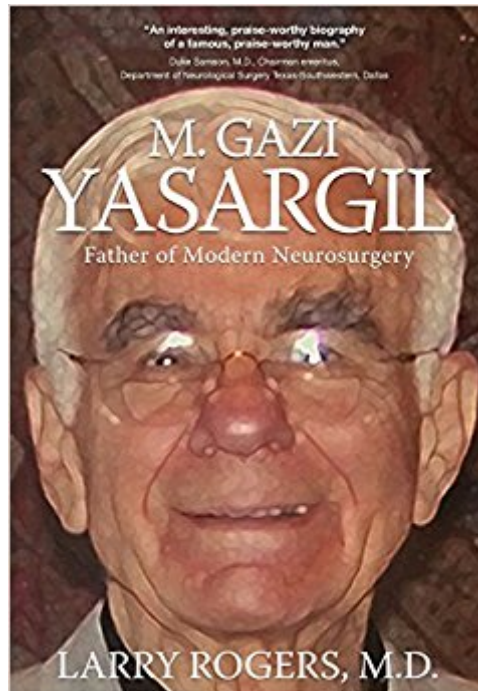




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Yasargil: : Father Of Modern Neurosurgery



Synopsis

M. Gazi Yasargil: Father of Modern Neurosurgery is an account of a famous man's unusual and inspiring life, particularly as a youth and young man, which is described in the first 138 pages of the book. Later, as a neurosurgeon he found a means of reducing the mortality rates associated with the deadliest of brain pathologies from thirty percent in the mid-1960s to less than two percent. It required not only a vastly redesigned microscope, but an array of new surgical instruments, even a new way of thinking. 1967 witnessed neurosurgeons flocking to Zurich from around the world to learn his method. Yasargil possessed a truly amazing surgical talent, but his brand of microneurosurgery allowed even the lesser skilled to achieve stunning results if the requisite laboratory-hours to master the method were observed. Yasargil's life and times were as dramatic and challenging as microneurosurgery was important. He was born in a cave in rural east Turkey as his parents were held at gunpoint by outlaws determined to challenge the new government in Ankara. At eighteen, with his family's hearts in their throats, he was off to Vienna to study medicine. But when Nazi police suspected him of being a Jew, he was not allowed to register for classes. But instead of returning to Turkey defeated, he chose to push into Germany where he bargained enrollment as a first year medical student. From 1943 to 1945 he was harassed by Hitler's police as a potential spy. Headstrong, confident-he typically made matters worse. The bombs killing some of his classmates were dropped from British and American aircraft. Since this story contains as much history and adventure as medical triumph, a brief glossary of medical terms make it accessible to anyone reading at the high school level.

Book Information

Hardcover: 546 pages

Publisher: Koehler Books (August 22, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 163393182X

ISBN-13: 978-1633931824

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,539,921 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #330 in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Surgery > Neurosurgery #2052 in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Internal Medicine > Neurology > Neuroscience #2881 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals

Customer Reviews

One doesn't have to be a neurosurgeon or any kind of surgeon or even a physician to enjoy this wonderful biography of M. Gazi Yasargil. The author, Larry Rogers, M.D., a notable neurosurgeon himself, portrays "the father of modern neurosurgery" clearly and honestly, showing the flaws along with the attributes of this genius and ingenious pioneer of modern neurosurgery. If you have ever had a surgical procedure involving neurosurgical equipment and techniques, now you know who to thank. But the book is more than a biography, it is also an insightful history. It is a history of Turkey (Yasargil was born in a cave in Turkey) just as it was emerging from its Ottoman Empire past into the modern world. It is history of Germany in the last two years of Nazi rule (Yasargil was a medical student there and survived allied bombing raids). And, of course, it is Yasargil's history of his surgical residence and as a neurosurgeon and influential innovator in Switzerland (along with visiting-surgeon appointments to operate and teach all over the world), and that of the men and women who played major roles with him (and sometimes against him) in the development of modern neurosurgery. While you would not want some of the physicians at your bedside, you would want, as Dr. Rogers points out, to be in Yasargil's care; he was at his kindest toward his patients, even when sometimes he was less than kind or tolerant toward colleagues and students. To Dr. Roger's credit, he shows the gnarly side as well as the brilliant and compassionate side of Yasargil's genius. Whatever you do, don't be put off by the technical nomenclature of neurological diseases or of the procedures done to cure them. There is helpful glossary to get you through much of the neurosurgical jargon. Medical professionals and non-medical persons will, I believe, become engrossed in this thorough biography of a most fascinating man and with modern neurosurgery to which he dedicated his whole life.

Great book about a great man. Well-written with many insights and in-depth narrations. Missing details on the family of Dr. Yasargil after he left Turkey. Also missing is information on Dr. Krayenbuhl's retirement. Overall, a good read for those who are indebted to the Professor.

Great book about the father of modern neurosurgery. He has a great history and the book describes all his efforts to become the greatest neurosurgeon of all times. Inspiring story for young doctors and young neurosurgeons, so you can learn how much you must dedicate if you want to be a great doctor.

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