

## Book Review

### ***Roland Sharp, Country Doctor: Memories of a Life Well Lived*** **By Roland Sharp, D.O.**

ISBN: 978-0-87012-771-7, Pochahontas Communications Cooperative, Dunmore, West Virginia (Telephone: 304-799-6004, E-mail: [AMRStore@allegHENymountainradio.org](mailto:AMRStore@allegHENymountainradio.org)), 2008, 262 pp., \$25 Paperback.

In this autobiography, Roland Sharp, D.O., shares the story of his call to become a physician and practice in Appalachia.

For anyone who appreciates history, Dr. Sharp shares the struggles and the triumphs of growing up in rural West Virginia, teaching in a one-room school, pursuing his dream to become a physician, and ultimately changing health care for a region by helping to found the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. Those individuals who have had some exposure to the osteopathic profession will read with delight Dr. Sharp's philosophy of providing medical care for those in need, and of his deep commitment to changing the region where he grew up for the better by working with a few colleagues to develop a much needed medical school in the heart of the West Virginia mountains. His unwavering commitment to caring for those around him, and in paving the way for future generations of osteopathic physicians to do the same advances one's understanding of many of the underlying premises of osteopathic medicine that have been the hallmark of the profession for more than a century.

Dr. Sharp shares the memories of his life and his dedication to caring for people over his 75-year career. His story is rich in tradition, and in inspiration as he outlines the sometimes non-traditional path he took to becoming a physician. This is a story of perseverance and of commitment to a dream.

As the first president of the West Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Sharp helped lay the foundation of an osteopathic medical school that today, is ranked as a top medical school by U.S. News and World Report, an honor which it has held for 11 consecutive years.

His story is told in a straight-forward manner that weaves his underlying principles of integrity and commitment throughout the book.

Toward the end of the book, Dr. Sharp provides his perspective of osteopathic philosophy and shows readers why this approach to healing people is just as relevant today as it was a century ago.

He also talks about the current health care crisis and offers his thoughts on many of the factors that have contributed to some of the most pressing health care issues facing our country, and how these issues have impacted the practice of medicine and the doctor-patient relationship.

Conflict of interest: none declared.

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