



Paediatrics in BC: A History, With Particular Emphasis on the UBC Academic Department

Robert Hill. 270 pp. Illust. Department of Paediatrics, BC's Children's Hospital. 1997. Price not stated. ISBN 0-9695702-0-4

Overall rating: Good
Strengths: Readable account of part of Canadian medical history
Weaknesses: Anecdotal, rather than comprehensive
Audience: Pediatricians

Robert Hill's book commemorates the 45th anniversary of the Department of Paediatrics at the University of British Columbia and the British Columbia's Children's Hospital. It is a collection of historical remembrances, anecdotes and material on those who played leadership roles. By the author's admission, there is no systematic study of departmental records because these were often not retained.

Hill explains the origins of paediatrics as a specialty distinct from internal medicine. He reminds readers of the first known pediatric text (1487), *De Aegritudinibus Puerorum*, and the first English text, *The Book of Chylidren*, printed in 1545. The French government provided funds in 1688 "to protect the soul and body of foundlings and illegitimate infants." This was the initial motivation to develop paediatrics as a distinct discipline. The first institution for children in England, the London Foundling Hospital for Unwanted and Sick Children, opened in 1741, the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street began in 1852, and the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital in 1875.

There is a chapter devoted to "The era of Sydney Israels" and a memoir of Israels by Geoffrey

Robinson. This is special for those of us who knew and admired him. Dr. Israels also practised and taught in Winnipeg for many years before moving to BC. Hill's book and a recent article by David F. Smith¹ took me back 35 years to residency days at the Winnipeg Children's Hospital. I was "called on the carpet" to meet with Dr. Israels. I had tried to spark an investigation into a group that was teaching religion to little patients on Sunday mornings, without parental approval. "Cooperman," Dr. Israels said, "you are going to have a wonderful career in paediatrics. Why are you getting involved in hospital politics? You are too young. Let it go. Keep your eye on the ball."

Paediatrics in BC is a brief history of paediatrics in BC. As such, it is of special interest to those who lived or worked there and for those who knew and remember the players.

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Reference

1. Smith DF. Memories of Sidney [sic]. *Med Post* 1997 Feb 03; 52.

Life in the Balance. Emergency Medicine and the Quest to Reverse Sudden Death

M.S. Eisenberg. 304 pp. Illust. Oxford University Press. 1997. \$44.50. ISBN 0-19-510179-0

Overall rating: Excellent
Strengths: Chronological organization; writing style; excellent historical illustrations
Weaknesses: None
Audience: Emergency physicians, paramedics, intensivists, cardiologists, anesthetists

Dr. Mickey Eisenberg is one of the pioneers of resuscitation techniques. His work in public education, rapid defibrillation and paramedic advanced life support has contributed to making Seattle, Washington, the safest place in the world to suffer a cardiac arrest. This book is a highly readable account of the history of the techniques and systems used to reverse sudden cardiac death.

Eisenberg traces the evolution of resuscitation from ancient times to the present. As an example, mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration was mentioned in the Bible, lost as a technique for over a thousand years, re-discovered during the 18th century Enlightenment, only to be lost again. The first modern public scientific demonstration of mouth-to-mouth respiration did not occur until October 1957, the same week that "Sputnik," the first earth-orbiting satellite, was launched. That rocket and satellite technology could be so advanced, while basic human resuscitation was still so primitive, is truly astounding.

As a young child in the late 1950s, I recall the zealous artificial respiration lessons, using the arm-lift method, at the local community pool. At the time, it was believed that it would be difficult for "a layman to place his lips against the lips of a corpse," therefore, instructors stuck to the old (and totally ineffective) methods. Mouth-to-mouth respiration was finally endorsed in May 1960 — 2 years after formal endorsement by the American Medical Association.

Bizarre historical remedies, such as rectal tobacco smoke for reanimation, are explained, based on the cultural beliefs of the time. Devices such as the coffin with a rope attached to an above-ground bell that would allow the "prematurely buried" to signal for help, are described. The book is



richly illustrated with historical drawings, paintings and photographs.

Eisenberg presents both the remote history and the modern revolution in cardiopulmonary resuscitation in a lucid and entertaining style. Separate sections discuss artificial ventilation, chest compression, defibrillation and the combination of these techniques into emergency medical systems. The development of the ability to reverse sudden cardiac death coupled with the need to provide therapy rapidly was the basis for the founding of our modern paramedic systems.

