

In article <C60vIJ.Co6@eis.calstate.edu> Becky Olsen,

bolsen@eis.calstate.edu writes:

>Hi, I am doing a term paper on the syringe and I have found some

>information. It is said that Charles Pravaz has invented the

hypodermic

>needle, but then I have also found that Alexander Wood has invented

it.

>Does anyone know which one it is, or if it was anyone else? If

there is

>anymore information that is out there could you please send it to

me.

>Thank you very much.

>Becky Olsen

Looking in The Evolution of Anaesthesia by M.H. Armstrong Davison

(pub Williams & Wilkins, Baltimore 1965) I found the following

chronology:

"1853. Charles-Gabriel Pravaz (1791-1853), inventor of the

galvanocautery, describes a glass syringe with tapered nozzle. This

syringe was intended to be used with a special trocar for injecting

ferric chloride into aneurysms, and thus to heal them by coagulation.

1853. Alexander Wood (1817-84) of Edinburgh invents the hypodermic

needle and adapts Pravaz's syringe for use with it."

You might also be interested to read about the experiments of Sir

Christopher Wren in 1656, described by Oldenberg & Clarck in the

Philosophical transactions of the Royal Society in 1665. Using a

sharpened quill and a pig's bladder he injected opium, wine and beer

into the veins of dogs.

Don Mackie

UM Anesthesiology will disavow