

# anatomy

## discussion questions

1. Do you think society's expectations for women in nineteenth-century Scotland hindered or motivated Hazel's ambition to become a physician? Explain your answer.
2. Why do you think being a physician was seen as a respectable career while being a surgeon was not? What parts of the book illustrate that sentiment?
3. Due to societal standards and her place in the upper class, Hazel's life was predetermined since her birth. She says she was betrothed to Bernard when they were children to ensure her wealth and status. In what ways is Jack's life predetermined due to societal standards and his lower-class standing?
4. Why do you think Hazel and Jack fell in love? What do you think drew them together?
5. Why was it significant that Hazel took the class as George Hazelton but planned to take the Royal Physician's Examination as herself, Hazel Sinnett? What do you take away from the book's exploration of gender roles? How do you think gender roles shaped the way history developed?
6. The book explores the theme of corruption in the people trusted by the public. What echoes in current events can you identify?
7. How did you feel when you learned about the immortality vial? Did you expect the ending?
8. Hazel's first kiss with Bernard was anticlimactic and uncomfortable. Her first kiss with Jack was "effortless" and right. What is the significance of this direct parallel between the two characters? What was the motivation behind each kiss? How else do Bernard and Jack differ in their relationships with Hazel?
9. Hazel never takes the Royal Physician's Examination, but continues practicing in Hawthornden Castle. Do you think she would have passed the exam if she had taken it? Would she have become a "real" physician?
10. How are science and medicine viewed in the novel? How is that view different or similar today?
11. In what ways does Hazel not fit in with her family or her society? Why do you think that is?
12. In the end, Dr. Beecham gives Hazel the immortality vial, but it is unclear what happens to him after that. Why do you think he helped Hazel? What do you think happens to him next?

