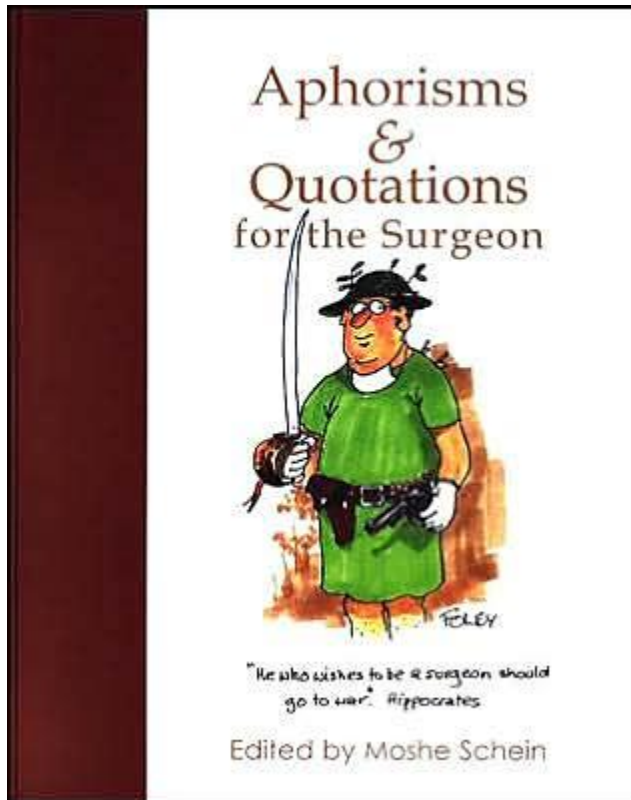


Moshe Schein September 2007

## Aphorisms for the surgeon-Vol II

[The following is a partial and unedited list of “aphorisms of surgical interest” which came my way after the first volume of aphorisms had been published. This material will be included in the forthcoming second volume of:



The numbers at the end of each entry refer to the corresponding chapter (see first volume)

1. “The advantages of Precise Bibliographic Citations: “Several of the well knows physicians and surgeons to whom I have given my book for proof reading and to edit especially for its prolixity have criticized me for my insistence on stating precisely the sources of my citations of other authors, by giving ‘chapter and verse’. The answer gives my two reasons: 1. To make it easier for scholars to track down the sources. 2. As a result their comprehension of my text is better and clearer.” (-- Henri de Mondeville, 1260-1320). 94
2. “There is an amazing transformation that occurs when an anesthetist leaves the state sector for private practice. It is transformation from obstruction to grovel. In the private sector they clean the surgeons shoes, and anaesthetize anyone or thing.” (-- David Dent). 6

3. "The test for fitness for surgery in geriatric patients is to pull a sheet over their faces, and if they pull it down - they are fit!" (--David Dent). 58
4. "Halsted is an obsessed fuddy-duddy who takes all day to do an operation that should never be done at all." (--George Crile, Sr, 1864-1943). 37
5. "Surgery is not difficult, nor scary, it is fun." (--Kenneth W. Warren, 1911–2001). 36
6. "The most common errors in the surgical treatment of acute pancreatitis are to operate too early in the course of the disease, and to do too much, or in the secondary or septic phase of the disease to operate too late and to do too little." (--Kenneth W. Warren, 1911–2001). 65
7. "Practice of gentleness to tissue is more important than the preaching...but the technique of an operation should be regarded as only a small part of the total care of a patient." (--Kenneth W. Warren, 1911–2001). 36
8. "My primary professional goal has always been: to get sick people well, and when that has proven impossible, to add to their comfort until the end." (--Kenneth W. Warren, 1911–2001). 31
9. "Could you fix my glasses, please, let's see how your surgical skills are." (--Kenneth W. Warren, 1911–2001) 28
10. "We know that many practicing physicians are not using well proven interventions or implementing well-publicized national guidelines. The legal definition of standard of care protects these physicians and encourage them to change slowly, if at all." (--Daniel Merenstein). 81
11. "He is a good surgeon who possesses courage and presence of mind, a hand free from perspiration, tremorless grip of sharp and good instruments, and who carries his operation to success and to the advantage of his patient, who has entrusted his life to the surgeon. The surgeon should respect the absolute surrender and treat his patient as his own son." (--Susrata, 800 BC?). 84
12. "To record even cruder general results of so many operations (~1000) for the repair of inguinal hernia are required special training, some zeal and a particular honesty of purpose." (--William Stewart Halsted, 1852-1922). 42
13. "The surgeon is fortunate and likely to be true to himself whose observations are controlled by mature assistants with large experience in the operative treatment of hernia and who are as eager as he to ascertain and state the exact truth." (--William Stewart Halsted, 1852-1922). 42
14. "I tell patients that the pancreas is like somebody's wife: she doesn't need a reason to be pissed off and, once she is, you had better just lay low and not touch her until she feels like being in a better mood." (--Karen Draper). 65
15. "To perform a task as difficult as that which is imposed on a military surgeon...I am convinced that one must sacrifice oneself, perhaps entirely, to others; must scorn fortune and maintain an absolute integrity and must inure oneself to flattery." (--Dominique Jean Larrey. 1766- 1842). 54
16. "It is necessary to begin always with the most dangerously injured, without regard to rank or distinction." (--Dominique Jean Larrey. 1766- 1842). 54
17. "It is important for the head surgeon to study well the countries that the armies cross, in order that he might know to benefit the injured using resources that localities can offer." (--Dominique Jean Larrey. 1766- 1842). 54

18. "No matter how cruel an operation may be, it is an act of humanity in the hands of the surgeon when it may save the life of the injured; and the greater and more immediate the danger, the more the aid must be prompt and energetic... in this circumstance the man of the art does his duty and never thinks about his reputation." (--Dominique Jean Larrey. 1766- 1842). 54
19. "A surgeon can do more for the community by operating on hernia cases and seeing that his recurrence rate is low than he can by operating on cases of malignant disease" (--Sir Cecil Wakely 1892-1979). 42
20. "Be not the first by whom the new is tried, nor yet the last to lay the old aside." 47
21. "Mesenteric adenitis" is code for "I thought it was appendicitis, but the appendix was normal"" (--David Dent). 8
22. "There are more people living off of cancer than are dying from it." 16
23. "The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes." (--Winston C. Churchill, 1874-1965). 84
24. "When doctors, statisticians and scientists become ill, they ask "Who is the best doctor for this problem?" and not "Which multi-centre controlled trial would be best for me?" (--E.J. Freireich from the MD Anderson Hospital). 76
25. "Recurrent laryngeal nerve damage produces voice changes, but not choking: they graduate in the choir from singing "Ave Maria" to "Old Man River." (--David Dent). 86
26. "Looking for the recurrent laryngeal nerve after previous thyroidectomy has all the sensitivity of detecting a landmine in Angola." (--David Dent). 86
27. "In America...when a patient asks you to take care of her, you will do *everything* within your power to cure her disease. Failing that, you will do *everything* within your power to prolong her life. And failing that, you will do *everything* within your power to relieve her suffering. The problem with that ethic is the world "everything". *Everything* may be unnecessary. (--Alan Robert Spievack). 90
28. The supreme surgeon uses his supreme judgment to avoid situations that would test his supreme abilities." 50
29. "Prophylactic antibiotics will turn a third class surgeon into a second class but will never turn a second class surgeon into the first class one." (--Owen H. Wangenstein, 1898-1981). 46
30. "Small town surgeons often prefer to send them to the local tertiary centers for the "subtotal colectomy for colonic inertia" as opposed to "backwoods slash-artist chopping out constipated colons. Been there." (--Angus Maciver). 18
31. "Even diseases have lost their prestige, there aren't so many of them left. Think it over... no more syphilis, no more clap, no more typhoid... antibiotics have taken half the tragedy out of medicine." (--Louis-Ferdinand Celine, 1894-1961). 46
32. "The greatest boom to surgery's advance in this century has been control of cellulitic infections through chemotherapeutic agencies, the sulfonamides and antibiotics. When will surgery experience another great catalytic forward thrust like that achieved through anesthesia, prophylactic antisepsis, and the antibiotics?" (--Owen H. Wangenstein, 1898-1981). 46
33. "The advent of antibiotics has greatly lowered the incidence of hand and other infections, opened the way for prophylactic treatment, and reduced the need for surgical drainage. However, over the years one theme has recurred: Initial care is

