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Mary Cassatt (1844-1926), *Louise Breastfeeding Her Child*. See page 314.

OXYCODONE VS PLACEBO IN CHILDREN
WITH UNDIFFERENTIATED ABDOMINAL PAIN

THE CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ASYMPTOMATIC
GROSS AND MICROSCOPIC HEMATURIA IN CHILDREN

COMPLETE TABLE OF CONTENTS ON PAGE 307

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Mary Cassatt (1844–1926)

THE PICTURE ON THIS MONTH'S COVER IS about a bond between 2 lives—those of a young mother and the child at her breast. But the story of the picture itself involves the intertwining of 2 other lives—those of Mary Cassatt, who created it, and Gustav Rau, who came to own it.

Born into a wealthy Pennsylvania family, Mary Cassatt was an independent woman who spent most of her adult life abroad in France, pursuing her dream of a career in art. After moving to Paris in 1866 and receiving classical training, she joined the rebel group of Impressionists and exhibited works in several of their public shows until the group disbanded in 1886. She brought a feminine side to Impressionism through her sensitive portrayals of women and children, even though she herself never married or had children of her own. The mother in this picture is her friend and frequent model, Louise Fissier de Fresnaux, shown in a natural moment of intimacy with her young child.

Like Mary Cassatt, Gustav Rau was born into a wealthy family, never married, had no children of his own, and was indisputably independent minded. As an only child, he was groomed to take over the family's auto parts manufacturing business near Stuttgart, Germany, and ran the company for several years. Then, at age 40, he made a most unusual career move. He left the business world, entered medical school, and became a pediatrician. After completing his medical training, he sold off all his factories and used some of the proceeds to set up a medical foundation dedicated to reducing the burden of disease in the underdeveloped world. He moved to Africa and worked as a kind of pediatric Albert Schweitzer, building and working in a hospital in a remote village in Zaire near the Rwandan border. It had the largest pediatric unit in the region.

During his 20 years in Africa, Dr Rau lived simply in spite of his considerable wealth. However, he allowed himself one expensive diversion: collecting art. A few times a year, he flew out of the bush in a rickety airplane and



Louise Breastfeeding Her Child (1899).

made his way to Europe or America to bid and buy at art auctions. He served as his own advisor, favoring European art from the Renaissance to post-Impressionism. Over the years, his collection grew to 423 paintings, plus sculpture and other works. In 1986, he purchased the pastel drawing by Mary Cassatt shown on this month's cover.

No doubt it had a special meaning for him in light of his work with mothers and children.

There being no suitable space for displaying a large, expensive art collection in a remote African village, the Rau Collection was kept in storage in Switzerland for many years. Finally, at age 70 and in failing health, Dr Rau retired and returned to his native Germany. In 2001, he authorized a worldwide public tour of highlights from his collection. By then it was valued at \$600 million and was one of the largest and best private art collections in the world.

Gustav Rau died in 2002. He left his art collection, including the picture by Mary Cassatt, to the German chapter of UNICEF. He directed that the collection be sold over a period of years to fund the cause to which he devoted much of his life: providing assistance to distressed children.

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