



lowances for slight differences in nomenclature this side of the ocean. Some of the techniques shown on video unfortunately are often partially obscured and even out of focus, which is most frustrating. Nevertheless, following the advice and techniques, so colourfully demonstrated, would assist a young surgeon greatly in learning the essentials of minor surgery. For experienced surgeons however, there is little here that they wouldn't already know.

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Glaucoma: A Patient's Guide to the Disease

Graham E. Trope. 66 pp. University of Toronto Press. 1997. \$8.95. ISBN 0-8020-7847-8

Overall rating: Excellent
Strengths: Common questions answered clearly and with authority
Weaknesses: Discussion on antifibroblastic agents rather long, and their description "correctly" as anti-cancer drugs may cause unnecessary anxiety in patients
Audience: Glaucoma patients, ophthalmologists, ophthalmology residents, optometrists, family doctors, geriatricians, community nurses, pharmacists

The diagnosis of glaucoma raises a great many questions in the patient's mind.

In this booklet, Trope uses the novel idea of collecting the questions that he has been asked and using the answers to describe the disease, the testing required for diagnosis and the aims and practicalities of both topical and surgical therapy. All ophthalmologists will be familiar with these questions and may themselves have some to add.

The booklet is for patients, and I am sure they will find it helpful and informative. I also recommend it to ophthalmology residents as a guide to formulating their discussions with patients.

It should be available in all family practice, geriatric medicine and nursing training programs. Answers to questions directed at non-ophthalmologists may be found in this booklet, and this may avoid an unnecessary visit to the ophthalmologist's office or clinic.

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Take Care: A Practical Guide for Helping Elders

Ann Rhodes. 199 pp. HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., New York; HarperCollins Canada Ltd., Toronto. 1997. \$20. ISBN 0-00-638491-9

Overall rating: Good
Strengths: Well written; comprehensive without being daunting; simple format, easy to read
Weaknesses: None that is obvious. Price may be prohibitive to some
Audience: Physicians, caregivers and relatives of frail elders

This book has the distinct advantage of being "Canadian" and therefore of practical value to Canadian readers — without the need for "translation" from the US or European milieu. Ann Rhodes is a well-respected editor, columnist and freelance author. This is her third book on care of the elderly. She writes in a clear and sensitive style, which appeals to caregivers and care receivers alike.

The text works methodically through a wide range of pertinent subjects. The opening chapters address the attitudes of both potential

caregiver and receiver, then discuss the levels of care requirement and the attendant's ability to respond successfully to these demands. Roles and relationships within families and in the community are considered.

The short section on physical aging and a simplified functional assessment process are most valuable. Activity programming and communication hints are well covered, and information is provided on support groups and services. Advice on simple personal care routines is sensitively handled. The final chapter deals with palliative care and the medicolegal aspects of care provision.

Overall, I hope physicians who advise families in caring for dependent elders will read this volume and recommend it to them and to those who are considering their role in such situations.

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The Quintessential Canadian Anesthetist: Wesley Bourne A Retrospective on the Foundations of McGill Anesthesia

Joan C. Bevan, Maria A. Pacelli. *Fontanus Monograph Series*, no. 10. 138 pp. Illust. McGill University Libraries, Montreal. 1996. \$45. ISBN 0-7717-0485-2

Overall rating: Good
Strengths: Well researched; broad in scope but not overwhelmed with detail; both objective and personal
Weaknesses: Chronologically disjointed; rambling presentation
Audience: Anesthetists, historians, McGill alumni

As we approach the new millennium, we look back to find how we arrived at this point, and who

contributed to the journey. Bevan and Pacelli's book provides an historical perspective and unique insight into the evolution of McGill University's Anesthesia Department and the creation of anesthesia as a specialty in Canada.

Through meticulous research, the authors have written a biography of one of the true "fathers" of anesthesia in Canada, Wesley Bourne — a fascinating physician, researcher and teacher. Bourne's involvement with McGill University spanned almost 50 years, first as a medical student, then as a lecturer in pharmacology, a practitioner of anesthesia, a prolific researcher, one of the creators of the first anesthesia residency program in Canada, and finally as the first chairman of McGill's Department of Anesthesia, the first such independent department in Canada.

A major thrust of the authors' efforts was to describe the foundations of McGill anesthesia, into which Bourne's story is tightly woven. He was instrumental in the creation of the Canadian Anaesthetists' Society. He was also involved with US anesthesiology and held the presidential offices of both the International Anesthesia Research Society (twice) and the American Society of Anesthesiologists (the only Canadian so honoured).

A biography can tell of accomplishments and accolades, but this book also conveys a sense of Wesley Bourne, by including numerous quotations from his research papers and public addresses.

The authors can be proud that theirs is a unique book, faithful to the style of Wesley Bourne.

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