- pre-eminent in the prevention and treatment of all surgical infections." (-- JJ Byrne). 46
34. "Historically, the most common errors in usage include the widespread use of antibiotic prophylaxis in clean surgery and the faulty timing of administration. The most common error today (in the use of prophylactic antibiotics in surgical practice) is continuation of the agents beyond the time necessary for maximal benefit." (-- Ronald L. Nichols). 46
35. "Nietzsche once stated, *'That which does not kill you only makes you stronger.'* While he was not necessarily referring to bacteria and their relationship to antibiotics, the quotation nonetheless applies." (-- Mikaela Chilstrom). 46
36. "The headline reads, *'Docs say patients make them prescribe useless antibiotics.'* This puts a physician in roughly the same predicament as a serial killer. The latter says, "Stop me before I kill again, while the former says, "Stop me before I prescribe again." (-- Nicolas Martin). 46
37. "The intimacy between patient and surgeon is short-lived, but closer than between a son and his own father." (--Alexander Solzhenitsyn). 67
38. "She had spent all her life cutting, cutting, all her life had been blood and flesh. It is one of the tiresome but unavoidable facts about humanity that people cannot refresh themselves in the middle of their lives by a sudden, abrupt change of occupation." (--Alexander Solzhenitsyn). 84
39. "The words of Tolstoy's Cossack, Yeroshka, who said about West European doctors: "All they can do is cut, Well, they're fools. But in the mountains you get real doctors. They know about the herbs." (--Alexander Solzhenitsyn). 48
40. "There was never a Tuesday or a Friday on which Yevgenia Ustinova did not cut off women's breasts and she would remark to the orderly who cleaned the theatre, a cigarette between her exhausted kips, that if all the breasts she cut off were collected together and made into a pile the result would be quite a little mountain." (--Alexander Solzhenitsyn). 15
41. "If I need grape sugar, give it to me through the mouth! Why this twentieth century gimmick? Why should every medicine be given by injection? You do not see anything similar in nature or among animals, do you? In a hundred years' time they'll laugh at us and call us savages..." (--Alexander Solzhenitsyn). 33
42. "Asya brought it (her breast) close to his face and held it for him. "Kiss it! Kiss it!" she demanded....he nuzzled it with his lips like a suckling pig, gratefully, admiringly...its beauty flooded him...Today it was a marvel. Tomorrow it would be in the trash bin." (--Alexander Solzhenitsyn). 15
43. "When is a surgeon (not a new, but an experienced one) nervous? Not during operations. But basically a surgeon's nervousness beings *after* the operations, when for some reason the patient's temperature refuses to drop or a stomach remains bloated and one has to open it not with a knife, but in one's mind, to see what had happened, to understand and put it right. When time is slipping away, you have to grab it by the tail." (--Alexander Solzhenitsyn). 69
44. "The right lung consists of three parts...Klotchkov raised his eyes to the ceiling, striving to visualize what he had just read. Unable to form a clear picture of it, he began feeling his upper ribs through his waistcoat." (--Anton Chekhov, 1860-1904). 5

45. "The history of gastric surgery is littered with interpositions, pouches, and attempts to make the gastric reconstruction similar to the underground railway in Vienna." (-David Dent). 83
46. "A major danger to human health is a young surgical researcher murdering dogs in the basement to develop new operations." (--David Dent). 76
47. "Any study that reports a certain number of consecutive cases without a complication (death) actually means that number of cases plus two were performed with two complications (deaths) ;the first and last." (--Michael Hoffman). 76
48. "It is usually a bad sign if the anesthesiologist is asking you if you are losing a lot of blood during a case especially when your not." (--Michael Hoffman). 6
49. "It is usually a bad sign if there are three or more anesthesiologists in the operating room at the same time and none of them is reading the newspaper." (--Michael Hoffman). 6
50. "Surgery is what a surgeon practices. An operation is what a surgeon performs. In this context, there is no such word as surgeries. In Great Britain, surgeries are treatment rooms. Neither an operation nor a patient is a case, but that's another commentary." (--CJ Allen). 48
51. "The great surgical lie: You go ahead, I'll meet you in the Clinic later." 84
52. "Beware the Four Birds of the Chest: 1. Vagoose 2. Esophagoose 3. Azygoose 4. Thoracic Duck. ." 5
53. "Occlusion of the mesenteric vessels is regarded as one of those conditions of which the diagnosis is impossible, the prognosis hopeless, and the treatment almost useless." (--A. Cokkins, XX-1921). 49
54. "Sounds that might shock a duchess are music of the spheres to the surgeon". (--William Heneage Ogilvie, 1887-1971). 18
55. "My hands are then henceforth, washed of chloroform and devoted to ether." (--James Marion Sims, 1813-1883). 6
56. "Let man learn to be honest and do the right thing or do nothing." (--James Marion Sims, 1813-1883). 21
57. "A trained surgeon knows how to do it; an educated surgeon knows why you do it." (--Rodney Peyton). 84
58. "We now call Intensive Care 'Normal Care' and the Wards 'No Care'". (--Stephen Clifforth). 69
59. "You can tell how bad the surgeon is, by the stink of the Bovie in his OR." (--Douglas Geehan). 14
60. "Do you mean that you start your patients on a clear liquid diet and then progress to a full liquid diet before a regular diet? If so, this is a silly practice that should be ceased. It is all solid shit when it goes thru the anastomosis so who cares how it starts." (-- Karen Draper). 33
61. "When you deal with complicated wounds you get wound complications." 93
62. "Beware a surgeon who is an expert in managing complications." 20
63. "In the old days, if you were black and with some IQ and ambition, you were a 'Chairman material'—today it is true if you are a woman." 68
64. "Whether you will develop severe pancreatitis or not depends on the quality of what you drink and the amount of *zakuski* you consume." (--A Russian surgeon). 65

65. “Surgeons don’t have to get on their hand and knees and beg the nurses to stop writing useless crap in the chart long enough to please, please, please bring some pain medicine.” (-- Karen Draper). 64
66. “Alas, lymph nodes do not DETERMINE prognosis, they are merely MARKERS of prognosis. No one with gastric carcinoma ever died from lymph nodes. The lymph nodes are the footprints in the snow of where the cancer has already been, and has passed on. Sweeping away footprints is futile.” (--David Dent). 16
67. “The paradigm shift in surgical truths was from vehemence-based and eminence-based medicine, to evidence-based medicine.” (--David Dent). 47
68. “The battle is between margins and cosmesis and we must think like the “OncoPlastic” surgeon.” (--Marvin J Silverstein). 15
69. “At the M & M –like in Brooklyn courts—lie or die!” 68
70. “I hope this helps your sister-in-law unless the Yank surgeons have already yanked her to the OR!” (--Deepak Chatterjee). 48
71. “DIC= deep in chit.” 14
72. “High volume physicians may perform a procedure better, but the patient may have been less likely to need it in the first place.” (RH Brook. NEMJ 1990;323:1173-1177). 79
73. “We shall never overcome cancer by surgery: it will be something we shall inject”. (--George Grey Turner, 1877-1951). 16
74. “I love the smell of the Bovie in the morning—it is the smell of victory.” (Allan Siperstein). 14
75. “Patients sue not when the patient gets angry with the doctor, but when the doctor gets angry at the patient.” (--Thomas J. Krizek). 53
76. “Why won’t the system approach [to malpractice] work? There is no medical system. There is no single integrated process. There are multiple parallel patchwork systems. They all compete: the surgeon, the hospital, the residency, the legal, the political, the patients, and the advocacy system. This is the basis of the medicolegal system.” (--Thomas F. Tracy). 53
77. “The New England Journal of Medicine takes obvious observations and gives them statistical significance.” (--Richard Simmons) 94
78. “It is fascinating to conjecture how an inflammatory process in a retroperitoneal gland can produce abnormalities in so many organs.”(--Reginald Fritz ~1889). 65
79. “Only a sailor, not a clerk, should be running the ship.” (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 68
80. “Any foreign body which traverses the cricopharyngeus will negotiate the rest of the gastrointestinal tract.” (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 83
81. “With abdominal distension, expect vomit at any time.” (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 3
82. “Embolectomy is doomed to failure unless you can demonstrate back-bleeding.” (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 91
83. “With seriously ill patients, one third of the treatment is for the relatives.” (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 67
84. “Longstanding pyloric obstruction invariably leads to lengthening of the duodenum, making closure easy. (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 83

