

BOOK REVIEW

V.K.E. Lim

*Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology,
Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.*

Lim Kean Ghee. A Review of Diseases in Malaysia. Pelanduk Publications. Petaling Jaya. 423 pages. RM 59.00.

Lim Kean Ghee must be congratulated for being the first person to attempt to compile a comprehensive review of diseases in Malaysia. The work is based both on his own experience as well as an extensive search of published papers. That he has done all this despite being a busy surgeon in the Ministry of Health of Malaysia makes his achievement all the more remarkable.

The book is divided into 30 chapters ranging from chromosomal and genetic diseases to psychiatric disorders. Diseases that are covered range from the commonly encountered to the extremely esoteric disorders. Spanophiles will be delighted to learn that at least two cases of Goldenhar's Syndrome have been previously reported in Malaysia or that there was a case of tatumellosis in GHKL in 1989. The chapter on Cancers is particularly comprehensive, perhaps because the author is a surgeon, and would serve as a useful source of reference. The field of infectious diseases was also very well covered with almost all the locally published papers reviewed and quoted.

One minor shortcoming of the book would be that while the literature search of local journals was very extensively done, some important papers based on work done in Malaysia but published overseas were omitted. The other drawback which is more an irritation than a shortcoming is the rather shoddy nature of the editorial work. At various places findings cited in the text were omitted from the reference list that followed. There are also spelling mistakes and punctuation errors. In some places the syntax could be improved upon.

Nevertheless this is a remarkable effort and the book would be a most welcome and useful addition to the rather limited publications on local disease patterns we have at the moment.