
Book Review

View from the Surgery

Dr Ken Moody (edited by David Carvel)

Scottish medicine has long enjoyed a close association with doctor's columns in the press. Generations of patients regularly presenting newspaper cuttings to their GP are testimony to their popularity.

This book is a compilation of 98 such articles based on the observations of a rural GP, Dr Ken Moody, a weekly contributor to his local paper. In Dr Moody's field of vision life, grief, pain and humour are but single points along a timeline of learning, caring, failing, winning and, inevitably, dying. Floating in the vitreous of his seen-it-all eyes and etched in skin exposed to years of hard work and dedication, he has captured general practice in all its complexity and uncertainty.

The book is divided into six sections including case histories, life on and off duty, questions patients ask and anecdotal accounts of tonics and remedies. Such was the infamy of Dr Moody's column and disappointment should a single one be missed that free and ready access to back numbers has been made available on his website www.viewfromthesurgery.com. This book will be of interest to experienced GPs, provide valuable insight into care in the community for doctors in training and satisfy the devotees of 'Scotland's most famous Sunday newspaper'.

Reviewed by Dr Jill Murie

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