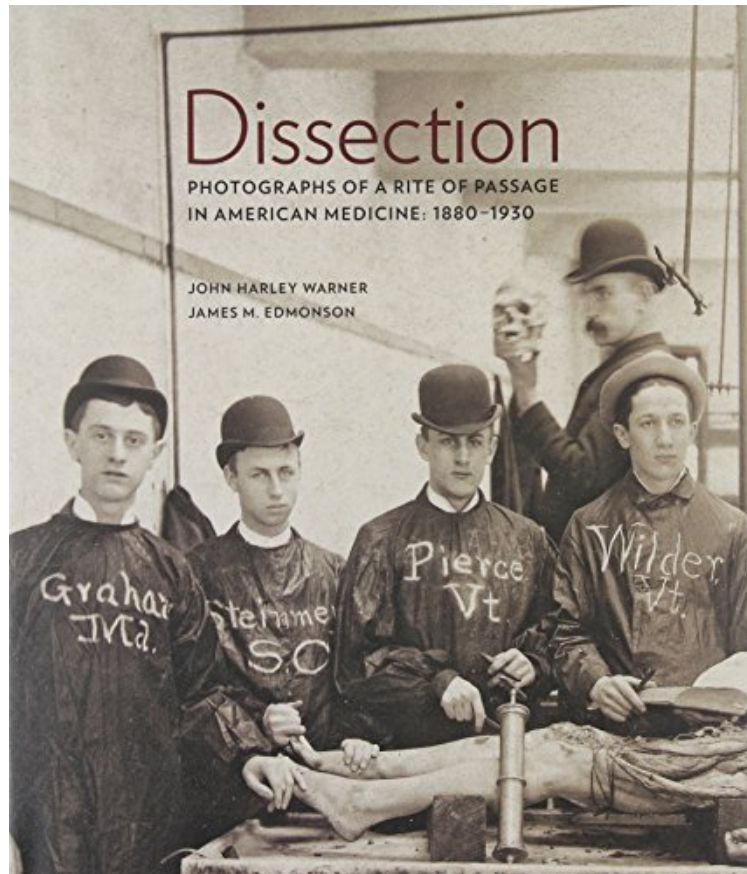


Dissection: Photographs of a Rite of Passage in American Medicine 1880-1930

John Harley Warner, James M. Edmonson
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John Harley Warner, James M. Edmonson : Dissection: Photographs of a Rite of Passage in American Medicine 1880-1930 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dissection: Photographs of a Rite of Passage in American Medicine 1880-1930:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Looking into an avoided topic.By Robert L. UrbanThis is an interesting examination of a subject that I'd not read about, and one that I probably would not have chosen to pursue, except that the irreverence of the cover illustration attracted me and aroused my curiosity about this phase of medical training. Once I began to read the text I was quite caught up with the different aspects of this topic and how they have changed. Very thought provoking. Too bad that the picture quality is quite uneven.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic bookBy danny pearceAmazing book, stunning pictures, rare collectible coffee table book!!!!Fantastic array of medical pictures, real historic medical collection!!Loved this book, unusual but fascinating!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Janet KolarGreat book. Eye opener for those who never dissected a cadaver for a medical career.

"Cadavers, camera, action!" (The New York Times Book Review). From the advent of photography in the 19th and into the 20th century, medical students, often in secrecy, took photographs of themselves with the cadavers that they dissected: their first patients. Featuring 138 of these historic photographs and illuminating essays by two experts on the subject, *Dissection* reveals a startling piece of American history. Sherwin Nuland, MD, said this is "a truly unique and important book [that] documents a period in medical education in a way that is matched by no other existing contribution." And Mary Roach said *Dissection* "is the most extraordinary book I have ever seen--the perfect coffee table book for all the households where I'd most like to be invited for coffee."

From Publishers Weekly This is a startling window into the education of American doctors in the late 19th and early 20th centuries--on both a visceral level and for its revealing cultural record. Cringe-worthy shots of medical students--bare-handed gentlemen and a few ladies in street clothes show off their scalpels, saws and textbooks--while their cadavers, mostly poor and black, are awkwardly posed, and exposed. In one stunning shot, a black woman looks out from behind the young students. "What are we to make of an African-American woman, standing, broom handle in hand, behind the dissection table, her gaze fixed on the camera?" the authors ask. More importantly, they conclude, the photo is now drawn "out of the shadows of history" where "we can at least bear witness." A blood-soaked dissection table makes you want to look away and the dark humor of students playing pranks with skeletons are both hilarious and horrible. Postcards sent to family and friends must have caused shock and awe for postmen and recipient alike. Here, a difficult glance into medicine's "uncomfortable past" offers a grand opportunity to understand the legacy doctors and patients live with, and benefit from, today. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.