Healing: The Joy of Medicine (and Sorrow Too), by John E. Woods, 169 pp, with illus, \$19.95, Frederick, MD, Publish America (301-695-1707), 2009, ISBN 978-1-61546-159-2

Type and Scope of Book: An autobiographic account of the author's experiences during his growth in the practice of medicine.

Contents: The book first describes Dr Woods' experiences growing up as a son of a missionary in China, during medical school, and during his time as a missionary physician in Central and South America. A subsequent chapter focuses on his training and practice as a transplant surgeon and the early evolution of organ transplantation. The last two-thirds of the book illustrate (by chapter) various conditions central to plastic and reconstructive surgery, and various types of patients and the manner in which they cope with disease. Each chapter is a compilation of stories of Dr Woods' patients.

Strengths: The easy-to-read narrative writing and the fascinating patient accounts leave the reader wanting more. Even more compelling is the realization of how thoroughly the practice of medicine and caring for the patient became integrated into the life and person of the author.

Deficiencies: The long title does not do justice to the generally good writing. The abrupt end of the book leaves one looking for a closing chapter.

Recommended Readership: All physicians; anyone interested in medicine, particularly as a career; anyone interested in the history of medicine. Reading does not require knowledge of medical terminology.

Overall Grading: ★★★★★

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Grading Key

★★★★★ = *outstanding*; ★★★★ = *excellent*; ★★★ = *good*; ★★ = *fair*; ★ = *poor*.