Surgical and Medical Treatment in Art

ALAN EMERY, MARCIA EMERY

EXTENT P/H	138 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£45.00 1853156957
PUBLISHER	RSM (London), 2005
REVIEWER	Brian Morgan
STAR RATING	****

I so enjoyed the relaxed reading and the paintings and artwork collected in this book that I can recommend it for any who are weary of the formal text of many of our medical books.

It is a companion to *Medicine and Art* published by the same authors in 2003. In this volume, Professor Emery and his wife Marcia have collected 66 works that are beautifully reproduced in colour plates and each is accompanied by a short essay giving a brief biography of the artist, an explanation of the topic and its relevance to treatment. They have particularly chosen to illustrate developments in treatment over many centuries from blood letting to liver transplants. The artwork is taken from 19th dynasty Egypt to contemporary painting so there is a wide spread of art styles.

As the authors say, it is a book to observe and ponder. I certainly was made to ponder on the rather strange representation by Ken Currie of the 'The Three Oncologists' from Dundee. Treatment problems and dilemmas are discussed. There are illustrations from the exhibitions *A Picture of Health: Paintings and Drawings of Breast Cancer Care* and *Living with Leukaemia* and I was sad to learn that the artist Susan Macfarlane had died after an accident. Some of the information and pictures might even come in handy for preparing lectures (with due acknowledgement of course!).

Choosing the works must have been difficult – there is an additional list of 154 works that are not illustrated – but the authors have helpfully provide the topic, artist and location of the paintings. Alan Emery is himself an artist and I hope that the Emerys will continue their research and writing. It might be worth them looking at Mark Gilbert's portrayal of head and neck surgery recently exhibited in the new Hunterian Museum.

Controversies in Laparoscopic Surgery

MICHEL GAGNE, AHMAD ASSALIA, MOSHE SCHEIN

EXTENT P/H	444 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	£77.00 3540229523
PUBLISHER	Springer (Berlin), 2006
REVIEWER	Joseph Varghese
STAR RATING	****

The editors have prefaced this excellent book concisely. Although the advantages of laparoscopic surgery in certain

fields of surgery do not need to be highlighted any further, the authors have critically analysed in detail the evidence available from various aspects and are to be credited for having carried out this vast exercise in a methodical manner.

This book has been written with a view to dissecting the available evidence for a number of topics in laparoscopic surgery. The majority of the contributors are from North America but the commentators are from other continents. One of them is not an advanced laparoscopic surgeon, thereby supporting their intention of providing a balanced opinion.

There are 32 chapters in this book, which has a particular emphasis on training, access and the physiological consequences of laparoscopic surgery. Topics such as laparoscopy in malignancy, trauma, hernia, reflux disease, morbid obesity, oesophagectomy, colorectal surgery and thyroid disease have been discussed in detail. These chapters have all been written with a critical eye towards the available evidence. At the end of each chapter there is a summary which is particularly useful as a quick reference.

It was most interesting to read the commentaries from world-renowned experts, some of whom touched on their experience in certain topics. Of note is that on gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, in which it was extremely interesting to note that the gold-standard operation was based on very little evidence.

The presentation in this book makes it particularly easy to follow, with subject headings and questions for discussion. This book is an essential for the higher trainee laparoscopic surgeon and the trainer. Certain controversial topics like endoscopic, minimally invasive thyroid and parathyroid surgery will be useful as a reference for endocrine surgeons.

My overall score for this book is a 4 out of 5 and I will be using it as a reference in the future.

Perforator Flaps: Anatomy, Technique and Clinical Applications

PHILLIP BLONDEEL, STEVEN MORRIS, GEOFFREY HALLOCK, PETER NELIGAN

EXTENT P/H	1000 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	\$495.00 1576261786
PUBLISHER	Quality Medical Publishing (Missouri), 2005
REVIEWER	Stephen Langton
STAR RATING	****

This extensive and highly detailed work comprises two volumes and provides a comprehensive account of perforator flaps and their use in reconstructive surgery. Perforator flaps have gained popularity in recent years in many aspects of reconstruction and the initial chapter of the book provides a brief history of flap surgery, describing the

relatively recent appreciation of the fact that perforating vessels were capable of sustaining a large variety of flaps.

