

Heirs of General Practice By John McPhee Even though this was written in the '80s it still feels incredibly relevant and rings true with what I've been seeing firsthand in my work as a medical scribe at a family practice. He surrounds vignettes of doctors and the patients they see with context around the development of the field of family medicine and the cultural context of rural Maine and writes in an engaging and accessible voice. The beginning and throughout are too choppy moving from one patient to next as to imitate the sense the family/general practitioner may experience seeing many diverse patients consecutively. While this may mirror the feeling of witnessing a quick patient turnover I would have appreciated it if McPhee used his interviewing skills to investigate further and provide more information than just the superficial. In the same year he published his first book *A Sense of Where You Are* with FSG and soon followed with *The Headmaster* (1966) *Oranges* (1967) *The Pine Barrens* (1968) *A Roomful of Hovings and Other Profiles* (collection 1968) *Levels of the Game* (1968) *The Crofter and the Laird* (1970) *Encounters with the Archdruid* (1971) *The Deltoid Pumpkin Seed* (1973) *The Curve of Binding Energy* (1974) *Pieces of the Frame* (collection 1975) and *The Survival of the Bark Canoe* (1975). In the same year he published his first book *A Sense of Where You Are* with FSG and soon followed with *The Headmaster* (1966) *Oranges* (1967) *The Pine Barrens* (1968) *A Roomful of Hovings and Other Profiles* (collection 1968) *Levels of the Game* (1968) *The Crofter and the Laird* (1970) *Encounters with the Archdruid* (1971) *The Deltoid Pumpkin Seed* (1973) *The Curve of Binding Energy* (1974) *Pieces of the Frame* (collection 1975) and *The Survival of the Bark Canoe* (1975). Since 1977 the year in which McPhee received the Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the bestselling *Coming into the Country* appeared in print Farrar Straus and Giroux has published *Giving Good Weight* (collection 1979) *Basin and Range* (1981) *In Suspect Terrain* (1983) *La Place de la Concorde Suisse* (1984) *Table of Contents* (collection 1985) *Rising from the Plains* (1986) *Heirs of General Practice* (in a paperback edition 1986) *The Control of Nature* (1989) *Looking for a Ship* (1990) *Assembling California* (1993) *The Ransom of Russian Art* (1994) *The Second John McPhee Reader* (1996) *Irons in the Fire* (collection 1997) *Annals of the Former World* (1998). English At a time when reading the news makes me horrified and then more horrified it was a great relief to read this book about doctors choosing to go into family practice--to choose to work in rural settings treat the whole patient and even make house calls. English *Heirs of General Practice* is a frieze of glimpses of young doctors with patients of every age—about a dozen physicians in all who belong to the new medical specialty called family practice. They are people who have addressed themselves to a need for a unifying generalism in a world that has become greatly subdivided by specialization physicians who work with the unquantifiable idea that a doctor who treats your grandmother your father your niece and your daughter will be more adroit in treating you. While essential medical background is provided McPhee's masterful approach to a trend significant to all of us is replete with affecting and often amusing stories about both doctors and their charges,



# JOHN McPHEE

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An interesting and entertaining glimpse into rural family medicine, English This book jumps a lot which McPhee employing several different narrative and investigative writing styles, Even if decisions are made quickly they require years of experience to make. The big question of the book is whether General Practice is justified in modern medicine as a specialty and whether its doctors can keep up with the vastness of knowledge, He makes the case that in rural areas as in Maine where

the book is set that only GPs have the interest and time to get to know and follow generations of families. It also appears that the GPs knowledge is mostly too superficial to meet the need, In all I wish McPhee would have gone more in-depth with both the medical diagnoses and the interpersonal interactions: He reveals to his credit a lot on inter-doctoring politics and territory grabs: It would be interesting to read essays on other medical specialties: English A fun often humorous look into the need for family medicine, It follows about 12 doctors and shares why certain patient presentations would best be served by the family doc: I thought all in all it was a little hard to follow but the topics made for a great book discussion, I think I would actually read it again one day since it was such a short read and gets your mind thinking especially if one is considering family Med: Last thought; very impressive how this book was written in the 80's but the argument fits the current healthcare climate just as well, English I received this book from a patient and ever so grateful. It offers a beautiful and (almost) timeless lens into the joys complexities rewards and struggles of Family Practice, It's soon to be a staple on my desk to revisit when I need a reminder of why I love what I do in Family Medicine, English You guys my dad is in this book! English Princeton University and Cambridge University educated John Angus McPhee, His writing career began at Time magazine and led to his long association since 1965 with the New Yorker as a staff writer: Both Encounters with the Archdruid and The Curve of Binding Energy were Princeton University and Cambridge University educated John Angus McPhee: His writing career began at Time magazine and led to his long association since 1965 with the New Yorker as a staff writer. Both Encounters with the Archdruid and The Curve of Binding Energy were nominated for National Book Awards. Selections from these books make up The John McPhee Reader (1976): Annals of the Former World McPhee's tetralogy on geology was published in a single volume in 1998 and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1999. Extremely engaging fascinating and helped to lessen the stigma surrounding family practice physicians, I am not entering the medical field and I found this to be an enjoyable read, Highly recommend for anyone interested in the doctor-patient relationship. English Delightful quick read! English I come from a family of general practitioners - my mother was a G: and my sister followed in her footsteps - and I am a fan of John McPhee's writing in general. So I expected to like this book more than I actually did: The book follows the standard McPhee schema - in-depth reporting on a very specific topic in this case doctors who choose to work as general practitioners. McPhee provides vignettes of a dozen or so such doctors almost all of them working in Maine, McPhee is usually very effective in working from the specific to reach more general insights and it is clear that he would like to do the same here. That is by focusing on doctors who have opted out of the mainstream he would like to illuminate some general truths about the practice of mainstream medicine: However I think his success in doing so is limited rarely rising above statement of the obvious, By focusing his microscope only on family practitioners working in Maine the generalizability of any lessons they might offer is questionable. The needs of communities in Maine cannot be considered particularly representative of the U: So the book never really becomes anything more than a series of isolated vignettes of some individual 'maverick' doctors. Which is interesting as far as it goes but I wish McPhee had been able to do more with the material, McPhee is careful not to mythologize these real people--they are not SuperDocs but they are truly admirable human beings: And of course since he's a brilliant writer McPhee has fun describing doctors and patients and adding the occasional clever spin or twist or joke: the town's other doctor wears a cross in his lapel and has personally been obstetricated twice, which sent me to Google in vain before I realized it was the medical equivalent of born again. English This book about family practice in medicine and the doctors who well practice it was written in the 1980s but does not feel dated. Ailments haven't changed much really and I suspect Maine where most of the doctoring in this book takes place hasn't changed much either, I read McPhee because he has a way with words like describing the doctor who wears a cross in his lapel and has personally been obstetricated twice: The farmer on his tractor looks over his right shoulder watching his planter or plow and sighting back down the row: It's hard to describe how happy knowing that little chestnut makes me, FYI: This book also appears in the McPhee collection: Table of Contents: These young men and women are

seen in their examining rooms in various rural communities in Maine but Maine is only the example: Their medical objectives their successes the professional obstacles they do and do not overcome are representative of any place family practitioners are working. McPhee is also a great writer. I had to keep glancing at the year it was published. The Founding Fish was published in 2002. {site\_link} {site\_link} This was EXCELLENT.P.S. in general. By the end I felt that an opportunity had been missed. My favorite is this phrase.I also read him because of the cool things I learn. Like about the condition called Iowa ear. This aims his left ear toward the tractor's engine. Which causes hearing loss invariably in the left ear. Heirs of General Practice.