85. "With sudden post-operative collapse, the cause is much more likely to be a surgical complication than 'medical.'" (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 20
86. "Scout films taken 8 or 24 hours after a half ounce of oral barium are invaluable in managing intestinal obstruction." (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 49
87. "Failure of a colostomy closure is more due to the youth of the colostomy than the youth of the surgeon." (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 19
88. "If it is good medicine, it is good law." (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 53
89. "The only causes of chronic appendicitis are i) actinomycosis, ii) tuberculosis and iii) remunerative. (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 8
90. "For some rural physicians a good surgeon is one from whom your patient always returns with one his abdominal organs missing. A bad surgeon is one who does the opposite." (Rural)
91. "Another rural law: as long as the patient has an appendix, a gallbladder, a uterus and two ovaries you refer him to the local surgeon. Once these organs are gone you refer to the University."(Rural)
92. "Rules for sudden haemorrhage i) be calm, ii) clamp or pack and iii) adequate exposure and deal as necessary." (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 14
93. "The fourth dimension in surgical management is time." (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 36
94. "A little look saves a lot of talking." (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 11
95. "No (gastric) suction is requires after a Polya gastrectomy whilst after a Billroth gastrectomy continue only until bile appears on nasogastric suction." (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 83
96. "Esophagus: as a result of the muscle being loosely knit, anastomosis implies suturing the unsuturable...". (--Ivor Lewis, 1895-1982). 83
97. "In urban trauma "scoop and run" is better than 'stay and play". 88
98. "Pus is like the truth - you have to let it out." (--Gareth Morris-Stiff). 46
99. "The right man in the right spot of the right time means life or death to the fortunate or poor patient." (--Marian Littke). 36
100. "One way to understand surgical residency training is as a set of rites, rituals and ordeals designed to transform outsiders into insiders, laypersons into professionals". (--Charles Bosk). 28
101. "Breast Doctors are usually called Monica or Kimberley, having a Web Site with help page, a Clinic with flowers, plants and statuary, a public grouping raising money, and the shrill insinuation at large meetings that XY's were mutilating women and this must stop!" (--Dave Dent). 15 "
102. "All bad outcomes can be traced backwards in time to a series of mistakes and stupid things we did that in summation led to "deep shit". Except being hit by a meteor... that is fate. All else starts with something stupid." (--Paul Zaveruha). 30
103. "It is essential among such groups that elitism, although almost an anachronism in modern times, be raised as an emblem rather than dropped apologetically." (--Seymour Schwartz). 28
104. "Pericardiocentesis: Aptly termed a needle with a clot at each end." 40
105. "Anyone who proposes to do good must not expect people to roll stones out of his way, but must accept his lot calmly if they even roll a few more upon it." (-- Albert Schweitzer, 1875-1965). 31

106. "I have no failure to record, if we exclude the recurrences which I have reported and which could not be ascribed to my method. (--William Stewart Halsted, 1852-1922). 42
107. "The actual manipulative part of surgery requires no very great skill and many an artisans shows infinitely more adeptness in his daily work." (--Frederick Treves, 1853-1923). 62
108. "Never ask the following questions: Would you drain it? Should you drain it? Did you drain it?" (--Leo A. Gordon). 26
109. "Surgery is a performing art. It better be good. The patient takes the repercussions of the act, the nurses watch the actual show and the pathologist writes the criticism." (--PO Nystrom). 36
110. "We surgeons tend to dive into the swamp and look around for alligators while our internist colleagues analyze the swamp water for its osmolarity, acidity, and nutrient contends to see if the water will support life. We are plungers, they are lanners." (--Alden H. Harken). 63
111. "The hardest thing about being a surgeon is knowing when not to do something. Some people don't understand that, but it is the most important thing. The natural tendency is, or course, to do something, to take action. It really comes down to judgment, which most people don't think of as a surgical skill (--Norman Kenyon). 50
112. "The more imperfect the technique of the surgeon the greater the necessity for drainage." (--William Stewart Halsted, 1852-1922). 26
113. "In these days when science is clearly in the saddle and when our knowledge of disease is consequently advancing at a breathless pace, we are apt to forget that not all can ride and that he also serves who waits and who applies what the horseman discovers". (--Harvey Williams Cushing, 1869-1939). 47
114. "A physician is obligated to consider more than a diseased organ, more even than the whole man - he must view the man in his world. (--Harvey Williams Cushing, 1869-1939). 34
115. "Patients die not of pathological anatomy but the physiological consequences of it." (--William Osler, 1849-1919). 66
116. "A poor surgeon hurts one person at a time. A poor teacher hurts 130." (-- Mary J. Wilson ???). 28
117. "When I review my own professional life and its many satisfactions, the greatest are not the surgical operations I have performed, nor the thousands of patients that I have cured, but the successful young surgeons whose instruction and training I have directed" (--George Heuer, 1882-1950). 28
118. "The medical profession can invent tests for breast disease faster than they are found out to be useless." (--Dave Dent). 15
119. "Failure to diagnose breast cancer" is one of the most common reasons for physicians to be sued in US. One must remain suspicious, but still use some common sense. Sometimes you can't do both." (--John Kennedy). 15
120. "Intuition is the fastest way to reach a wrong solution." (--D. van Geldere). 50
121. "Six P's: proper planning and preparation prevents poor performance." 62
122. "Beware of the easy looking gallbladder and the overconfident surgeon." 13
123. "The decision is more important than the incision." 44
124. "Midline is the incision of indecision." 44

125. "Experience can also consist of doing the same wrong thing over and over again." (--D. van Geldere). 32
126. "I think that a man is doing his reporting well only when people start to hate him." (--V.S Naipaul). 31
127. "Curmudgeon is the guy who gets up at M+M, after you describe your brilliant save with an ER thoracotomy for GSW to the heart, and asks why you did not give prophylactic antibiotics." (--Albert I. Alexander). 84
128. "The reversed curmudgeon is the guy who, after a case of total fuckup is presented stands up and asks whether an informed consent was taken or whether the patient was or was not hemophilic...or even better--whether the patient had a Swan Ganz." (--MS). 84
129. "The only thing we ever learn from medical history is that we never learn." (--John B. McKinlay). 43
130. "In science, one never possesses the complete truth. One can only look for what, at a given time, cannot be proved wrong". (--Daniel E Lieberman). 89
131. "Metaanalysis is to analysis as metaphysics to physics." (--H. Harlan Stone). 82
132. "When the doctor is in doubt and the patient in danger, make an exploratory incision and deal with what you find as best as you can". (--Robert Lawson Tait, 1845-1899). 44
133. "Be kind to people on the way up so they will be kind to you when you are on the way down". 59
134. "You have to report your complications truthfully to the point it hurts you." (--Charles Drake, 1920-1998). 89
135. "Even if you like and admire your pathologist as I do mine, you cannot give him your full trust when it comes to pancreatic biopsies." (--Michael Trede). 65
136. "Why vascular surgeons do not like bowel surgery? Because shit does not clot." 91
137. "Ductal adenocarcinoma of the pancreas is an incurable disease." (--Michael Trede). 65
138. "Doctor, ever' year I get hundreds of applications fough internship heuh, but I have a helluva time keepin' nurses. Yuh will try to get along with 'em, wont ya?" (--Alfred Blalock, 1899 - 1964). 57
139. "Shit does not mix with blood." (la mierda y la sangre no ligan)" (-- Rolando Ramos). 46
140. "Laparoscopy has a definitive role in cases where the trauma of incision is greater than that of excision." 51
141. "The good thing about standard of care is that there are so many to choose from." 81
142. "What we do is a serious business; however, we must never take ourselves too seriously." (--C. James Carrico, X- 2002). 84
143. "Of course I love you darling; I'll send you the money by the next mail; I never see fistulas." --(Dick . van Geldere). 20
144. "A true surgeon is like a South Dakota farmer who loses money year after year but when asked why he keeps farming, states "because that's what I am". (--Gail Wadby). 84

