

## BOOK REVIEW

# OFFBEAT OTOLARYNGOLOGY: WHAT THEY DIDN'T TEACH YOU IN MEDICAL SCHOOL

John D.C. Bennett and John Riddington-Young (Authors)

This small book is something of a departure for the publishers Thieme not normally known for their contribution to humorous literature. However, those who do invest in a copy will be rewarded with considerable entertainment and provided with a wealth of anecdotes for innumerable after dinner speeches. Although a number of others have provided more comprehensive accounts of otorhinolaryngologic history this book cherry picks some of the more memorable or infamous episodes whilst also including a number of less well known gems. It should be said, however, that the authors' rather idiosyncratic style would not be to everyone's taste and indeed the book has a strong anglophile bias, if one dares to say that of two Yorkshiremen.

Those familiar with the senior author's lecture "Sex and the Nose" will recognise the prose style and the somewhat eclectic approach to history but there is much to amuse, provoke or even annoy readers which I am sure was the authors' intention. Sadly the section on Rhinology is extremely brief and only touches on the history of rhinoplasty, nasal polyp removal and epistaxis with only a passing mention of other nasal problems in five pages. However, as a catalogue of eccentricity in medicine, and particularly British ENT it can be recommended.

*Valerie J. Lund*