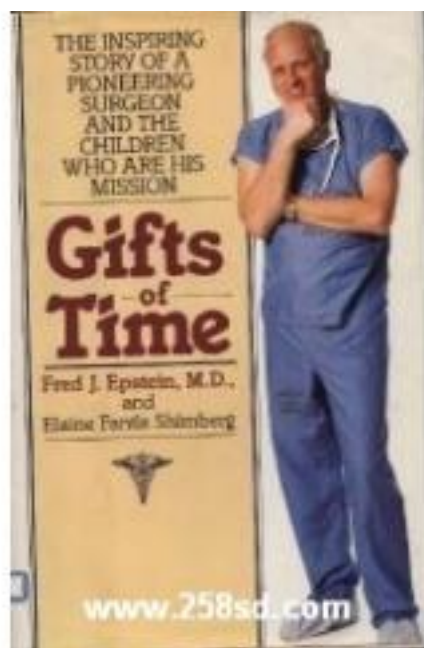


Gifts of Time



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From Publishers Weekly Epstein, director of the New York University Medical Center's Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery, operates on children with tumors of the brain and spinal column. Here, collaborating with medical writer Shimberg, he recounts the stories of patients (and their families) who seek his help from all parts of the world, such as 10-year-old Kevin from the Midwest, and Luis, a slum child from Ecuador. Writing in the first person, Epstein discusses the emotional and surgical challenges his young patients present. Alternating third-person narratives follow the surgeon and his associates through the laborious procedures by which spinal, pituitary or brainstem tumors are "debulked" via laser and other technologies. This heart-wrenching chronicle, which reveals Epstein as a highly empathetic, fiercely committed physician, also touches on tragic cases in which he helped parents to

accept their child's death. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Gifts of Time is the story of Dr. Epstein, a pediatric neurosurgeon who believes children weren't meant to suffer but to live. Like G. Wayne Miller's The Work of Human Hands (LJ 1/93), which profiles pediatric surgeon Hardy Hendren, this book offers us a glimpse at the world of a pioneer in pediatric surgery. But unlike the other work, which is rich in history and tradition, Gifts is rich in human emotion. While offering a wider array of patient stories, it also takes a closer look at Dr. Epstein's emotions and the emotions of those around him. The reader shares the anguish of the frightened parent waiting through the long hours of her child's brain surgery but also has a chance to experience the commitment Dr. Epstein offers each patient. Gifts shows not only the successes but the failures. It is informative for the concerned parent while remaining interesting for the casual reader. Recommended for public libraries.- KellyJo Houtz Parish, Harrison Memorial Hosp., Bremerton, Wash.Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. See all Editorial Reviews

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