145. "The appendix serves and protects the cecum from rupture by too great an accumulation of 'superfluous wind' because it had the ability to dilate and contract." (--Leonardo Da Vinci, 1452-1519). 8
146. "Beware a lumpy area that does not feel right and images as normal." (--Michael Dixon). 15
147. "A typical breast cancer is easy to diagnose --it is the atypical one in a young patient that causes diagnostic problems". (--Michael Dixon). 15
148. "Surgeons in one town knew little or nothing of surgeons elsewhere. A surgeon from Manchester had never visited an operation theatre in Leeds, nor had ever been asked in consultation. As a consequence it was not infrequent to have to listen to disparagement of one surgeon by another; and jealousies, openly expressed, were too often heard." (--Berkeley Moynihan, 1865-1936). 68
149. "We never save anyone's life, for life, itself, is a fatal disease". (--Paul C Bucy, 1904-1992). 23
150. "What is every surgeon's dream? To operate as well as he thinks he does. To earn as much money as everyone else thinks he does. To have as many affairs as his wife thinks he does." 84
151. "Michael Hobsley used to say, before starting a parotidectomy, 'take the clock down, nurse, & put a calendar up'". 62
152. "You recognize a surgeon or an OB-Gyn because he has blood on his shoes, a urologist because he has urine on his, and an anesthetist because on his you see spots of spilled coffee." (--Bernard Cristalli). 63
153. "Don't drive a nicer car than your referral base does." (--Tom Mahany). 70
154. "You can expect as many referrals to be church-based as medically-based. Whether the problem lies in your specialty or not." (--Tom Mahany). 70
155. "By the time one is a President of a Society or Association, all pronouncements are *ex cathedra*. Some past Presidents are exhumed to deliver named lectures, which are then published with quirky titles in major journals, the content of the oration enough to make any thinking surgeon blush to death." (-- David Dent). 52
156. "That's why you call these forms of transportation *donorcycles* in Kentucky, where helmets are optional. Natural selection at work, although since you can get married here at age 13, most people have reproduced before they are pulled out of the gene pool." (--Karen Draper.) 88
157. "Truth is right and science is but a synonym to truth. Efficiency must acknowledge truth. Secrecy is the peculiar disease of efficiency. Publicity is the cure of the disease secrecy." (E.A Codman's --A study in Hospital efficiency (1912). 89
158. "It's not practice that makes perfect. It's perfect practice that makes perfect". (--Vince Lombardi). 62
159. "Avoid Iatrogenesis fulminans." 20
160. "The truth changes only slowly, and often in dubious company." 89
161. "If you do not come up on a google.com search you are a nobody.
162. "It has always been the fate of those who have illustrated the arts and sciences by their discoveries to be beset by envy, malice, hatred, destruction and calumny" (--Leo. Augengruger, 1772-1809). 37
163. "Most "avoidable" surgical mortalities are not caused by one-sentinel --horrendous, clearly evident-- error which cries "I am malpractice". Instead, most

such "avoidable" deaths result from a chain of *allegedly* "minor" hesitations, confusions, ignorance, greed, inattention, overconfidence, arrogance, stupidity-- which together drive the nails into the coffin. Taken together they may whisper: "we are negligence...". (MS) 30

164. "Always pay attention to short surgeons!!!" (--Leo Gordon). 84
165. "The public exposure of surgical ignorance is the true path to the public exposure of surgical brilliance." (--Leo Gordon). 28
166. "You teach yourself surgery and I will teach you how to think as a surgeon." (--Leo Gordon). 28
167. "Human mind like parachute; works best when open." (A Chinese proverb). 51
168. "Those who always do Billroth II never learned how to do a Billroth I." (MS). 83
169. "*Funktionslust* is the desire to perform a technical procedure because we perform it well... it refers to the joy and pride from performing a skill well. The accomplished musician, the skilled athlete, the ballerina, and the skilled surgeon are all justifiably proud of their skills and usually have a love for practicing their art. But *Funktionslust* can also be a curse. It can be a temptation to do a larger procedure, where a smaller simpler procedure would suffice. *Funktionslust* may prevent a surgeon from learning a new technique that appears to be less satisfying in terms of the pure joy of operating. *Funktionslust* may be a factor in a surgeons failure to refer a patient to another specialist: for nonsurgical treatment or for a different surgical procedure." (--Roger S. Forster). 39
170. "The doctor employing expectant treatment has only the satisfaction of knowing that he is doing nothing injurious—a merit...that is today sometimes overlooked." (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 21
171. "It was generally accepted opinion...that drunken doctors were very capable if sober." (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 72
172. "I have never yet been able to understand why undergraduates are exposed to clinics in major surgery...before these operations become important to them a long apprenticeship is, or should be, required. I learned in (medical) school all the little details in the technique of abdominal hysterectomy, but no one thought to tell me not to molest the little boils which sometimes form in the upper lip." (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 28
173. "Doctors when they get sick...howl louder than the common run and are just as much interested in their own private pain, the interest in which completely overshadows their scientific training." (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 64
174. "The country doctor's memory was record of the grieves of the countryside as whole." (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). [Rural Surgery]
175. "The ability of the old doctor was enhanced because he remained at the patient's bedside until his suffering was relieved, even though it required many hours to achieve that end. While so engaged the doctor learned much about the nature of the illness." (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 29
176. "The usual procedure for a doctor when he reached the patient's house was to greet the grandmother and aunts effusively and pat all the kids on the head before approaching the bedside." (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 22
177. "It is generally the ignorant who condemn the doctor. Intelligent people give him credit." (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 53

178. “Prolonged operation...is due to lack of anatomical knowledge, making the operator fearful to do long arm strokes and sharp dissection so indispensable to clean and rapid operating.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 80
179. “The poky operators sometimes excuse themselves on the grounds of thoroughness.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 62
180. “A few couples of years spent in the dissection room will save time in the later years by increasing operating speed.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 80
181. “For some strange reason the general opinion among doctors is that if one writes a book he must have superior knowledge of the subject. Since no one troubles to read the book the delusion is not discovered.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 94
182. “The only one benefited by the writing of books is the one who writes them...but the financial compensation in medical writing is a negligible quantity.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 94
183. “Surgeons of old experience...consciously or subconsciously long for the day when they shall do their last operation.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 59
184. “The master surgeon declares his class, not only by his operating expertness but by his understanding of the entire situation.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 37
185. “The old surgeon...knows that the mortality published as two percent, at best, is such only in the hands of the most experienced operators, and finally most likely the statistics are wrong.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 59
186. “When anyone essays to publish statistics it impresses me in the same way as when someone starts to relate a fishing experience. One must admit that the truth is theoretically possible.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 82
187. “If I ever deliberately commit murder I shall select an inattentive and awkward assistant as my victim. I select one who has assisted enough to delude himself into thinking he could himself do the work better than the surgeon who is operating. This usually reaches the high point at about the third week of the intern’s experiences.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 12
188. “The chief activity of an incompetent assistant is to try and do the operation.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 12
189. “There are no better assistants than nurses. Their only thought is to assist the surgeon. This implies, of course, that there were no young doctors about.” (--Arthur E. Hertzler, 1870-1946). 12
190. “Pathologists are always right, just one day too late!” (--Miles J. Jones.) 66
191. “For surgeons an old man is somebody ten years older than you.” (--Avi Roy Shapira). 59
192. “There is no way a patient is going to eat a hole in the anastomosis.” (--PO Nystrom). 34
193. “If an operation is difficult, you are not doing it properly.” (Robert E. Gross--1905-1988). 62
194. ““With proper *Kocherization* you can bring the duodenum through the mouth--and by dividing the lesser omentum and the gastrocolic omentum you can bring the stomach out the ass. Thus--if you want you can do a Billroth I between your stomach and my duodenum without tension—so why do a Billroth II?” (--MS) 83
195. “On American nutrition: ‘Even what they eat and drink, these palefaces who don’t know what wine is, these vitamin-eaters who drink cold tea and chew cotton-wool

