

BOOK REVIEW

Beyond the White Coat – the faces behind Medical Eponyms

Liam Mulcahy

Paperback/Hardback, 364 pages

Greenhill Publishing

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This is a book of short stories about doctors that is for everybody, lay-people and those in the profession. Liam Mulcahy is an Australian doctor who writes well and has identified many doctors who have inspired him and enthusiastically describes parts of their lives that were new to me. The doctors ranged from James Parkinson to Henry Lynch (someone I had never heard of!) and lived in many countries including Germany and the USA.

I like reading medical history and rarely read short stories, but this book, being full of fascinating stories, has captivated me. Mulcahy describes his doctors with enthusiasm. He has researched them well and includes many references at the end of the book. However, I would like to know how he came to identify his doctors and missed an index or list of the doctors he included. I was a little irritated by the fact that he mentioned some well-known doctors with medical eponyms without telling us about them. For instance, he mentions Dupytren in two chapters, but only by name. Perhaps he will be included in Mulcahy's next book?

The chapters that gave me the most pleasure were about Robert Graves, Guillaume-Benjamin Duchenne, Charles Fisher and Henry Lynch. This book will make a great present.

Michael Whitfield

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