The R.R. Hawkins Award for the Outstanding Technical, Scientific, or Medical Book of 1984 has been presented to Little, Brown and Company, Boston, for MASTERY OF SURGERY, VOLUMES I AND II, edited by Lloyd M. Nyhus, M.D. and Robert J. Baker, M.D.

The prestigious R.R. Hawkins Award is made annually by the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers, and is named after the distinguished former head of the Science and Technology Division of the New York Public Library, who served in that post for over 40 years. Mr. Hawkins was also the author of the bibliography Scientific, Medical, & Technical Books Published in the U.S. 1930-1944, which was published in 1946 with the support of the U.S. Department of State and an advisory committee of major publishers. The bibliography was developed to aid in the rehabilitation of European Libraries following World War II and was widely distributed by the U.S. Department of State. Its success contributed to library rehabilitation and to the acceptance abroad of American science and scholarship, formerly considered to be secondary to European science.
Under the auspices of the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers, a panel of independent judges from the publishing industry, and the industrial, medical, and scientific community were convened. The awards were made from over 260 professional and scholarly works nominated ranging across the spectrum of science, technology, business, and humanities. The publisher members of the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of AAP account for the majority of book output and sales of professional and scholarly works in the United States.

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