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History and ethics of surgery

Edward D. Churchill, *Wanderjahr. The education of a surgeon*. An account of his Moseley Travelling Fellowship, 1926–1927 [...] Ed. and annotated by J. Gordon Scannell, Boston, Mass., The Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, 1990. XV, 1, 213 S. Portr. \$18.95. ISBN 0-88135-067-2.

Edward D. Churchill's autobiographical account of his Moseley Travelling Fellowship is based on a series of oral history interviews. The book is an excellent testimony to the value of oral history programs. The resulting account of a formative year in the education of one of Harvard's leading surgeons reveals much concerning the state of thoracic surgery and how experimental research influenced surgical procedures. The vivid accounts of operations like thoracoplasty for tuberculosis provide insight into a distinctive historical phase of operating procedures and problems. Whereas Churchill admired German operating techniques, he looked to pupils of Theodor Kocher for experimental approaches and to England for models of medical education – notably to the tutorial system of Cambridge. There are portraits of personalities and of their operating techniques – notably of Sauerbruch. Churchill spoke warmly of Kocher's successor, de Quervain (unfortunately omitted from the biographical register) and of the Bern physiologist, Leon Ascher. The reception of Churchill often depended on relations with Harvey Cushing, the Harvard neurosurgeon, although Churchill was a protégé of David Edsall, the Dean of the Harvard Medical School, whom Cushing disliked. There is interesting material on cultural attitudes in different countries and how these might affect the organization of institutes, clinics and the treatment of patients. Sheer delight is expressed in European styles of eating, drinking and skiing.

Paul Weindling

Sebastian Schellong, *Künstliche Beatmung. Strukturgeschichte eines ethischen Dilemmas*. Dokumentation der Jahresversammlung des Arbeitskreises Medizinischer Ethik-Kommissionen [...] 1989. Hrsg. von Richard Toellner und Elmar Doppelfeld. Stuttgart, New York, Gustav Fischer, 1990. IX, 236 S. (Medizin-Ethik, 2). DM 69,-. ISBN 3-437-11341-0; ISSN 0936-9015.

Das knapp 200 Seiten starke Werk befasst sich mit der durch die relativ