

the moment his son surpasses him on the tennis court: “The ball is past my racket before I even see it. . . . I trudge to the net, and we shake hands. ‘I’ll get you next time,’ I say. Will gives me a searching look. ‘Actually, not.’” Dozens of narrative moments like this one make the book compelling and powerful.

I will not say that I couldn’t put the book down. I had to put it down. Atlas provides a breather, and appeals to the intellectual appetite, when he describes in loving detail his favorite books and writers and his struggles to succeed at the pen. But the short list of milestones, and the leitmotiv — how to come to terms with a world that never stands still — gave this reader pause. Atlas is a master at capturing the nuance and joy, the pain of tiny as well as great moments. I am a doctor, a psychiatrist no less, and accustomed, I thought, to bouts of others’ deep self-disclosure, pathos, and emotional pain. Yet this book cut through the professional carapace, the hard-won thick skin, like the proverbial hot knife through butter. The narrative is what one would hope for from a doctor’s son. In the galaxy of physician-related writing, Atlas is no Louis-Ferdinand Céline; rather, William Carlos Williams comes to mind, and his capacity for sadness and termination articulated with a ponderous joy. There is a kindness to this spirit. Yet the book also invokes some of the deepest grief one can know, with reference to the recitation of the Kaddish, the Jewish mourner’s prayer: no matter how tender the attachment, it too will pass.

Atlas makes it abundantly clear that his relationship with his father was intense, painful, and filled with (ponderous) joy. Everything is bitter-sweet. Readers of this memoir are likely to agree: some of the most masterly strokes, whether of the pen or the racquet, are delivered with economy. For this reader, how Atlas will handle the next turn up ahead in life is of more than casual interest.

David Brizer, M.D.

Summit School
Nyack, NY 10960
dbrizer@aol.com

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CORRECTIONS

Breast Cancer of an Accessory Nipple (October 27, 2005;353:1835). Line 13 should have read, “The patient is receiving chemotherapy,” rather than “receiving neoadjuvant chemotherapy,” as printed.

γ -Hydroxybutyric Acid (June 30, 2005;352:2721-32). On page 2724, lines 8 through 11 under the subhead GHB Toxicity should have read, “In some series, GHB was the second most common drug detected in the urine of young people presenting with drug-induced coma, just behind cocaine,” rather than “detected in the serum,” as printed.

NOTICES

Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and telephone number of a contact person or department. We regret that we are unable to publish all notices received. Notices also appear on the Journal’s Web site (www.nejm.org/meetings). The listings can be viewed in their entirety or searched by location, month, or key word.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations is accepting papers related to the assessment of particulate air pollution, notably concerning health effects assessment and control strategy, for its 15th IUAPPA Regional Conference, to be held in Lille, France, September 6–8. Deadline for submission is Feb. 15.

Contact Corrine Schadkowski, International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations, APPA Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Lille, France; or call 33 3 20 31 71 57; or fax 33 3 20 51 31 16; or e-mail contact@iuappa-lille2006.org; or see <http://www.iuappa-lille2006.org>.

CONGRESS VI ENCUENTRO NACIONAL DE SALUD Y MEDICINA DE LA MUJER (SAMAM)

The Congress VI Encuentro Nacional de Salud y Medicina de la Mujer (SAMAM), which is dedicated to women’s whole health, will be held in Madrid, February 15–17.

Contact Dr. Santiago Palacios, Instituto Palacios, Calle Antonio Acuna, 9, 28009 Madrid, Spain; or call 00 3 49 15 78 05 17; or fax 00 3 49 14 31 99 51; or e-mail ipalacios@institutopalacios.com; or see <http://www.institutopalacios.com>.

CROHN’S & COLITIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

The 2006 Inflammatory Bowel Disease Symposium, entitled “Knowledge Is Power,” will be held in Chicago, Feb. 4.

Contact Megan Gavin, Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation, 2250 East Devon Ave., Ste. 244, Des Plaines IL 60018; or call (847) 827-0404; or fax (847) 827-6563; or e-mail mgavin@ccfa.org.