

Ear, Nose and Throat Mirrored in Medicine and Arts

Edited by: Wolfgang Pirsig, et al. Published by: G Schmidt. ISBN: None. Price: £75 (approx.)

After their first publication, *Ear, Nose and Throat in Culture*, in 2001, Wolfgang Pirsig and Jacques Willemot teamed up with an additional co-editor, Neil Weir. Their new publication, *Ear, Nose and Throat Mirrored in Medicine and Arts*, is a serious piece of medical literature. The 314-page book contains 14 articles by 19 authors, most of whom are well known in the ENT 'literary circles' of Europe and North America.

Singing and the voice in ancient Greece are covered comprehensively by Pirsig and Brosch. They have highlighted the skill of the painters and sculpturers in depicting the visual details of voice and music 5,000 years ago. They relate to the accompaniment of the harp with the human voice as early as 2,500 BC in Cycladic culture during the Greek Bronze Age. Most of the Greek depictions of voice can be found on 2,500-year-old vases in the form of legends issuing from the figures' mouths and markings on stones. Voice and language in poses and gestures in a variety of artefacts from the 6th Century BC have been well illustrated in the large number of photographs taken by Wolfgang Pirsig himself. Caricatures depicting the medical profession in England in the 18th and 19th centuries have been covered by Sue Weir. William Hogarth's famous work, 'Company of Undertakers' (1736), and James Gillray's 'Metallic Tractors' have been shown along with some excellent work by George Cruickshank. Albert Mudry from Lausanne has presented an extensive collection from Politzer's acclaimed *Atlas of Otoscopy*, published in 1865. Along with his clinical talent,

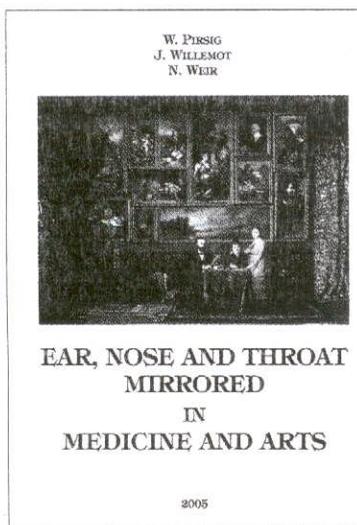
Politzer's artistic passions have been illustrated with his paintings and lithographs. The bizarre mystery of Joseph Hadyn's skull over two centuries is an almost unbelievable story. Huizing has described his nasal polyps, mouth breathing and deviated nasal pyramid in detail in his own interesting style, and the history of syphilis and poetry has been presented by John

in Philadelphia and its association with Professor Stool has been described by Reilly and Stool. Jacques Willemot from Belgium has contributed an interesting chapter covering the numerous medals and plaques associated with Otolaryngology. John Kelsey has similarly published his extensive collection of postage stamps depicting medicine and Otolaryngology. Jon Kirkup has described the historical aspects of surgical instruments, covering a period ranging from Homer to the modern times.

Neil Weir has expanded on the 'Yellow Rolls Royce Syndrome' and the link it has had over the years with ENT procedures. He refers to Sir St Clair Thomson and his book *Diseases of the Nose and Throat* and its reference to chronic tonsillitis and chronic sinusitis, both sources of prosperity to the ENT fraternity. Weir identifies the past and current areas in Otolaryngology that are dictating the economics of private practice. Lastly, the history of ENT anatomy and sign language has been presented to complete this excellent publication.

A lot of ground is covered in this comprehensive book. The surprise omission appears to be Egyptian, Oriental and Asian art. Overall, this is a commendable venture by the editors that makes serious reading for the enthusiast and would be appropriate for the ENT art lover.

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Riddington Young. Pirsig and Bennet have illustrated neck lesions in Greek pottery dating back to 6th century BC.

Celtic association with ENT over the centuries has been covered by Dafydd Stephens, while Ray Clarke has added the role of William Wilde and other Irish ENT otolaryngologists. The fame of the Science Museum at London and the Mutter Museum