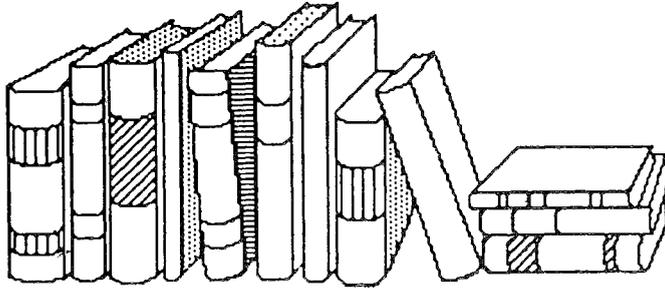


BOOK REVIEW – MARCH 1989



Cases in Chemical Pathology – A diagnostic approach
R.N. Walmsley, L.R. Watkinson and E.S.C. Koay
2nd Edition, 1988. . . PG Publishing, Singapore.
365 pages. Price M\$38.30

This revised second edition incorporates many improvements based on the actual experience of the authors in Chemical Pathology. It is a clinically oriented book which maintains the close liaison between the clinical material and the logical use of biochemical indices to formulate a diagnosis.

The book deals with the interpretation of biochemical test results, and the evaluation of disorders commonly encountered by the clinician and the Chemical Pathology laboratory. The major emphasis is on electrolytes, acid-base and renal problems as these analysis constitute a major portion of the routine work of laboratories and also pose problems in interpretation to doctors.

There are twenty five chapters and each chapter begins with a case presentation and a discussion of the evaluation of the particular disorder, followed by a discussion and final diagnosis of the case. The readers task has been made easier by limiting the topics discussed. The book does not go into details of the application of fundamental biochemistry and physiology to knowledge of disease and to their importance in clinical medicine. Little concerning laboratory methods are given. The tables and figures are very explicit and useful. The text is extensively referenced and so useful to anyone interested in further reading.

As diagnostic and therapeutic options continue to multiply and increasingly targetted tests become available, the clinician faces the task of selecting laboratory procedures, interpreting laboratory results and synthesising data into useful and coherent clinical contexts. It is in this context that readers efforts would hopefully contribute to better patient care and the utilisation of valuable laboratory resources. This book is a useful and comprehensive guide for medical students both undergraduates and postgraduates, house doctors and medical staff.

Professor N. Chandrasekharan