- and don't know what bread is, this Coca-Cola people...their pink sausage skin, horrible, they only live because there is penicillin... their fake health, their fake youthfulness.” (-- Max Frisch, 1911–1991). 33
196. “The surgeon cannot intelligently operate on organs of double function without a full knowledge of their internal and their external secretions, for here may lie the cause of the failure of a mechanically well excited operation to cure the patient.” (-- William J. Mayo, 1861-1939). 65
197. “If the gynecologist says it is not adnexal it is *always* adnexal.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 63
198. “A surgical office referral *never* generates a surgical case.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 70
199. “Any case presented as: ‘See the patient when you can at your convenience’ is a four-plus-flat-out surgical emergency with a mortality rate of 98% and should be seen immediately.” (--Leo A. Gordon) 22
200. “Never study an improving situation.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 11
201. “Those patients seen on rounds do not need to be seen on rounds. Those patients missed on rounds have manifestations of an early surgical complication that could be detected on rounds.” (--Leo A. Gordon) 20
202. “Never allow a patient (un attended) near an interventional radiologist on a Friday afternoon, at night or during a weekend.” (--Leo A. Gordon) 11
203. “Last year study, reportedly ‘normal’ is *always* abnormal.” (--Leo A. Gordon) 11
204. “What is the advantage of a man over a woman ? He will never need to be operated by a gynecologist !” (--Victor Bruscin) 63
205. “Surgery is the last of the true blood sports.” (-- Wilson Carswell). 36
206. “As to *schadenfreude*--the thrill of avoiding a complication that has befallen a colleague insures that your patient will experience the same complication within two weeks.” (--Leo A. Gordon) 20
207. “Never begin a sentence with either ‘in my experience...’ or ‘that’s a research interest of mine....’.” (--Leo A. Gordon) 52
208. “The likelihood that a surgical case will remain in your office is inversely proportional to the amount office energy expended in arranging that case.” (--Leo A. Gordon) 70
209. “Never assume that there is payback for time spent. Lengthy discussion of intraductal carcinoma, lobular carcinoma in situ and other controversial areas result in the proper surgical procedure scheduled and performed expertly...by someone else!” .” (--Leo A. Gordon) 15
210. “The operation is over when the patient is eating a cheeseburger and can’t remember your name.” (--Leo A. Gordon) 69
211. “When I was younger, I always told the residents that the first sign of senility in a surgeon is when he demonstrates an interest in surgical history.” (--Leo A. Gordon) 43
212. “The patient will always be given a drug to which he is allergic (but) the administration of that drug will have no effect.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 27
213. “Surgery is both an art and science. The science is pretty straightforward. The art influences the discipline in many ways, some which border on the mystical.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 9

214. “Do not create pathology in an attempt to define pathology.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 66
215. ““Leave your attitude outside the operating theatre.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 61
216. “The emergency room is the best place to evaluate an emergency.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 11
217. “The entire gastrointestinal system to vascular surgeons is an incidental finding on the way to the aorta!” (--Leo A. Gordon). 91
218. “Never refuse 7.30 operating time.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 61
219. “The attending surgeon is always right. Residents who follow this rule are assured of excellent resident evaluations, glowing letters of recommendations and perhaps a future partnership position.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 12
220. “The quality of the X ray ordered is directly proportional to the specificity of the clinical information supplied to the radiologist.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 11
221. “There is no law that says that a colostomy must be closed.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 19
222. “If you think about a colostomy, you should *do* a colostomy.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 19
223. “Current chiefs of surgery are C.E.O.’s not Chief Educational Officers.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 68
224. “Never refer to an operation as “just a...”. It reflects lack of appreciation for surgical pathology. For any procedure in surgery van result is horrible complications. The vagaries of human biology assure this.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 36
225. “The surgical resident teaches himself surgery. His attendings and the hospital in which he is educated teach him how to think like a surgeon.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 12
226. “Never refer to a patient as an organ or as an operation.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 67
227. “The first rule for the operating room visitor is: get permission from the operating surgeon before speaking.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 61
228. “Fun is a concept rapidly disappearing from clinical medicine today. All of our many detractors do their best to eliminate fun from our profession.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 70
229. “Resident involvement in an operation is earned. It must be clarified and delineated *before* the procedure begins.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 12
230. “Don’t let cost-containment become care-containment.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 55
231. “A rigid proctoscope made in 1935, when properly used to detort a sigmoid volvulus, can do more than any GU fellow with a \$ 500 model x-6700 three chip video laser-CD-ROM triply enhanced surround-sound colonoscope.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 18
232. “Never answer an unattended ringing medical center telephone.” 36
233. “Use humor with patients and families judiciously—you must stop all attempts at humor after the first blank look.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 22
234. “For the patients the last doctor is always the smartest doctor.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 67
235. “When common sense interferes with a protocol, follow common sense.” (--Leo A. Gordon). 50
236. “When technology is the Master, the result is Disaster.” 47

237. "Intra-operative cholangiogram is a religion—not science." (--Nathaniel J. Soper). 13
238. "A surgeon reaches maturity only when he stops taking himself too seriously. Some never reach this phase." 84
239. "Surgeons make the worst patients. Of course the opposite may also be true." (--Karim Brohi). 84
240. "Rather let the patient die in peace, than in pieces" (--Dr. Frascani). 23
241. His pre-op thyroid surgery counseling included: "Madam, this operation will make you hoarse and cough like a cow". (--Dr. Frascani). 86
242. "Constant attention by a good nurse may be just as important as a major operation by a surgeon." (--Dag Hammarskjold, 1905- 1961). 57
243. "Every effect has a cause; Euclid stated this long ago. Spontaneous and idiopathic are medical code words for "don't know". (--Dave Dent). 36
244. "White wine causes pancreatitis. Red wine, cirrhosis". (--Maurice Mercadier, 1917-2002). 65
245. "In peritonitis, operating on a poorly resuscitated patient is like throwing both ends of the rope at a drowning man." 46
246. "Surgery is the best of the medical sciences; less liable than any other to the fallacy of conjectural or inferential practice; perpetual in its applicability; the worthy produce of heaven and the certain source of fame." (--Dhanwantaree ~ 600 BC). 36
247. "Nothing stands out so conspicuously, or remains so firmly fixed in our memory, as something in which we have blundered." (--Cicero, 105-43 BC) 20
248. "There are no difficult operations, only fat people". (-- Stephen Clifforth). 67
249. "After proximal gastrectomy with esophagogastric anastomosis *the reflux is such that* the patients lean over to kiss their wives, with green bile running down the corners of their mouth, like blood does from Dracula's." (-- Dave Dent). 83
250. "A living problem is better than dead certainty." 24
251. "We are only at the foothills of understanding cancer, and the biological mountain still lies in the clouds ahead. (--David Dent.). 16
252. "Ortho surgeons usually think that the hearts job is to pump antibiotics to their joint replacement." (--Mark Hamilton ). 63
253. "I wasn't God by a long shot, but as far as power was concerned, I was closer to Him than anyone else at hand." (--William A. Nolen ). 84
254. "There is no time to think. There is only time to do or let die." (--William D. Haggard, 1872-1940). 80
255. "You cannot operate on a differential diagnosis." (--Claude organ, Jr. 1926-2005). 24
256. "The definition of an anesthesiologist by surgeons: a half-asleep doctor who is taking care of a half-awake patient! The definition of surgeons by anesthesiologists: some one trying to disturb the sleep of the patient." (Ahmad Assalia). 6
257. "The common perception is that mortalities after an operation in a rural hospital are *because* 'of the inexperienced surgeon or poor care' while if the patient dies in the Ivory Tower then he dies *despite* 'the best efforts of the excellent doctors in the great hospital'."

