

Book Reviews

1. **Diagnostic Consideration in Ancient Indian Surgery**

Dr. G. D. Singhal and his co-workers from the Institute of Medical Sciences, Benaras Hindu University will remove a long-felt need. 'India has a great and ancient cultural heritage'. Medicine (Ayurveda) flourished in our country centuries ago, long before other countries had a scientific system of medicine. Three classical treatises were written expounding our system and philosophy of medicine. The one under review has been based on "Nidana Sthana of Sushruta Samhita", which was originally written in Sanskrit.

The compilation and publication of this book removes a long-felt need of modern doctors, scientists, research workers not versed in Sanskrit and enables them to understand Sushruta Samhita in a language they well understand.

This book promises to be a very useful contribution to medicine and our hitherto concept of History of Medicine have to be reoriented i. e. the credit of classifying. Burns would now go to Sushruta and not Dupuytren's, the credit of first doing lithotomy operations hithertofore given to Ambrosio, describing signs of inflammation should be credited to Celsus, should now be attributed to Sushruta.

The research problems outlined in this book would be of great interest to the Pharmacologists, Botanists, Surgeons and Physicians, and Research workers in experimental surgery, and to the drug industry, specially in our country.

It would encourage clinicians to apply some of these age-old lessons to their day to day clinical problems.

In addition, it should be a very useful book of "Quotable Quotes" from Ayurveda.

We recommend this book unhesitatingly to anybody who is interested in our past heritage of Ayurveda and wants to help its resurgence through modern methods. We feel it should stimulate medical colleges to establish a 'History of Medicine Section' and impart instructions to medical students about our ancient heritage in Indian Medicine.

We recommend that this book should find a place in every medical library, and its value would be worth its weight in gold.

We eagerly look forward to the publication of the subsequent volumes which we hope will be as useful as this present volume.

2. Scope of Plastic Surgery by I. Kaplan
(Academic Publishers, Jerusalem).

The efforts of Dr. Kaplan in writing a concise book on "Scope of Plastic Surgery", which is unlimited is praiseworthy.

This book unlike others, have not presented a theoretical discourse only, but is based on actual cases.

Dr. Kaplan's immense experience of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery gained in peace & war is very broad in scope and depth.

His book encompasses the vast field of Plastic Surgery and interprets a lifetime of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical experience.

We recommend this book to all students of Plastic Surgery to whom as an introduction to Plastic Surgery has few peers.

It should find a place in all libraries of Plastic Surgeons and Departments of Plastic Surgery.

R. N. S.

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Ind. J. Plastic Surg. (1972) : 1, 26.



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