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# Crucial Interventions: An Illustrated Treatise On The Principles & Practice Of Nineteenth-Century Surgery



## Synopsis

A beautifully illustrated look at the evolution of surgery, as revealed through rare technical illustrations, sketches, and oil paintings. The nineteenth century saw major advances in the practice of surgery. In 1750, the anatomist John Hunter described it as “a humiliating spectacle of the futility of science”; yet, over the next 150 years the feared, practical men of medicine benefited from a revolution in scientific progress and the increased availability of instructional textbooks. Anesthesia and antisepsis were introduced. Newly established medical schools improved surgeons’ understanding of the human body. For the first time, surgical techniques were refined, illustrated in color, and disseminated on the printed page. *Crucial Interventions* follows this evolution, drawing from magnificent examples of rare surgical textbooks from the mid-nineteenth century. Graphic and sometimes unnerving yet beautifully rendered, these fascinating illustrations, acquired from the Wellcome Collection’s extensive archives, include step-by-step surgical techniques paired with depictions of medical instruments and depictions of operations in progress. Arranged for the layman (from head to toe) *Crucial Interventions* is a captivating look at the early history of one of the world’s most mysterious and macabre professions. Illustrated in color and black-and-white throughout.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The most striking feature of this impressive book is the very large number of images reproduced from the historical collections of the Wellcome Library. Every page is filled with vivid

illustrations of surgical instruments and every conceivable surgical procedure, including many that readers may find difficult to imagine. Barnett provides an informative and engaging account of the emergence of the surgery that is recognized today. Highly recommended. - Choice

Richard Barnett is currently the director of studies in history, Pembroke-King's Program, University of Cambridge, and honorary research fellow, UCL. His writing has appeared in The Lancet, The London Magazine, and The Natural Death Handbook. He is the author of Crucial Interventions, Medical London: City of Diseases, City of Cures and The Sick Rose.

This book is full of beautifully drawn illustrations of surgical procedures with a running thread of "chapters" retelling the history of the specialty. I appreciated the detailed art, but this is definitely not for the faint of heart.

Received this about a week ago. It is beautifully bound and illustrated for the price. I'm giving it as a gift so I can't say much about the content, but I feel proud to present it.

Not for the faint of heart -- terrific illustrations. Highly recommended for physicians with interest in history.. I wish text were more complete about how/why/what led to what. We really could use a great history of military medicine.

Provocatively intriguing piece of literature. In my "heading" I mentioned for the "Healthcare Professional," however I do believe it appeals to a wider audience. The text, in conjunction with the beautiful and brilliant illustrations/pictures, really capture the Historical aspect of what could be labeled as our torrid medical past practices that helped direct and shape today's medicine.

Interesting read as a gift for a second-year medical school student

Fascinating read! Thank you!

Amazing

The book is great. At first I thought it only includes illustrations, but there is also a lot of text. In my opinion, it is surely a masterpiece.

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