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**BOOK REVIEW**

_Gastroenterology Scene in India: Past and Present, Landmarks and Milestones._ Edited and Published by Dhananjaya Sharma. Jabalpur, 1997. 188 pages

My first reaction on seeing this book was “It was about time someone did it.” Most students of gastroenterology in India can hold out on the world history of this subject, especially in the field of endoscopy. Very few know about our own record in this century, except what they learnt by word of mouth. And how sadly fleeting this can be is obvious when we read the chapter on History of Gastroenterology in India by the late Professor N Madanagopalan. If this book was conceived a year later, we would never again have access to Prof Madanagopalan’s treasure trove.

Other such pearls in this book are the chapters on Gastroenterology in India by Prof F P Antia, Gastroenterology in Calcutta by Prof D N Guha Mazumder, Portal Hypertension in India — Historical Aspects by Prof S K Mathur and Prof A N Supe, History of Surgical Gastroenterology in India by Prof N Rangabashyam, On the Threshold of Liver Transplantation by Prof Rajan Saxena, and The Development of Gastroenterology: As AIIMS Faculty Member by Prof B N Tandon.

Some chapters lay down the unique circumstances and problems encountered in setting up the speciality in corners of India, e.g., Dr Philip Augustine in Kerala, Dr S P Misra in Allahabad, Dr S V Mokewar in Nagpur, Dr S S Prasad in Patna. Some others deal with the experience in individual institutions, and a few with individuals’ experiences.

Overall, Dr Sharma deserves credit for this venture. It must have been an effort, sitting in Jabalpur, to mobilize these chapters from so many authorities with so little time on their hands (maybe Dr Sharma can consider a chapter on this experience in the next edition!). Having said this, I must confess that, to me, some of the chapters seem out of place (an occasional ego trip included), dwelling curiously on history; some focus more on the world and very little on India. The editing is less than desirable, and the printing style has scope for improvement. Dr Sharma wanted the articles to “bear the stamp of their author’s style,” but this need not have resulted in a warts-and-all outcome. Still, a giant step!

Finally, no price is printed on this book. I presume Dr Sharma wants to make this a priceless collection for the truly interested. There should be a lot of takers.

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Sphincterotomy is a surgical procedure commonly performed to treat gallbladder disease. It involves the removal of a portion of the gallbladder to relieve pressure and allow bile to flow more freely into the small intestine. This procedure is often performed in cases where the gallbladder is inflamed or damaged, and stones cannot be removed through other means. The procedure is typically done under general anesthesia and requires a hospital stay. Recovery time can vary depending on the individual, but most people can return to normal activities within a few days. However, complications such as bile leakage or infection can occur, which may prolong the recovery period. It's important to follow the instructions provided by your healthcare provider to ensure a smooth recovery.