BOOK REVIEW


Victor Dubowitz left South Africa in 1956 to see the world and to gain postgraduate experience in the UK. He soon developed an interest in paediatrics and in muscle disease. He never returned to practise in South Africa. He retired in 1996 as Professor of Paediatrics at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School. He remained as 'hyperactive' and enthusiastic as ever in paediatric neurology and muscle diseases, in sculpture and photography, and in travelling around the globe.

The Memoir Club requested him to record his memoirs. The presentation is unconventional. In essence it is a personal account of his academic and other achievements – the story of his life and times with his wife Lilly and four sons until 2005. The contents reflects a journey which started in Beaufort West, South Africa, and is still continuing in the UK and on the world stage. It is readable and is liberally illustrated with photographs taken by him. Its contents cover among other topics, his roots; experience as an undergraduate medical student at the University of Cape Town and his medical career in London, Sheffield and New York; contact with internationally known medical and other personalities; extramural interests in the arts; medicine as his passport to the world and travels and lecture tours; and the changing face of medicine.

I enjoyed reading the account of his life. The book will be of interest to his many friends and medical colleagues around the world, but it is uncertain whether all non-medical readers would find the contents of equal interest.

H deV Heese

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