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# Sick! Bloody Moments in the History of Medicine

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~~Not a Choice:~~

off

Media type:

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'The Romans already had clean water provided by sewerage and aqueducts' (p 55) is but one of the hapless expressions in this Australian view of great medical milestones. (I looked in vain for a foreword by Sir Les Patterson.) Jumping resoundingly onto the 'Horrible' bandwagon and offering (very ineffective) CD-Rom-type page options, Jennings and Harvey conjure up a frenetic farrago of gore, guts, pus, excreta and vomit to chronicle the progress of medicine as a life-enhancing science. Of crucial facts there is no lack but their hysterical (in the medical sense) presentation makes it often difficult to sift the grains of truth from the chaff of - well, chaff; this makes the book confusing and by no means as hysterical (in the colloquial sense) as Jennings and Harvey appear to intend. All would seem to be explained on the last page where we read that Jennings (it's her first book) 'spends a lot of time in front of TV cameras explaining the amazing workings of the human body'. So that's it - this is a set of TV scripts that has taken a wrong turning and ended up in print. Released in goblets for an armchair audience it could rival Neighbours but as a book it falls between many stools.

Running Order:

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