The first volume gives detailed accounts of flap types, anatomy and physiology and overall provides an excellent account of the basic principles underlying perforator flaps. This volume also includes chapters on planning and complications. The latter of these gives a very clear account of the main 'golden rules' for complication avoidance in this type of surgery. The remainder of this volume is divided into three sections dealing with flaps of the head and neck, upper extremity and trunk.

The first section of the second volume deals with flaps of the lower extremity followed by a good account of the clinical applications of a wide range of perforator flaps for reconstruction in various sites of the body.

The final part of the second volume is, in my view, one of the most interesting sections of the entire book. Entitled 'Controversies and Future Directions', this explores a number of newer concepts, including that of the 'freestyle free flap' (a flap harvested from any region of the body, based on a vessel identified by Doppler), 'supermicrosurgery' (vessels of 0.5–0.8 mm) and neurocutaneous perforator flaps.

The quality of the presentation and illustration is high throughout. As with most multi-author texts there is invariably some overlap in the various chapters, but this is a minor criticism. I have no doubt that this two-volume set would be a significant asset to any individual or department involved in reconstructive surgery and I recommend it highly.

The Art of Aesthetic Surgery: Principles and Techniques

FOAD NAHAI

EXTENT P/H	2,500 p, hardback
PRICE/ISBN	US\$875.00 1576261778
PUBLISHER	Quality Medical Publishing (Missouri), 2005
REVIEWER	Chris Khoo
STAR RATING	*****

Foad Nahai qualified in medicine at Bristol and completed his surgical training in Baltimore and Atlanta. His career progressed through assistant and associate professorships in plastic surgery and to a full chair in 1991. An incisive thinker, he published with Stephen Mathes in 1982 what immediately became the standard classification of the vascular anatomy of muscle. He has co-authored seven books, encompassing reconstructive surgery, breast cancer, muscle flaps and endoscopic surgery. His breadth of experience has been focused for most of the last decade on aesthetic surgery and this three-volume text is the result.

The author's academic background is apparent in the

way that the information is organised. The entire field is systematically presented but the general and wide-ranging knowledge is made intensely practical. The scientific basis of each specialised topic is developed through chapters on clinical decision-making, challenges to practice and even advice on dealing with colleagues who present themselves for cosmetic surgery, some with the expectation that their surgery will be free! There is advice on the law in the US and on how to manage a practice. The author has himself written a third of the 65 chapters and the book brings together 73 contributors with special expertise in their invited topics. The text is lavishly illustrated with colour drawings and photographs, and five DVDs are packaged in.

Individual topics are exhaustively covered, with 11 chapters on face-lift procedures alone. The logical approach applied to each subject is helpful, working through patient education and assessment, pertinent anatomy, pre-operative planning, operative technique, postoperative care, avoidance of complications and the evaluation of results. 'Clinical caveats' are distilled from experience and are presented as bullet points. Chapters conclude with an annotated bibliography where references are presented with a brief critique and further suggested readings covering the literature.

This is a complete work. Operative and non-operative cosmetic treatments are all dealt with and information is presented both critically and within context. The author's depth of knowledge is complemented by sagacity: 'In my experience, surgical judgement is the critical element that separates a good aesthetic result from a great one'. Dr Nahai has succeeded brilliantly in his aim of creating a comprehensive work that is 'aesthetically appealing, clinically relevant and user-friendly'. It will be the most valuable reference for all aesthetic surgeons and may well become the single most useful source for surgeons of any level of experience. This book should be on the shelf of every surgeon involved in this exacting field.

100 Medical Emergencies for Finals

PRASANNA SOORIAKUMARAN, CHANNA JAYASENA,
ANJLA SHARMAN

EXTENT P/H	288p, paperback
PRICE/ISBN	£21.95 1857757475
PUBLISHER	Radcliffe (Oxford), 2006
REVIEWER	Zarina Shaikh
STAR RATING	***

The quest of all discerning final-year medical students is to make some clinical sense of the volumes of facts that they have methodically memorised over the preceding years of study. This book has been written with this aim in mind. Its objective is to fill in 'the gaps in the learner's knowledge