

A Listening Doctor

Jeremy Bending
Quartet Books 2018
Price £17.50. Pp 226
ISBN 9780 70437 453 9

Autobiographies by surgeons are quite common. In the last few years they have included a distinguished retired neurosurgeon, a young gynaecologist and a best seller, written by a young man who, disillusioned, gave up early in his career. Physicians seem to be more reticent, so this interesting and well-written volume, by a recently retired physician who set up the diabetic unit at Eastbourne, is welcomed.

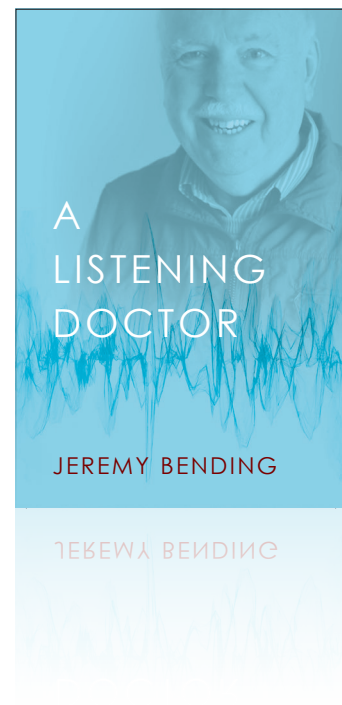
Dr Jeremy Bending qualified in medicine at the old Westminster Medical School (now part of Imperial College, London) in 1974. He mentions that I was his Professor of Surgery at that time, but refrains from saying whether this was related to his choosing medicine rather than surgery for his future career. He

received valuable experience working as a medical student in Accra, Ghana and later as a physician to isolated fishing communities in Newfoundland.

As a research fellow at Guy's Hospital, London, he was involved in the early development of the insulin pump. In 1987 he was appointed consultant physician at Eastbourne with the remit to set up a specialized diabetic and endocrine service, retiring in 2014.

Dr Bending ranges over the changes, sadly not all for the better, that he has seen in the NHS, where the administration seems increasingly to impede rather than to catalyse the effective management of patients in the name of 'efficiency'. Nicely written and full of medical anecdotes, he stresses, in these days of high technology, the value of the physician being a 'listening doctor'.

Harold Ellis, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, London



Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery of Burns: An Atlas of New Techniques and Strategies

Viktor M Grishkevich, Max Grishkevich
Springer 2018
Price £179.99. Pp 376
ISBN 978 3 319 78713 8

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery of Burns: An Atlas of New Techniques and Strategies is a well-presented, single-volume hard cover atlas. It features over 200 images and diagrams that describe a step-by-step approach to the management of burn contracture scars throughout the body.

The book includes 40 chapters and covers reconstruction for each anatomical area including head and neck, upper limb, trunk, lower limb and perineum. Each chapter is well illustrated and short which keeps the reader's interest. In addition to clinical photographs, the hand-drawn diagrams of flap reconstructions are extremely useful in understanding the techniques used. The trapezoid flap appears to be a very much favoured technique by the authors and they demonstrate its efficacy throughout the book.

This atlas is undoubtedly an extremely useful guide for plastic surgeons. It is easy to read and the images and illustrations are rich and provide an excellent imagination of the suggested surgical technique. This book also constitutes a valuable reference in countries where free tissue reconstruction and microsurgical skills and resources are limited, and where simple equals a lot.

Claire Sethu and Yasser Hijazi, Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust, Salisbury

The Microbiome in Rheumatic Diseases and Infection

Edited by Gaafar Ragab, T Prescott Atkinson, Matthew L Stoll
Springer 2018
Price £149.99. Pp 490
ISBN 978 3 319 79025 1

The editors of *The Microbiome in Rheumatic Diseases and Infection* have produced a wide-ranging analysis of the role of the microbiome and infectious agents in rheumatic disease. The book begins with an introduction into the 'basics' of microbiome research before moving on to a more in-depth discussion

of individual diseases. In particular, this book highlights the role of the microbiome and/or infectious agents in rare rheumatic diseases whose analysis is often neglected such as systemic sclerosis, Behçet's disease and histiocytoses.

A small criticism would be that the title of this volume is slightly misleading – it would be more accurately titled *The Microbiome and Infectious Agents in Rheumatic Disease*. Furthermore, the titles for the book's subsections are extremely uninformative. However, these are small considerations for an otherwise comprehensive introductory volume. Noteworthy highlights include Stoll's introductory chapter 'the microbiome: past, present, future' and the chapter discussing the role of the microbiome in juvenile idiopathic arthritis.

I would recommend this book to any health professional as an introduction into the role that microbes and viruses may play in the development of rheumatic disease, especially those with an interest in understanding how this could impact personalized medicine strategies in the future.

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