

Chapter 1 : Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine - Oxford Medicine

The Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine looks better than ever, with a more modern design and over colour images and illustrations. The History and Examination chapter has been completely revamped with systematic flowcharts and new illustrations so that it better reflects real bedside practice.

There has seldom been a better time to be ill, one might think, on reviewing all the changes and developments since our last edition. From Angina to Zollinger Ellison syndrome, the new developments, all detailed in this volume, seem universally bright or brightening and overall death rates from the big killers such as coronary heart disease are declining faster than ever before. This superficial view hides darker forces which paint a more sombre picture. The pandemic of HIV has grown a pace or two or three. Diabetes is doubling its grip, and global warming is introducing new diseases to areas where local inhabitants have little immunity these effects are described in Chapters 9 and 10. Once-trusted antibiotics are becoming useless in the face of pathogen development; airlines are spreading completely new diseases around the world eg SARS. Diseases caused by medicine have never been more common. Crucially, the world is no wealthier than when the authors first began to write on these topics. While this book will doubtless prove indispensable in choosing correctly between self-destruction and passive extinction, some readers will point out that this received wisdom is wisdom subverted. Is SARS really an example of the darker prophesies being fulfilled? New diseases have always been appearing; what may be new about this epidemic was that it was caught early albeit provisionally by the rapid dissemination of knowledge via electronic media. Often the people in white coats were waiting for the disease before it arrived. Similarly, with HIV, not all the news is bad. Rich countries are learning, painfully slowly, to share their expensive drugs with poorer populations. If the rich prosper only at the expense of others, the net result is not sustainable wealth revolution, or something unknown, is more likely. These, and many other developments described in this book point to just what can be achieved by dialogue and teamwork. This edition sees a new beginning our Prologue in which the authors flesh out what teamwork really means by giving an example of when it all goes wrong. Evidence-based medicine is a prime example of teamwork going right usually. The funding organizations, the investigators, the statisticians, and the clinicians work together to provide the best possible treatment for the patient. The authors detail more fruits of this collaboration than in all other editions. The authors are using a new disc sign, with a number below [diskette]1 to direct readers to the correct location on the web page of our references and their internet-enabled links at www. Scholars among our readers may want to print these out to carry with them with our text to provide chapter and verse during tricky ward-rounds. Further changes include a short section on essential drugs; a new section on Clinical Skills; more ECGs; and many new algorithms to reflect current practice as well as new topics from the all-encompassing Patient-centred care to rare minutiae such as all the different types of multiple endocrine neoplasia and their nefarious genetic associations. There are new mnemonics not too intrusive, and not too rude usually. Much re-organization is in evidence eg Diabetes mellitus. But the most important changes are the hardest to spot thousands of small changes in the bodies of paragraphs. This incrementalism, accumulating like coral, amounts to whole new formations which, in this edition, take on a life of their own, set against backgrounds of rich tropical colours a holiday for the eye, for which the authors thank the ever-creative staff at the Press. The best review book for clinical medicine I have tried so far. I love the illustrations, quotes, the relative articles and historical information in each chapter in this book. Definitely not a regular dull medical book. This book gets the essence of being a doctor. You understand, reasonably, the condition in front of you, but no one can ever memorize every investigation or procedure. This is exactly what this book is for.

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Chapter 8 : Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine 9th ED

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