

Essential Clinical Medicine



Essential Clinical Medicine

Symptoms, diagnosis, management

Edited by

Terence Gibson and John Rees





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To generations of medical students past, present, and future. They continue to instruct and inspire us.

J. R. and T. G.

To the memory of my late daughter Maxine Hallworth

T.G.

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Preface

This book attempts to present all the clinical topics required of a modern, clinical curriculum for medical students. Where possible, each subject has been written in a problem-oriented style starting with common presenting symptoms followed by an approach to diagnosis and management. The diagnostic possibilities are considered in relation to their probability, their context and a range of associated features. The disorders which make up the major diagnostic possibilities are then considered. For each condition a clinical description is given together with the epidemiology, pathology, investigation, management and outcome. Not all diseases and topics are presented most effectively in this way and a stylistic compromise will be evident to the reader. Each chapter is preceded by a list of the topics covered.

The order of chapters attempts a logical sequence beginning with the impact of genes on health and ending with sections devoted to the elderly and the dying patient. Some symptoms and signs are shared by multiple illnesses and an extensive cross reference system allows the reader to reach across the spectrum of diseases. We believe that the book provides easy access to information about all the important conditions relevant to a modern medical curriculum. The prominence of presenting symptoms and the clinical emphasis of the text is designed to translate ultimately into high-quality care for patients.

Terry Gibson John Rees