258. "The proportion of perforated appendicitis is not a good measure of quality. The proportion of perforations may increase because you operate on fewer patients with non-perforated appendicitis. A high proportion of perforations may in fact be a good thing because it means you operate only on those patients who need surgical treatment." (--Roland Andersson). 8
259. "Don't let the bastards get you down" (--Jerrald Shaftan). 68
260. "A surgeon should never be satisfied with himself nor with the others as far as asepsis is concerned" (--Robert Danis, 1880-1962). 46
261. "As a surgeon I am no longer afraid of my failures for success is nothing but failure turned inside out." (--Samir Johna). 38
262. "A barber surgeon...is a man who is sufficiently dexterous to wield the razor when he cuts beard or open an abscess. A person who is skilful with his hands, no more. A performer. As soon as the act extends to the inner organs...instructions and control can come only from the physicians." (--William Harvey, 1578 - 1657). 84
263. "A surgeon is sometimes right, sometimes wrong, but never uncertain". 84
264. "It is the surgeon himself who must take the final decision, and in making it he necessarily stands apart from his colleagues in a kind of loneliness." (--Ian Aird, 1905-1962). 50
265. "A young surgeon should keep his affections in cold storage." (--Ian Aird, 1905-1962) 59
266. "Surgeons in general don't like theoretical or psychological problems. Things are either black or white. If they don't understand something, they try to put it out of their mind." (--Charles Bosk). 84
267. "The surgeon like the poet is born such." (John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931). 84
268. "In the overwhelming majority of instances a therapeutic decision was arrived at in direct relation to what happened in the last similar case the doctor was familiar with." (--Lucien L Israel). 50
269. "Sepsis is a slight upon surgical virility." (--John Alexander-Williams). 46
270. "It is remarkable that during the four or five years, when as an operator, I wore them (gloves) occasionally, we could have been so blind as not to have perceived the necessity for wearing them invariably at the operating table." (--William Stewart Halsted, 1852-1922). 61
271. "[There is] "a tendency always to attribute fatalities...to sins of omissions, whereas the many evil results of the sins of commission are given much less considerations." (--JL Yates, ~ 1905). 30
272. "A great surgeon cannot be recognized by the public. They have no way of judging between a good doctors and a quack or between a real surgeon and a mere pretender." (--Augustus Charles Bernays, 1854-1907). 37
273. "Curmudgeon is also the guy who sees a video of a phenomenal new procedure in a conference and the moment the speaker completes his bit-- expecting thunderous applause for his great act-- he collars the mike and says, LOUDLY: " This... is grossly unethical! WHY did you show the patient's name in the slide?" (--B. Ramana). 84
274. "In order to have a constant stream of referrals, the surgeon must please the referring physicians. Sometimes this is best accomplished by doing what those physicians approve or want done. When these desires run contrary to the best

- judgment of the surgeon, conflicts of interest again appear. If the surgeon does what he thinks his colleagues expect, he may not be doing what he believes is in the best interests of his patients.” (--George Crile, Jr, 1907–1987). 31
275. “No physician, sleepless and worried about a patient, can return to the hospital in the midnight hours without feeling the importance of his faith. The dim corridor is silent; the doors are closed. At the end of the corridor in the glow of the desk lamp, the nurse watches over those who sleep or lie lonely and wait behind closed doors. No physician entering the hospital in these quiet hours can help feeling that the medical institution of which he is part is in essence religious, that it is built on trust. No physician can fail to be proud that he is part of his patient's faith.” (--George Crile, Jr. 1907–1987). 29
276. ““Economic considerations sometimes motivate the physicians to accept that part of the scientific evidence that best supports the method that gives him the most money.” (--George Crile, Jr. 1907–1987). 55
277. Training, practice, and economic pressures can push the surgeons’ thinking in the direction of more frequent, more radical, and more remunerative surgery. It is not that surgeon consciously decides to do an operation for economic reasons. The decision is more subtle, and is based on training and on habits of practice which through the years have been influenced by economic pressures, always in the same direction. If there is a question between operating or not operating, it is economically sound to operate. If it is a question of a big operation or a little one, it is better economically to do the big one. If it is a question of surgery versus radiation, it is surgery that gives the advantage to the surgeon. Finally, if it is a question of doing the operation oneself or referring the patient to a better-qualified specialist, it is obvious that there is little profit to be derived from referral.” (--George Crile, Jr. 1907–1987). 55
278. “The patient undergoing an operation is peculiarly vulnerable to infection. It is desirable, therefore, that the theater suite should be physically separated from the rest of the hospital. (--Sir John Loewenthal, 1914–1979). 61
279. “The rituals of an operation commences before, sometimes long before, the incision is made, and may continue for a long period after the wound is healed.” (--Berkeley Moynihan, 1865-1936) 62
280. “It may well be counted among the joys of the surgeon to train worthy successors in the work he loves so well.” (--John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931). 28
281. “To err is human. To forgive is against departmental policy.” 30
282. “Instructors can take a point and explain it. Assistant professors can take a point and turn it into a lecture. Associate professors can take a point and turn it into a course. Professors can take a ppoint and turn it into a career. Deans have forgotten the point. “ (--Lee Reichman). 2
283. “A crucial academic rule: Do unto others as they would do unto you; only do it first.” 2
284. “Anatomy is something everyone has, but it looks better on a girl.” (--Bruce Raeburn). 5
285. “An epidural is a needle you put in a woman’s back that makes her numb from the waist down...for years.” (--Chip Franklin). 6

286. "If a patient has right lower quadrant pain and no appendectomy scar, put one there." (--Rip Pfeiffer). 8
287. "It is not true that the appendix is worthless—it has put thousands of surgeons in expensive cars. " 8
288. "Humans can survive easily without an appendix, but surgeons can do so only with difficulty." (--Rudolph Virchow, 1821-1902). 8
289. "The art of medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease." (--François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire, 1694-1778). 9
290. "One aspirin a day keeps the vascular surgeon away."91
291. "Beware of patients who call you "Doc." They rarely pay their bills." (--William Osler, 1849-1919). 55
292. To residents during the operation:" My grandmother can operate better than you.....and she's DEAD. Or, "I prayed to God for help with this operation.....and He sent me YOU!" Or, "We started out with a beautiful operation, and you've turned it into THIS!" Or, "These are dark days in Surgery" (--Bill Wall). 12
293. To a resident: "I'd hate to think that when I was at your stage, I was this slow". Angus B. McLachlin, 1908-1987). 12
294. "The small town needs the best and not the worst doctor procurable. For the country doctor has only himself to rely on: he cannot in every pinch hail specialist, expert, and nurse. On his own skill, knowledge, resourcefulness, the welfare of his patient altogether depends. The rural district is therefore entitled to the best-trained physician that can be induced to go there." (Abraham Flexner, 1866-1959). Rural surgery section.
295. "When in doubt, you take it out, and if you can't wait, you operate" (Ernie Palanca). 36
296. "Bariatric surgeons should inhabit a special place in Hell, where they are condemned to repair the hernias they have created." (--Angus Mciver). Bariatrics
297. "McDonald's "breakfast for under a dollar" actually costs much more than that. You have to factor in the cost of coronary bypass surgery." (--George Carlin). 91
298. "No matter what you do, the number of complications will be double if a patient or his spouse is either a physician or a nurse." 20
299. "One can survive anything nowadays except death." (--Oscar Wilde, 1854-1900). 23
300. "The diaphragm is a muscular partition that separates disorders of the chest from disorders of the bowels". (Ambrose Bierce, 1842-1914). 5
301. "The doctor is a person who still has his adenoid, tonsils, and appendix." (--Lawrence J. Peter). 90
302. "If you arrive in the ER and don't know what to do, start putting in tubes until somebody arrives who knows. "(--Rip Pfeiffer). 88
303. "Surgeons believe that anything with fiber optics on one end should have a surgeon on the other. "(--Edward Thompson). 63
304. "Never scope tomorrow what you can scope today." 90
305. "Experience is what you rely on when you haven't read anything for a while." (--Howard Bennett). 32
306. "The primary goal of all generalists is to save patients from specialists." 79

