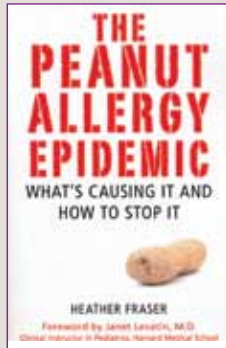


The peanut allergy epidemic

What's causing it and how to stop it

AUTHOR **Heather Fraser**
PUBLISHER **Skyhorse Publishing Inc, 307 W 36th St, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10018, USA**
TELEPHONE **212 643-6816**
WEBSITE
www.skyhorsepublishing.com
PUBLISHED
2011/208 pp/\$17.95



From the publisher. Why is the peanut allergy an epidemic that only seems to be found in Western cultures? More than 4 million people in the United States alone are affected by peanut allergies, yet there are no reported cases in India, a country where peanuts are the primary ingredient in many baby food products. Where did this allergy come from, and does medicine play any kind of role in the phenomenon? After her own child had an anaphylactic reaction to peanut butter, historian Heather Fraser decided to discover the answers to these questions.

In *The Peanut Allergy Epidemic*, Fraser delves into the history of this allergy, trying to understand why it largely develops in children and studying its relationship with social, medical, political, and economic factors. In an international overview of the subject, she compares the epidemic in the United States with 16 other geographic locations, finding that in addition to the United States, in countries such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Sweden there is a 1 in 50 chance that a child, especially a boy, will develop a peanut allergy. Fraser also highlights alternative medicines and explores issues of vaccine safety and other food allergies, making this book a must-read for every parent, teacher, and health professional.

The making of modern medicine

Turning points in the treatment of disease

AUTHOR **Michael Bliss**
PUBLISHER **University of Toronto Press, 10 St Mary St, Suite 700, Toronto, ON M4Y 2W8**
TELEPHONE **800 565-9523**
WEBSITE
www.utpress.utoronto.ca
PUBLISHED
2010/112 pp/\$21.95



From the publisher. Originating in the prestigious Joanne Goodman Lecture Series, and drawing on the author's series of award-winning books, *The Making of Modern Medicine* explores the foundations of medicine through 3 case studies that elucidate turning points in the evolution of health care. Michael Bliss first sketches the religion-based attitudes of fatalism that enveloped Montreal, Que, in 1885 during the last great epidemic of smallpox in the Western world. He then traces the scientific, research-based approach to disease of the Canadian-born doctor William Osler, practising at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Md. The final study reveals how the values that Osler espoused helped to inspire those who discovered insulin at the University of Toronto in Ontario. In a provocative epilogue, Bliss reflects on how these events have contributed to our current anxieties about and attitudes toward health care. A tour de force, *The Making of Modern Medicine* is an essential summation of the work of Canada's leading historian of medicine.

We invite you submit book reviews for publication in *Canadian Family Physician*. Please e-mail books@cfpc.ca for more information.
