

The Man Who Changed the Faces of the World: A Life of Sir Harold Gillies, Pioneer of Plastic Surgery

In the annals of medical history, few figures loom as large as Sir Harold Gillies. As a pioneering plastic surgeon during World War I, he revolutionized the treatment of facial injuries, transforming the lives of thousands of soldiers who had been left disfigured by the horrors of war.



Max Factor: The Man Who Changed the Faces of the World by Fred E. Basten

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 196 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Gillies's work not only advanced the field of plastic surgery but also challenged societal attitudes towards disfigurement. He believed that everyone, regardless of their appearance, deserved to live a full and happy life. His legacy continues to inspire surgeons and patients alike, and his story remains an extraordinary example of the power of human resilience and innovation.

Early Life and Education

Harold Delf Gillies was born in Dunedin, New Zealand, in 1882. He was the son of a doctor and from an early age showed a keen interest in medicine. After graduating from medical school in 1904, he traveled to England to pursue further studies in surgery.

In 1915, with the outbreak of World War I, Gillies volunteered to serve as a surgeon in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was soon assigned to the facial injuries unit at the Queen's Hospital in Sidcup, England. Here, he witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of facial injuries on soldiers who had survived the horrors of trench warfare.

Pioneering Plastic Surgery

At the time, the treatment of facial injuries was limited and often ineffective. Gillies, however, was determined to find new and innovative ways to repair the extensive facial damage suffered by many soldiers. He experimented with new surgical techniques, including skin grafting and bone reconstruction, and developed new instruments and prosthetics to restore function and appearance.

Gillies's work was groundbreaking, and he quickly became known as one of the leading plastic surgeons in the world. He published numerous articles and books on the subject, and his techniques were adopted by surgeons around the globe. His contributions to the field of plastic surgery are immeasurable, and he is considered one of the founding fathers of the specialty.

Beyond the Battlefield

Gillies's work extended far beyond the battlefield. After the war, he continued to practice plastic surgery, treating both civilian and military patients. He also became an advocate for people with disfigurements, working to challenge prejudice and discrimination.

In 1930, Gillies founded the British Association of Plastic Surgeons, and in 1946, he was knighted for his services to medicine. He continued to work as a surgeon and teacher until his retirement in 1955.

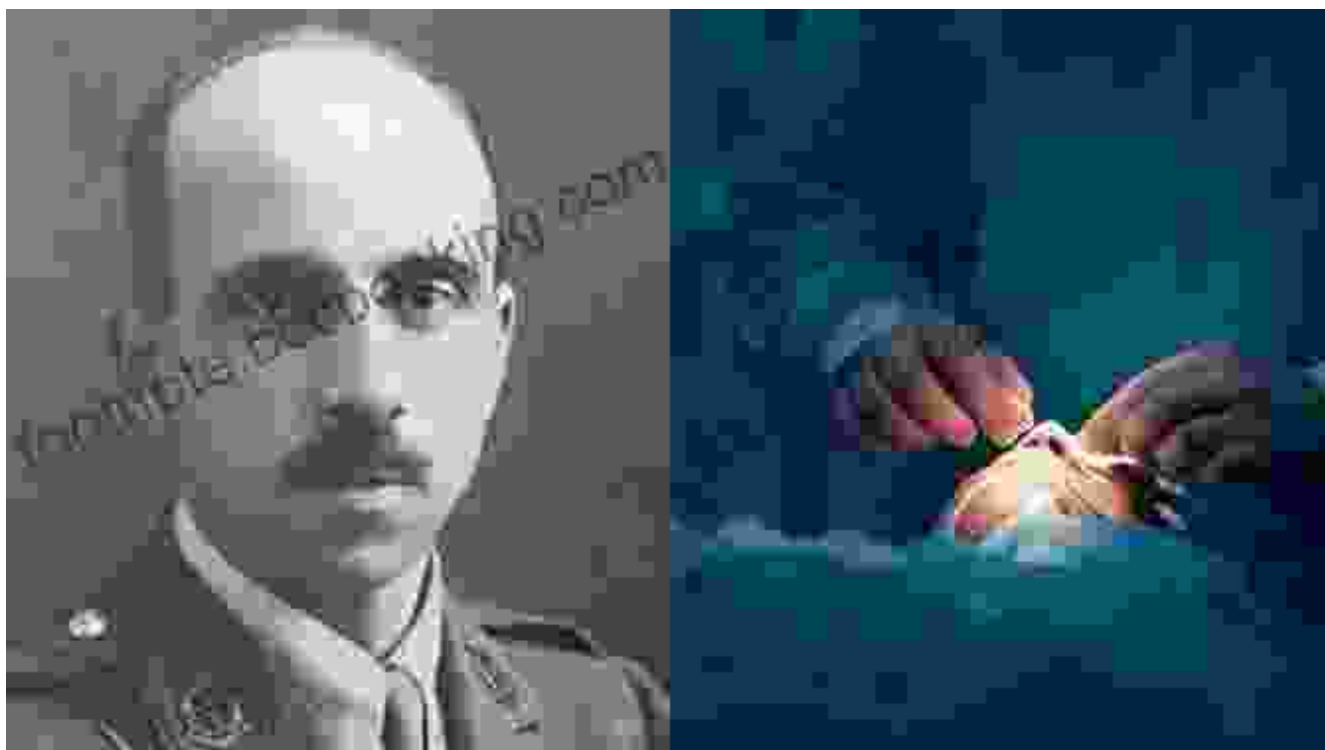
Legacy

Sir Harold Gillies died in 1960, but his legacy lives on. He is remembered as one of the most influential figures in the history of plastic surgery. His pioneering work transformed the treatment of facial injuries and helped countless people to regain their self-confidence and lead full and happy lives.

Gillies's story is an inspiring example of the power of human resilience and innovation. He was a brilliant surgeon, a compassionate advocate, and a true pioneer. His legacy continues to inspire surgeons and patients alike, and his work will continue to impact the lives of people around the world for generations to come.

The life of Sir Harold Gillies is a remarkable tale of dedication, innovation, and compassion. His pioneering work in plastic surgery revolutionized the treatment of facial injuries and transformed the lives of thousands of people. His legacy continues to inspire surgeons and patients alike, and his work will continue to impact the lives of people around the world for generations to come.

The Man Who Changed the Faces of the World is a must-read for anyone interested in medical history, plastic surgery, or the power of human resilience. It is a testament to the incredible impact that one person can have on the world, and it is a story that will continue to inspire and amaze for years to come.



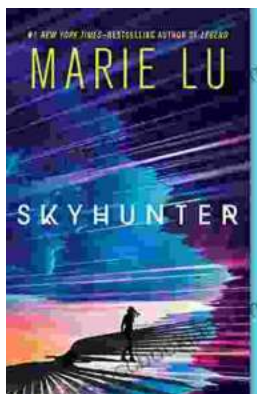
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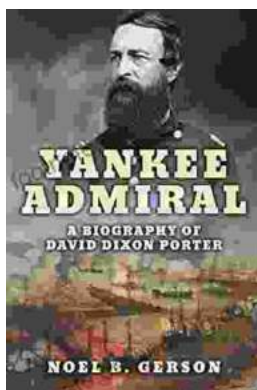
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