307. "Going to a male gynecologist is like going to an auto mechanic who never owned a car." (--Carrie Snow). 63
308. "Principles of intensive care: air goes in and out; blood goes 'round' and 'round'; oxygen is good." (--Robert Matz). 78
309. "Loeb's Laws of Medicine: If what you're doing is working, keep doing it; if what you're doing is not working, stop doing it; if you don't know what to do, don't do anything; above all, never let a surgeon get your patient." (--Leo Loeb, 1869-1959). 63
310. The low of discharge: any labs done on the day of discharge will be abnormal." 69
311. [When undergoing surgery] "console yourself with the reflection that you are giving the doctor pleasure and that he is getting paid for it." (--Mark Twain, 1835-1910). 67
312. "Getting a second opinion is like switching slot machines." (--Jimmy Townsend). 79
313. "A specialist must always appear to be fond of the general practitioner in the same way a good citizen is fond of his dog or the Mountie is fond of his horse. (--Ian Rose, ~ 1960). 79
314. "The number of supplies and instruments a surgeon says he'll need is inversely related to the amount he will ultimately require." (--Patty Swenson.) 61
315. "I believe that peptic ulcer is undoubtedly developed by a combination of local chemical effects, possibly causing prolonged vessel spasm or claudication, a counterpart of Raynaud's disease or scleroderma, or by direct interference with the circulation through infraction by emboli of bacteria, chemically and mechanically active in the tissues and thereby lowering the local resistance to the action of digestive fluids." (-Charles H. Mayo, 1861-1939). 83
316. "As to the type of operation (for perforated peptic ulcer), much depends of the state of the patient and upon the experience of the surgeon. The occasional operator may have to contend himself with simple suture of the perforation, but the more experienced surgeon, will, if he is wise, add a gastro-enterostomy and thus insure better results; while the specialist in abdominal surgery may even venture resection or pyloroplasty...". (--John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931.) 83
317. (In perforated peptic ulcers) "It must be remembered that the exudate in the early cases is sterile or nearly so, and the peritoneal reaction is a response to chemical irritation by the gastric and duodenal contents rather than the result of bacterial invasion." (--John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931.) 83
318. "Every surgeon should himself supervise the postoperative treatment." (--John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931.) 69
319. "After the operation the first and most important considerations are: to control pain; to provide for the proper amount of sleep and to guard against complications." (--John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931.) 69
320. "The complication most to be feared is pneumonia; this can often be avoided, if I may put it this way, by giving atropine...and placing the patient on an open porch where he can have the benefit of plenty of fresh air. I have not found the administration of oxygen in these circumstances of much service; indeed, it is apt to

- be harmful, as it often is annoying to the patient and interferes with sleep.” (--John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931). 20
321. “In looking back upon his early career it is difficult for a surgeon to say whether his trials overshadow his triumphs or vice versa.” (--John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931). 38
322. “If the surgeon has risen to the place of social and professional equality with the so-called internists, it is because he has ceased to be a mere mechanic.” (--John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931). 84
323. “In the craft of surgery the masterword is simplicity.” (--Berkeley Moynihan, 1865-1936). 36
324. “Purgation means perforation; in an appendix kinked and bad; food and drink worry him; and aperients drive him mad.”(-- John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931). 8
325. “When it had been shown by the researchers of Pasteur that the specific property of the atmosphere depends on minute organisms, it occurred to me that decomposition in an injured part might be avoided by applying as a dressing some material capable of destroying the life of the floating particles.”(--Joseph Lister, 1827-1912). 46
326. “Complacency and smug satisfaction are danger signals of decadence, just as wholesome discontent and healthy introspection and self criticism are indications of the will and desire for improvement.” (-- John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931). 34
327. “We also know that a diseased appendix may express itself through some other mouth-piece and become confused with organic disease of the stomach or the duodenum or the intestines. By reflex action it may cause spastic contractions of the pylorus, pylorospasm, giving rise to symptoms purely gastric in character; or it may affect the secretion and cause the so called secretory neuroses...”. (-- John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931). 8
328. “I have sometimes been misled to open the abdomen in the presence of predominantly gastric symptoms, only to find the pyloric sphincter to be the seat of spasm of toxic or reflex appendiceal irritation, as evidenced by the complete relief of symptoms following appendectomy.” (-- John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931). 8
329. “Only by standing at the elbow of the surgeon, let me repeat, can the internist hope to attain proficiency in diagnosis and proper...treatment..”. (-- John Blair Deaver, 1855-1931). 63
330. “Hernia repairs are like sex...you have to do what works best for you, with the minimum of complaints afterwards.” (--Angus Maciver). 42
331. “I must repeat again that operative surgery is learnt by assisting. Close attention to a technical master, while assisting him, makes the master’s technique a second nature, and the real teacher of operative surgery, by having his assistant occasionally complete one stage of an operation, sometimes another, will give the pupil adequate confidence in his own power and a feeling of competence greater than that of the man who is too early left on his own.” (--Ian Aird, 1905-1962). 12
332. “There are really three great training systems in surgery, the British, the American and the Continental European. Each of these has its advantages and, each two of the three would admit of the third, its disadvantageous. It is remarkable that, differing as they do, all three systems manage to produce the same kind of elite and the same kind of honest-to-God workaday surgeons.” (-- Ian Aird, 1905-1962). 48

333. A Cowboy's Guide to Life: "If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin". (--Thomas Bätzler). 62
334. A Cowboy's Guide to Life : "If it don't seem like it's worth the effort, it probably ain't". (--Thomas Bätzler). 62
335. A Cowboy's Guide to Life:"If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around." (--Thomas Bätzler). 68
336. A Cowboy's Guide to Life: "Never miss a good chance to shut up." (--Thomas Bätzler). 68
337. A Cowboy's Guide to Life: "Always drink upstream from the herd." (--Thomas Bätzler). 37
338. A Cowboy's Guide to Life: "The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you shave his face in the mirror every morning." (--Thomas Bätzler). 68
339. A Cowboy's Guide to Life: "If it don't seem like it's worth the effort, it probably ain't." (--Thomas Bätzler). 62
340. "No iron can stab the heart with such force as a period put just at the right place. (--Isaac Babel, 1894-1941). 94
341. "An assistant who cannot see the problem can rarely help with the solution." (--Rick Paul). 12
342. "A poor assistant is better than a talented opponent." (--Rick Paul). 12
343. "Tie a suture like you embrace the one you love: firmly but tenderly." (--Rick Paul). 62
344. "Pulling at the pulmonary artery causes tears... and TEARS." (--Rick Paul). 91
345. "Know what you will do in the event you don't know what to do." (--Rick Paul). 50
346. Definition of a heavy trauma: Somebody who arrives at the hospital in more than one ambulance." (-- John Edwards). 88
347. The rule of "2": When you hear a surgeon telling his number of performed cases, divide it by two. When he tells about his complication-rate, multiply it by two. (--Rick Paul). 20
348. "Big mistakes are made through small holes." (--Rick Paul). 62
349. On esophageal perforations:" When it [occurs] it can be recognized but it cannot be remedied by the medical profession." (--Herman Boerhaave, 1668-1738). 83
350. "If thou examinest a man having a gaping wound piercing through to his gullet; if he drinks water he chokes (and) it come out of the mouth of his wound; it is greatly inflamed, so that he develops fever from it ; thou shouldst draw together that wound with stitching. Thou shouldst bind it with fresh meat the first day. Thou shouldst treat it afterward with grease, honey, (and) lint every day, until he recovers. If , however , thou findst him continuing to have fever from that wound thou shouldst apply for him dry lint in the mouth of his wound, (and) moor (him) at his mooring stakes until he recovers." (--Edwin Smith Papyrus", written in Egypt, ~3000 years ago.) 93
351. "That you call something a drain does not guarantee that it actually drains." (--Rick Paul). 26
352. "The operating room is the surgeon's laboratory". (--William Stewart Halsted, 1852-1922). 61

