago. After serving two years as principal of a Walkerton high school, he studied medicine at Rush Medical College, Chicago, where he acquired his doctorate in medicine in 1906. He was married June 8, 1907, in LaPorte, Indiana, to Martha F. Hillman. They had one son, Elmer Isaac McKesson, Jr., U.S.N., who was lost at sea by enemy action in 1941.

Doctor McKesson became one of the founders of the University of Toledo and was secretary and associate professor of physiology and physiological chemistry of the Toledo Medical College until 1911.

As an intern Doctor McKesson became intensely interested in gas anesthesia, and he developed his first gas apparatus in 1910. In that same year he founded the Toledo Technical Appliance Company. He remained president of this company and its successor The McKesson Appliance Company until his death after a brief illness, February 22, 1935.

Among the more important McKesson inventions were several types of gas-oxygen apparatus for anesthesia and analgesia, electrical pumps for surgical suction and post-operative drainage, vapor machines for ether, an artificial larynx, recording metabolism apparatus, equipment for gas therapy, and the nargraph for charting patients during anesthesia.

In addition to his manufacturing interests, Doctor McKesson continued in practice as anesthesiologist to several Toledo hospitals, lectured throughout the country, gave courses to anesthesiologists, and published nearly a hundred papers, as well as contributing much effort to civic, medical and anesthesiological organizations.

## RECEPTION

at the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology  
Park Ridge, Illinois

*to honor the memory of*

ELMER ISAAC MCKESSON, 1881-1935

pioneer anesthesiologist, inspired teacher,  
inventive genius and scientific manufacturer

May fourteenth, nineteen hundred and sixty-five  
one thirty p.m.



## PROGRAM

Introduction of Mrs. Martha Hillman McKesson  
Perry P. Volpitto, M.D.  
*President, American Society of Anesthesiologists*

Presentation of portrait of Elmer Isaac McKesson  
Mrs. Martha Hillman McKesson

Acceptance of portrait on behalf of Wood Library-Museum  
Albert M. Betcher, M.D.  
*President and Chairman of the Board, WLM*

*“McKesson possessed a comprehension of physiology and physics with a rare skill in mechanics, a combination unusual in the equipment of a physician. At the beginning of the present century, the production of surgical anesthesia had become a technical procedure of little interest to thoughtful members of the profession. McKesson was one of the few individuals whose efforts served to initiate that renewal of scientific interest in anesthesia, the fruition of which is being realized at the present time.”*

Ralph M. Waters, M.D.