

Of the two main sections of the book, the first provides a chronologic history of surgery from the time of early American Indians to the last few years of the present century. The second describes the evolution of the various surgical specialties and underscores their clinical and research accomplishments. Both sections contain a potpourri of high quality illustrations and photographs, with detailed captions, that assist the reader in understanding the subject matter and accentuate the realism of the past. This gathering of pictorial illustrations, many of which have never before been published, is said to represent the first extensive assemblage of artwork showing the relationship between science, society, and surgeon.

The written chronicle includes three major levels of historical content. Because the advancement of medicine is largely influenced by ethical, political, and socioeconomic issues, the first and most fundamental level provides an understanding of significant developments within the whole of American history that occurred during a particular surgical era. In providing such information, the author has used cleverly designed "time lines" (charts about daily life, birth of famous Americans, history, and politics) as prologues to various chapters. Thus, the reader can tell at a glance what well-written events were taking place and which renowned individuals were alive at a specific time. More importantly, the introduction of several chapters offers a description of the socioeconomic and political milieu of the period under discussion.

The second level of historical content concerns the important process of surgical professionalization and specialization of American surgery. With the same thoroughness and scholarly methods that characterize the entire text, the author discusses the following topics: the rise of surgery as both a scientific and a well-regulated specialty; the establishment in 1880 of the first nationally recognized surgical organization, the American Surgical Association; the founding in 1885 of the first journal devoted exclusively to the surgical sciences, the *Annals of Surgery*; and the beginning of the surgeon's understanding of the value of science to his craft, as exemplified by Reginald Fitz' enunciation in 1886 of the natural history of the quintessential American surgical disease, appendicitis.

The final historical level consists of an understanding of the lives of great American surgeons. In addition to a host of abbreviated biographical entries, the author has provided detailed accounts of the lives and accomplishments of Valentine Mott, J. Marion Simms, Samuel D. Gross, William Halsted, and Everts Graham. Altogether, this material constitutes an especially valuable and interesting feature of the book.

Finally, it may be said that beyond the painstaking, comprehensive completeness of *American surgery: an illustrated history* there lies an understanding of conditions and hardships, a warm appreciation of achievements, an admiration for those who have made significant contributions, and a recognition that the condition of surgery has at all times reflected the knowledge and thought of the

ablest minds in the profession. The author's viewpoint, approach, and purpose are historic, albeit tempered by his knowledge and experience as a practicing surgeon. He is interested in causes, consequences, and trends of surgical progress and their relationship to ethical, political, and socioeconomic changes in the country as a whole. Certainly, he has written a book of great interest and value for all members of the medical profession, especially surgeons and students of American surgical history.

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Vascular diagnosis with ultrasound

Michael Hennerici, Doris Neuerburg-Heusler; Stuttgart; 1998; Thieme; 499 pages; \$149.00.

This text, first published in German, is a revised English version of a comprehensive work on the use of ultrasound scanning for the diagnosis of vascular diseases. The text includes sections on general ultrasound and Doppler scanning principles, extracranial and intracranial arteries, cerebral veins, peripheral and abdominal arteries and veins, male genitalia, and tumors and an extensive section on case studies. Each section follows a standardized approach, including a discussion of the examination technique, normal and abnormal findings, sources of error, and diagnostic effectiveness.

Thoroughness is a hallmark of this text. For example, the section on ultrasound scanning principles and physics is complete but not for the beginner. The cerebrovascular section contains an extensive discussion of the measurement of intima-media thickness in the carotid system, complete with a normal range of values. A large variety of vivid illustrations and high-quality color images in these sections and, in fact, throughout the text complement the excellent discussions. Sections discussing the cerebral veins, male genitalia, and tumors are not generally included in texts on noninvasive vascular diagnosis, but this book covers virtually every blood vessel accessible with diagnostic ultrasound scanning. The large amount of space dedicated to case histories is a real strength of this text. Well-illustrated cases from every diagnostic area provide an excellent overview, particularly for the less experienced interpreter or technologist. This book is so complete that the authors even include a glossary of important abbreviations and symbols on the inside back cover to supplement the glossary and comprehensive references in the body of the text.

