

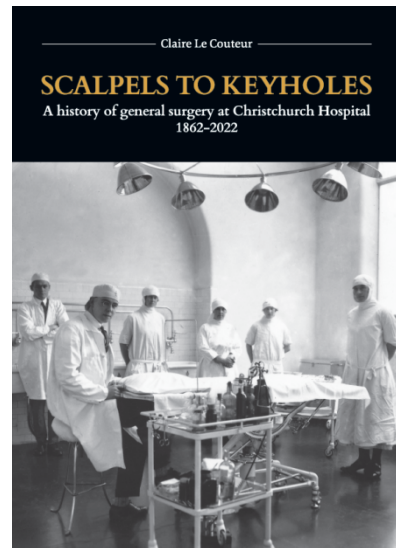
Scalpels to Keyholes: A history of general surgery at Christchurch Hospital 1862-2022

Paperback, 286 pages, ISBN 987-0-473-64474-1

For 160 years, Christchurch Hospital has stood alongside the Avon River. Operating theatres began as simple rooms with few resources, limiting the early surgeons' range to repairing hernias and broken bones, performing appendicectomies and ameliorating the ravages of tuberculosis.

Improved anaesthetic agents and the introduction of antibiotics revolutionised surgery in the twentieth century and keyhole surgery has in the twenty-first.

'A remarkable piece of work, charmed by extensive references and delightful readability' – Professor John Morton, retired Vascular & Transplant Surgeon



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Book Review: Scalpels to Keyholes

Excerpts from a review by Catherine Storey, Independent Historian, Sydney.
Published in *Health and History*, Volume 26, Number 1, 2024.

The title might suggest an account of the relentless advance of surgery from the days of rapid amputation as a measure of a surgeon's prowess to the twenty-first century surgeon enveloped by new technologies, presented as a history relevant only to the Christchurch community. This is not the case. Le Couteur has constructed a history of surgical practice and its surgeons, interweaving the countless external economic, social, political technological and environmental factors which have either promoted or hindered surgical progress at Christchurch Hospital since its inception in 1862.

This very readable account, supported by engaging anecdotes, personal histories, and well-chosen illustrations from the Cotter Collection will appeal to a much wider audience than the surgical community of Christchurch which it records.