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Books and other media received

Livres et autres documents reçus

Cardiology

Hypertension in the Older Adult. Edited by A.K. Scott. 202 pp. Illust. Oxford U Pr. 1997. ISBN 0-340-614757

Emergency medicine

Musculo-skeletal Problems in Emergency Medicine. J. Wardrope, B. English. 337 pp. Illust. *Oxford Handbooks in Emergency Medicine* series. Oxford U Pr. 1998. \$67.50. ISBN 0-19-262862-3

Ethics

Access to the Genome: The Challenge to Equality. M.J. Mehlman, J.R. Botkin. 152 pp. Georgetown U Pr. 1998. US\$14.95. ISBN 0-87840-678-6

Health care

PEI System Evaluation Project. Vol. I: A Guide to System Evaluation: Assessing the Health and Social Services System in PEI. 307 pp. Illust. June 1997.

Vol. II: Data Collection Instruments for Evaluating Health and Social Service Systems. 297 pp. Illust. Revised, January 1998. \$12 each. Prince Edward Island Health and Community Services System. Contact Veronica Brown; 902 368-6614.

History

Discoveries in the Human Brain: Neuroscience Prehistory, Brain Structure, and Function. L.H. Marshall, H.W. Magoun. 322 pp. Illust. Humana Press. 1998. US\$59.50. ISBN 0-89603-435-6

Infectious disease

Lyme Disease. D.W. Rahn, J. Evans. 261 pp. Illust. *ACP Key Diseases Series.* American College of Physicians. 1998. US\$35. ISBN 0-943126-58-4

Internal medicine

The Washington Manual of Medical Therapeutics. 29th ed. C.F. Carey, H.H. Lee, K.F. Woeltje. 621 pp. Lippincott-Raven. 1998. US\$37.95. ISBN 0-7817-1595-4

Médecine interne

Guide thérapeutique en médecine interne. Sous la direction de R. Gauthier. 311 p. Illust. Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal. 1997. ISBN 2-7606-1701-7

Medicolegal issues

Effective Medical Testifying: A Handbook for Physicians. W.T. Tsushima, K.K. Nakano. 227 pp. Butterworth-Heinemann. 1998. US\$40 (special discounts on bulk orders). ISBN 0-7506-9986-8

Neurology

A Textbook of SPECT in Neurology and Psychiatry. Edited by P.P. De Deyn, R.A. Dierckx, A. Alavi, B.A. Pickut. 564 pp. Illust. John Libbey & Co. 1997. ISBN 0-86196-542-6

Oncology

The Lymphomas. Edited by G.P. Canellos, T.A. Lister, J.L. Sklar. 581 pp. Illust. Harcourt Brace. 1998. \$263. ISBN 0-7216-5030-9

Ophthalmology

Ophthalmology for Primary Care. G. Wu. 197 pp. Illust. Harcourt Brace. 1998. \$52.95. ISBN 0-7216-5078-3

Orthopedics

Sciences Basic to Orthopaedics. Edited by S.P.F. Hughes, I.D. McCarthy. 308 pp. Illust. Harcourt Brace. 1998. \$117. ISBN 0-7020-1973-9

Palliative medicine

Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine. 2nd ed. Edited by D. Doyle, G.W.C. Hanks, N. MacDonald. 1283 pp. Illust. Oxford U Pr. 1998. \$179. ISBN 0-19-262566-7

Pathology

Diagnostic Ultrastructural Pathology: A Self-Evaluation and Self-Teaching Manual. 2nd ed. F.N. Ghadially. 161 pp. Illust. Butterworth-Heinemann. 1998. US\$35. ISBN 0-7506-9894-2

Pédiatrie

La santé des adolescents : Approches, soins, prévention. Sous la direction de P.-A. Michaud, P. Alvin, J.-P. Deschamps, J.-Y. Frappier, D. Marcelli, A. Tursz. 636 p. Illust. Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal. 1997. ISBN 2-8707-1716-52

Psychiatry

Anorexia, Murder, and Suicide: What Can Be Learned from the Stories of Three Remarkable Patients. D.H. Malan. 197 pp. Butterworth-Heinemann. 1997. US\$45. ISBN 0-7506-3003-5

Public health

Unshielded: The Human Cost of the Dalkon Shield. M.F. Hawkins. 154 pp. U of Toronto Pr. 1998. \$17.95. ISBN 0-8020-7861-3

Rehabilitation

Traumatic Brain Injury Rehabilitation: Children and Adolescents. Edited by M. Ylvisaker. Revised edition of *Head Injury Rehabilitation* (1985). 479 pp. Illust. Butterworth-Heinemann. 1998. US\$60. ISBN 0-7506-9972-8