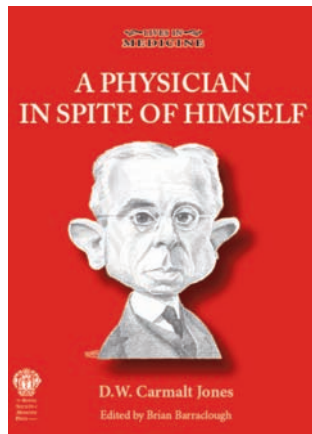


## BOOK REVIEWS

### A Physician In Spite of Himself

B Barraclough  
RSM Press 268pages  
Hardback £35  
ISBN 978-1-85315-905-3

Dr DW Carmalt Jones was an interesting physician from a Victorian upper class family. This book describes his childhood and then time at Oxford University where he seemed to spend more time rowing than studying medicine! He subsequently worked as a "Casualty Physician" at St Mary's hospital Paddington and then at Westminster Hospital. He served throughout World War 1 in the RAMC and he writes a vivid account of his experiences in Flanders, Egypt and Palestine.



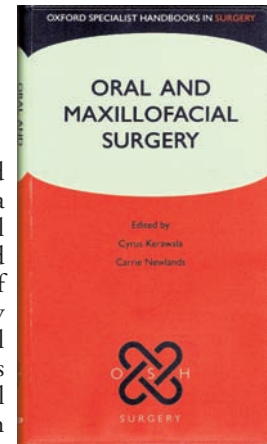
This book gives interesting descriptions of "shell shock" with casualties as being described as "*wounded (injured or physically unwell)*" or "*sick*". Only if the patient had had "*exceptional exposure to gunfire*" could shell shock be diagnosed and perhaps sent back to England. Those patients without such exposure but "not of sound mind" were often court martialed. Dr Jones recognised that with suitable treatment some of these patients were able to return to their Units and continue on the front line. His treatment consisted of removing patients from front line, resting them, and keeping them occupied. He did not see his patients as unwell but merely suffering from "mental exhaustion" from which they would recover with suitable support. He also noted that patients were not helped by "bullying officers". His approach showed a thoughtful, intelligent experienced general physician with a humane approach. He was good at squaring being a physician with being a "soldier physician" whose ultimate responsibility was to get the man back to the front line. At the time his work was not recognised by the War Office. It is however referred to in subsequent military psychiatry journals in which he is quoted as saying "*my plea is for men whose disabilities are as real and credible as any wound...*". There is no doubt that his work has contributed to the way we now deal with mental illness on the battlefield.

The second half of the book describes his life in New Zealand as Professor of Systematic Medicine at the University of Otago. He subsequently wrote the history of this medical school. In later life he returned to England where he started to write the history of St Mary's Hospital. He was a keen fisherman and his book contains a list of "trout fishing terms". He is also remembered for his poetry which includes the poem on the Royal Artillery War memorial at Hyde Park Corner.

Col RG Simpson  
Joint Defence Professor of General Practice

### Oxford Specialist Handbooks in Surgery - Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

C Kerawala, C Newlands  
Oxford University Press, 502 pages  
Flexicover £42.95  
ISBN 978-0-19-920483-0



The latest in this range of Oxford Specialist Handbooks in Surgery sees a focus on Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Its small size is deceiving and in 467 pages it covers the breadth of the current maxillofacial surgery curriculum. The section on surgical and non-surgical aesthetics is particularly welcome, giving practical considerations for botulinum toxin and blepharoplasties.

It benefits from clearly laid out diagrams, in describing surgical techniques such as in the section on osteotomies. I would however have liked a greater emphasis placed on oral surgery, with only four pages dedicated to dentoalveolar surgery.

The book is primarily aimed at maxillofacial trainees, with enough depth to be of use to SpRs even up to the exit exam. It will also be of interest to trainees in allied specialties such as ENT and plastic surgery as it covers many topics that are poorly covered elsewhere except in large specialist textbooks.

Major J Breeze  
Maxillofacial Surgery Trainee

### Afghanistan: A tour of duty

A Allan  
Third Millenium Publishing 112 pages  
Soft back £12.99  
ISBN: 978 1 906507 39 8

This relatively brief book depicts a recent operational tour in Afghanistan by the Grenadier Guards in pictures taken by one of its (now retired) officers. The images are honest and realistic and portray this conflict in a way many pages of words would be unable to. There is very little in the way of text as the author is quite clearly content to let pictures do the talking.

The foreword is by General Sir Richard Dannatt who reaffirms the commitment of the British soldier and all that entails and pays tribute to those who serve and those who support them. Profits from the sales of the book are to be donated to BLESMA, the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen Association, and so I would recommend purchase of this book for no other reason than that. However this is a fine graphic illustration of the realities of modern combat and deserves a place on the bookshelves of any soldier.

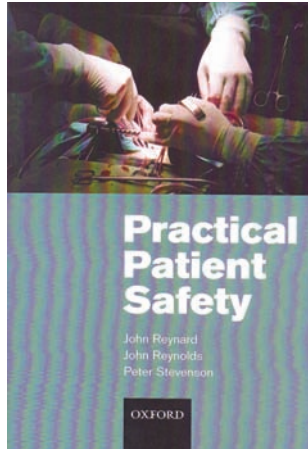
Lt Col Jeff Garner  
Consultant Colorectal Surgeon



## Practical Patient Safety

J Reynard; J Reynolds, P Stevenson  
 Oxford University Press 2009. 318 pages  
 Paperback £29.95  
 ISBN: 978-0-19-923993-1

This is a book written by clinicians for clinicians on improving patient safety and reducing errors. It explores the ways in which clinicians can benefit from the expertise honed by decades of risk reduction in high risk organisations such as aviation. The consequence of accidents and clinical errors is examined in detail and this book provides a useful resource for those working in clinical practice. It



espouses the principles of the Patient Safety First Campaign, set up in 2008 as a philosophy to reduce harm to patients by changing practice, but gives useful tips, tools and specifics for safe care whether in drug administration, patient positioning for operations or how to safely pass on messages and critical communications. In the current era of widespread media coverage on patient harm caused by clinical errors this book would be a valuable addition to a library of text to support doctors' practice. Its one failing may be its limited reference to how this advice then links in with the organisational governance set up but that does not detract from its usefulness to healthcare professionals.

Lt Col J Cotterell  
 SO1 Healthcare Governance AMD