the scope of the book. Alternatively, many topic headings contain only one quotation. Most of these are obscure disorders or have marginal relevance to medicine. However, those searching for quotations about headaches or impotence, for example, might expect to find more on these subjects.

*Medicine in Quotations* is not the first book of its kind; at least three others have been published, most notably *Familiar Medical Quotations* by Maurice Strauss. As the editors explain in their introduction, this latest effort improves on its predecessors by including more recent quotations, a more detailed history of medical concepts, and more precise citations. Moreover, the book is extremely easy to navigate because the editors have taken pains to explain its arrangement and supply two exhaustive indexes, arranged by subject and author-citation.

Relying too heavily on these extensive reference tools, however, could detract from the reader’s enjoyment of the book. Exciting and unexpected discoveries await those who read it haphazardly, and the search for a quotation under a particular topic heading can easily turn into an hour’s reading of unrelated subjects.

*Medicine in Quotations* is a boon to medical writers, who will find within its pages a ready source of leads, interesting and amusing asides, and dramatic endings for their writing. Those who linger (and it is difficult not to) will also find that their knowledge and understanding of medical history and current issues is expanded as well. Physicians will encounter a steady stream of clinical descriptions, both historic and modern, intermingled with admonitions and affirmations regarding their profession. These selections are sometimes reassuring, sometimes challenging, and occasionally unsettling. Entries under the same topic heading often contain contradictory views, inviting readers to form or reform their own opinions.

As Norman Moore wrote in 1893 (what review of a book of quotations would be complete without a quotation?), “The true use of reading in medicine is to make him think.... Perfect knowledge is that which has been thought over; imperfect knowledge that which has only been remembered.”

Dawn Chalaire

*Dawn Chalaire is an Associate Scientific Editor in the Scientific Publications Office and the Managing Editor for the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center’s Physicians Newsletter.*

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