

THE STETHOSCOPE AND SCALPEL

The Stethoscope and Scalpel by Jimmy Mathew. Paras Publ. 1st Ed. 2011 price Rs. 125.00

Dr. Jimmy Mathew has written a delightful little book. In the preface the author, a plastic surgeon, states – doctors work is filled with dramatic incidents of all sorts. Blessed with a sensitive mind and a literary bent, Dr. Jimmy Mathew has converted the events into short, true to life stories.

He begins with description of his life as an undergraduate and postgraduate student and a speciality trainee. Writing about working in public hospitals with bosses, fellow students and fellow trainees of different shades, Dr. Jimmy takes us back to our college and trainee days. We have met all those. They have shaped and affected us.

The book emphasizes that patients are the real teachers. They teach not only the practice of medicine, but also about the wider screen of life. (only if one cares to know and understand).

There are 28 stories. Each of them carries a message, and at places historical information that is beyond medicine. Stories like “The Dying Declaration” touch ones sensitive chords, while “What the hell are you doing doctor?”, though told in a humorous style shows us how easily we can commit serious mistakes. (Don’t we hear stories of dead patients waking up in the morgue !).

I enjoyed reading the book, which is easy to read. I recommend it to be in ones book collection or even as a gift to a friend. In fact, I have this to say to Dr. Jimmy ‘Dil Mange More’.

Dr. V.R. Joshi