Although the authors give in-depth reviews of the diagnostic criteria for each section, what are not found in this book are lists of diagnostic criteria, a frequent finding in texts on this topic. Rather, these authors provide a complete review of the various criteria without providing definitive recommendations, which allows the readers to draw their own conclusions. Still, some bias is apparent. The carotid section does not give adequate treatment to the University of Washington criteria nor to some of the

recent information inspired by the randomized carotid trials. The renal aortic ratio, a commonly used North American criterion for renal artery stenosis, is dismissed as inaccurate as a sole criterion of stenosis. I was perplexed with the extensive space devoted to the discussion of the continuous wave and pulsed Doppler scan cerebrovascular examination, which is essentially of historical interest to most readers. A final problem is that it is sometimes difficult to locate tables or figures that are pages away from the text reference, a consequence of the large volumes of information presented.

The few faults in this text, however, are far outweighed by its value. I know that we will refer to it as a resource when we prepare for accreditation next time because it has such a comprehensive review of the literature in every area. Indeed, even the discussion of principles and examination techniques may be of great help for the beginner or when starting a new laboratory. I know of no current text that offers such an exhaustive review of vascular diagnosis, and I recommend it to any physician in training or practice who has an interest or practice involvement in the noninvasive vascular laboratory.

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Vascular and endovascular surgery

Jonathan Beard, Peter Gaines; Philadelphia; 1998; W. B. Saunders; 512 pages; \$90.00.

Vascular and endovascular surgery is part of the series *A companion to specialist surgical practice*, which is designed to provide up-to-date information for surgeons in training and busy practitioners on the various surgical subspecialties. There are six other volumes in the series that cover the topics of emergency/critical care, upper gastrointestinal surgery, hepatobiliary/pancreatic surgery, colorectal surgery, breast/endocrine surgery, and transplantation. The individual volumes have been published within 12 months of the project's inception, and each volume will be updated and published as a new edition at frequent intervals to ensure that they remain up to date. The entire series is edited and authored by physicians from the United Kingdom; this may explain the premise that the subspecialties of general surgery (eg, vascular surgery) are practiced by general surgeons (and not vascular surgeons) in all but a few large tertiary referral centers. This arrangement is clearly not the case in the United States, where specialists in vascular surgery are available in most cities.

As its title would suggest, the book concentrates on both standard vascular surgery and endovascular procedures. Each topic includes basic information on the etiology and natural history of disease and on the available treatment options. Appropriately, endovascular approaches are discussed within each chapter as part of a continuum of therapeutic alternatives. The chapter covering acute arterial ischemia, authored by the book's editors, provides

useful algorithms for evaluation and treatment via both surgical and interventional means. There is thoughtful coverage of extracranial carotid artery disease, including patient evaluation, differences in determination of stenosis measurement, and surgical endarterectomy trials. The chapters on deep venous thrombosis and vasospastic disorders/vasculitis are especially well written; the latter contains algorithms and charts that are easy to follow and provide valuable information for the practitioner. Indeed, the basic considerations and surgical treatment options are discussed nicely for each disease entity.

For a text that includes "endovascular" in its title, I was a bit disappointed to find precious little information on the technical aspects of endovascular procedures or, for that matter, on the current results of various endovascular interventions. The busy practicing surgeon needs to have up-to-date data on these procedures to counsel patients appropriately. Specifically, a comparison of the short-term and long-term outcomes of surgical versus endovascular procedures for aortoiliac and infrainguinal occlusive disease, renal artery stenosis, carotid artery stenosis, and abdominal aortic aneurysm (on the basis of the most current peer-reviewed literature) would be extremely helpful and would allow readers to have this information at their fingertips, rather than having to obtain the information with an exhaustive literature search. This is information that we could all use, especially given the increasing desire of patients for minimally invasive solutions to their surgical problems.

To be fair, this volume does not claim to be a comprehensive textbook of vascular and endovascular surgery. The reader is referred to several other texts for further specific information in the field. As such, it largely does achieve its goal of giving the surgical trainee and the practicing general surgeon a basic fund of knowledge on a wide range of topics in peripheral vascular disease. I would recommend it highly to either. It probably does not, however, have the more specific information required by a practicing vascular surgeon, nor does it cover the technical specifics essential to performing endovascular procedures. The addition of some basic data and technical specifics would likely enhance the value of this already substantial text.

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Common surgical diseases: an algorithmic approach to problem solving

Keith Millikan, Theodore Saclarides; New York City; 1998; Springer Vedag; 512 pages; \$34.95.

Common surgical diseases: an algorithmic approach to problem solving provides a general overview of many issues confronting the surgeon. The book reviews all of the

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