



# ATLAS OF OPERATIVE TECHNIC ANUS, RECTUM, *and* COLON

*by*

**HARRY E. BACON**

B.S., M.D., Sc.D., F.A.C.S., F.R.S.M., F.I.C.S., F.A.P.S.

Professor and Head of Department of Proctology, Temple University Medical School. Honorary Fellow: Royal Society Medicine (England), Bordeaux and Ambroise Paré Surgical (France), Madrid and Barcelona Surgical (Spain), Piedmontese Surgical (Italy), Venezuelan Surgical, Peruvian Surgical, Argentinian Surgical and Proctologic, Curitiba Surgical, Chilean Surgical, Brazilian Proctologic, and Dallas Southern Clinical Societies; Detroit Academy of Surgery. Diplomate, American Board of Surgery; Member, American Board of Proctology.

*and*

**STUART T. ROSS**

A.B., M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., F.A.P.S.

Attending Proctologist, Nassau Hospital, Mineola, New York, and Mercy Hospital, Rockville Center, New York; Assistant Attending Surgeon in Proctology, Meadowbrook Hospital, Hempstead, New York; Formerly Assistant Visiting Surgeon, Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, and Lecturer in Proctology, Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital, New York City. Secretary, American Proctologic Society; Diplomate and Member, American Board of Proctology. Miembro Correspondiente extranjero Sociedad Proctologia de Argentina; Honorary Fellow, Brazilian Proctologic Society.



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*St. Louis*

**Illustrations**

by

**MELFORD D. DIEDRICK**

Director of Medical Illustration  
University of Buffalo\*

**LEON SCHLOSSBERG**

Department Medical Art  
Johns Hopkins Medical Center

and

**WILLIAM B. McNETT**

Formerly Head of Department  
Temple University Medical School



## INTRODUCTION

W. WAYNE BABCOCK, A.B., M.D., LL.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., F.R.S.M.

Emeritus Professor of General Surgery  
Temple University Hospital and Medical School, Philadelphia

A surgical atlas provides a very valuable pictorial guide for the surgeon as it emphasizes technical details of operative procedures difficult to describe accurately in the text. Essentials which may be missed or overlooked as one watches an operation or omitted in the written description can very clearly be shown by an artist who has been guided by the experienced surgeon. An atlas not only solves the details of an unfamiliar operation but acts as a refresher course, clearly recalling in the shortest possible time technical essentials so necessary for one who is about to undertake an untried or rarely used operative procedure.

The members of a group who have been watching an operative clinic will often leave with widely divergent impressions as to what was seen (or was not seen). Indeed, one sees only what he mentally understands. Visual education in a clinic often fails because the medical student or even the graduate does not know what he is looking at or exactly what the operator is doing. If the surgeon who has not described each structure exposed and each technical detail during his operation will then interrogate the senior student who has been assisting at his side, he will often marvel that after several years of training one can look so long and intently at an operation and see so little. Or, the operation being over, could the operator but listen to the discussion by his graduate audience he might be amazed at the conflicting arguments as to what was done. It is a satisfaction, therefore, to be able to turn to an atlas that shows unmistakably by a succession of drawings each structure involved and each step of the operative procedure.

Surgery of the colon, rectum, and anal canal has spread widely in recent years. The subject has rapidly become more complex as the operative field has so greatly expanded.

The operations now used may have a detail and magnitude comparable to any performed within the abdomen. Extensions from an anal carcinoma may require excision of lymphatics extending to the inguinal nodes. For a radical removal of the rectum and sigmoid, resection or extirpation of the female pelvic organs may be required, or, especially in the male, the removal or repair of involved portions of the urinary tract. Complications from diseased upper portions of the colon may involve the various adjacent organs. Thus, in the practice

of modern operative proctology, which connotes surgery of the anus, rectum, and colon, a knowledge of gynecology, urology, and general abdominal surgery is required.

The writer has no question that this extensive Atlas by two surgeons of very large experience and unusual skill in the proctologic field will prove a most helpful and desirable addition to the library of the general surgeon as well as to that of every proctologist. The long experiences of Dr. Bacon and Dr. Ross in proctologic surgery are expressed in this which I believe is the first extensive Atlas on the subject. It will prove a very welcome addition to literature dealing with this important specialty.

## PREFACE

Interest in surgery of the anal canal, rectum, and colon has long been evident, but the frequency with which pathology in this field requires surgical correction is of greater magnitude than commonly realized. Many textbooks are available today, yet the rapid pace of modern surgical practice leaves little opportunity to the busy surgeon or the occasional operator for extended study.

To fill this gap, the authors some seven years ago began an atlas—a pictorial presentation to illustrate in consecutive steps the various operative procedures, accompanied by concise step-by-step description. The task during these several years has been pleasant, though onerous.

Obsolete operative procedures have been omitted; only tried and accepted methods employed by the authors have been described. One of the most difficult tasks in the creation of this atlas has been in keeping abreast of the continual advances in method and technic which have taken place during the years of its compilation. Both text and illustrations have required modification in numerous particulars even in the past year.

Although some consider that abdominal colonic surgery constitutes the major problem of this specialty, the authors have always entertained the conviction that many anorectal procedures, particularly operations for complicated and complex fistulae, are more tedious and more difficult of proper execution than some colonic resections.

It is desired to give particular credit to Mrs. Eunice B. Powell, whose secretarial assistance and whose many typings of the manuscript in all its stages have been invaluable.

Credit is also due to Dr. J. W. McElwain who prepared the material on which the illustrations of lymph node distribution are based.

HARRY E. BACON

STUART T. ROSS

Philadelphia, Pa.  
Hempstead, N. Y





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