353. "Bleeding in the belly is like fire on a ship - you run towards it." (--Jeffery Young). 14
354. ""The profession of medicine and surgery, must always rank as the most noble that men can adopt. The spectacle of a doctor in action among soldiers, in equal danger and with equal courage, saving life where all others are taking it, is one which must always seem glorious, whether to God or man." (--Winston S. Churchill, 1874-1965). 38
355. "The young surgeon who learns the basic precepts of asepsis, hemostasis, adequate exposure and gentleness to tissue has mastered his most difficult lessons." (--Robert M. Zollinger, 1903-1992). 28
356. "In the Operating Room we can save more lives, cure more cancers, restore more function, and relieve more suffering than anywhere else in the hospital." (--R. Scott Jones). 61
357. "When the guts are wounded, the whole body is griped and pined, the excrements come out at the wound, whereat often times the guts breaks forth with great violence." (--Ambroise Pare,1510-1590.) 88
358. "When medicine Docs try to talk you into doing high risk surgery always be wary of the courage of the noncombatant." (- Matt Wahl). 63
359. "SHOCK: "The manifestation of the rude unhinging of the machinery of life." (-- Samuel Gross, 1805-1884). 88
360. "A work on surgery.....without principles, may be compared to a vessel at sea without helm or rudder to guide it to its place of destination." (-- Samuel Gross, 1805-1884). 36
361. "It seems hardly credible that the loss of bodies so tiny as the parathyroids should be followed by a result so disastrous."(--William Stewart Halsted, 1852-1922). 86
362. "Staplers are not a quick road to surgery for the untrained and will not turn a neophyte into a virtuoso." (--M. Mark M. Ravitch, 1910-1989). 62
363. "Surgery is the red flower that blooms among the leaves that are the rest of medicine" (--Richard Selzer). 63
364. On writing: "I don't dawdle. I'm a surgeon. I make an incision, do what needs to be done and sew up the wound. There is a beginning, a middle and an end." (--Richard Selzer). 94
365. "The Wright brother's first flight was shorter than a Boeing 747's wing span. We've just begun with heart transplants."(-. C. Walton Lillehei). 40
366. "It is infinitely better to transplant a heart than to bury it to be devoured by worms." (--Christian Barnard. 1922-2001). 40
367. About first human heart transplant: "It was a natural progression of open heart surgery. We did not think it was a great event and there was no special feeling. I was happy when I saw the heart beating again. We did not stand up or cheer or something like that. I didn't even inform the hospital authorities that I was going to do the operation." (--Christian Barnard. 1922-2001). 40
368. "All instruments ought to be well suited for the purpose in hand as regards their size, weight, and delicacy."(- Hippocrates, 460-370, B.C). 62
369. "Truth, like surgery, may hurt, but it cures."(-Han Suyin). 89
370. "Judgment is not the act of making a snap decision, Judgment is like playing chess....You need to think three or four moves ahead." 50

371. "...it is difficult for a specialist to see beyond his own field, and easy for him to believe that his own particular services are required."(-Joseph A. Jerger). 79
372. "Though shock may be temporarily alleviated by transfusion, it cannot be arrested or overcome; resuscitation divorced from surgery is folly." (-William Heneage Ogilvie, 1887-1971). 88
373. "Shock..."momentary pause in the act of death." (--John Collins Warren, 1778–1856). 88
374. "I pledge to be always myself and never pretend to be what I am not or do what I cannot; I pledge never to play God, and never to be generous with other people's money; I pledge never to indulge in the delusion that, as a physician, I have stronger will and lesser needs than 'normal' people, for I will be able to understand and help the sick and the weak only if I accept my own sickness and weakness; and if I breach this pledge, may I become a great and famous doctor". (--Antonio E M Attanasio). 31
375. "War surgery can be very grim in the hands of untrained surgeon." (--Ira A Ferguson, 1896-1970). 88
376. "In ancient Greece they believed in *hubris* and *nemesis*. These concepts seem to resonate with surgery. If you are arrogant or boastful [hubris] about your surgery, the next case that you operate upon will go horribly wrong [nemesis]." (--David Dent) 84
377. "First it was the abolition of acid reductive operations for peptic ulcers, then it was not operating on diverticular disease, then not operating on nobbly goitres, but investigating them, and now its this stenting outrage. Our surgical parents had to put up with the abolition of the superior mesenteric artery syndrome, and colectomy for constipation in low spirited ladies, and sympathectomy for just about every form of vascular disease, and phrenic nerve crush for asthma. There is a sustained assault on the livelihood of surgeons, but happily they can invent operations faster than they are found out to be useless. Laparoscopy is re-finding old operations and is working on new ones by some form of laparoscopic hitching, stapling or removing - for bloating, queasiness, gluttony, or general lowness of spirit. (--David Dent) 47
378. "Ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". 20
379. "Scut...forgive me for this; I HATE this word. Ward work is patient care. It's the work of angels and saints. It is a privilege to do. It's fun. It is necessary to the care of patients. If you call this patient care scut, you (and your protégés) won't do it. If you call an admission a hit, you won't take care of them. Your language defines your feelings. Your feelings determine what you have energy for. I get energy from getting a patient a cup of coffee, drawing their blood well, and closing their skin in a nice manner.....as much energy as I get from transplanting their hearts and lungs, and bypassing their vessels. I can't do what I don't have energy for."(-Curt Tribble). 12
380. "The New England Journal of Medicine Reports that 9 out of 10 doctors agree that 1 out of 10 doctors in an idiot."( - Jay Leno). 68
381. "L'amputation chirurgicale d'un membre est l'oeuvre la plus philosophique de toutes les sciences humaines": "Surgical amputation of a limb is the most philosophical work of all human sciences" (- Pierre Dufouart, 1737-1813). 4

382. "On controversies in surgery:"1. Everything is controversial in surgery, always was, always will be. 2. Even if something stops to be controversial there will be always some stupid muzik who will claim it is controversial. 3. What was controversial before, and is not controversial anymore, will become controversial again very soon. 4. Any list of surgical controversies from the 1950's can form a basis of a current discussion: we know more and controversies remain. 5. Increasing knowledge fuels new controversies. 6. The more medical options we have, the more advanced are in technology, the more are the controversies." (XXXX)
383. "Outcome of surgery depends on: 96% preparation, 1% execution ( i.e. the doing of it), 1% repetition, 1% clean-up ( for our Nursing Sisters), 1% LUCK." (--Tom Gilas) 36
384. "IMHO dissection with the hook is like eating soup with a fork." (-- Pieter Prinsloo). 62
385. "The individual on whom we operate is more than a physiological mechanism. He thinks, he fears, his body trembles if he lacks the comfort of a sympathetic face. For him nothing will replace the salutary contact with his surgeon, the exchange of looks, the feeling that the doctor has taken charge, with the certainty, at least apparent, of winning." (--Rene Leriche, 1879-1955). 29
386. "General advice in treating patients: don't scratch where it doesn't itch." (--Rick Paul). 36
387. "He showed interest in trifles, joked...and chatted carelessly, as a famous surgeon confident that he knows his job will often chat while he tucks up his sleeves and puts on his apron, and the patient is being strapped to the operating table. "I have the whole business at my finger-tips, and it's all clear and definite in my head, When the time comes to set to work I shall do it as no one else could, but now I can jest, and the more I jest and the cooler I am the more hopeful and reassured you ought to feel, and the more you may wonder at my genius." (--Lev Tolstoy, 1828-1910). 84
388. "When he came to himself the splintered portions of his thigh bone had been extracted, the torn flesh cut away and the wound bandaged. Water was being sprinkled on his face. As soon as Prince Andrei opened his eyes the doctor bent down, kissed him on the lips with not a word and hurried away." (--Lev Tolstoy, 1828-1910). 88
389. "And middle-of-night aneurysms never failed to leave his nerves jangling like a steel on speed. As a young man he could cat-nap on a washing line, yet be instantly awake when necessary, but now at fifty-eight, his old bones took longer to settle and even longer to spring into action." (--Mike Albany) 59
390. "It just wasn't exciting anymore. At sometime over all those years, surgery had become a production-line treadmill: hernias, gallbladders, colons, veins, stomachs, breasts...when did it happen?" (--Mike Albany) 59
391. "Then there were the on-calls, like tonight. Thirty years ago it was every other night and his body could cope with it easily; now it was only once a week ad every fifth weekend, but the constant stone-in-the-shoe feeling is waiting for the phone to ring always left him drained." (--Mike Albany) 59
392. "Here lies Sir Archibald Arbuthnot Slagg-Heepe FRCS-- seldom correct, but never in doubt." 50

393. “Even an in-growing toenail operation has a hundred percent mortality—eventually.” 23
394. “Acute, adj: Something that occurs without warning. As in the pain one gets when approached by a drug rep at the end of a busy day.” (--Howard Bennett). 27
395. “When physicians talk about the “art of medicine” they usually mean healing. Coping with uncertainty, or calculating their deferral income taxes.” (--Frederick L. Brancati). 9
396. “A CT scan a day keeps the lawyers away.” (--Howard Bennett) 53
397. “”Never turn down a hospital committee appointment and once appointed, never go.” (--Owen H. Wangenstein, 1898-1981) 68
398. “Pray to God but be sure to choose a good surgeon.” 84
399. “Every neurotic patient ultimately dies of organic disease.” 23
400. “The most important thing to remember about rare diseases is that they are rare.” 24

# More to come...