

Preface

This book presents the approach to selected problems that clinicians often find difficult to diagnose or treat. At first, the topics may seem eclectic, but they have been chosen to reflect areas in which I—as a clinician like you—always seem to need to know more (such as genetic disorders and diabetes mellitus), am sometime puzzled as to the etiology (such as headache, thyroid disease, anemia, fatigue, and skin rashes), or am frustrated when problems sometimes do not respond to my best management efforts (such as when patients overeat, drink too much alcohol, or misuse drugs). Also in the latter group are sleep disorders, chronic pain, and other entities discussed in the pages that follow.

In fact, what the seemingly diverse topics presented here share in common is that they all cause both patients and physicians more than their share of challenges.

The chapters in this book are drawn from the sixth edition of the large reference book, *Family Medicine: Principles and Practice*, which is widely used by family physicians in the United States and abroad. The publisher and I believe that, in addition to family physicians, the chapters in this book will also be useful to other clinicians providing primary care, such as general internists, general pediatricians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. The price of the “big book” can be a deterrent to some; publication of a smaller book on focused topics allows clinicians to purchase a book on the topics that meet their specific needs. In addition, some find pocket-sized manuals easier to handle than larger, heavy books.

Whatever the reason you picked up this book, I hope that you find it useful in your daily care of patients. Comments are welcome.

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Taylor's Cardiovascular Diseases

A Handbook

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