

Bedside Differential Diagnosis in Clinical Medicine

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A beginner in the hospital wards finds himself lost when faced with a patient. The teachers have different preferences and different teachers have different styles in dealing with patients. Some expect the students to take detailed history, some want brief, precise history with detailed examination. During a clinical teaching session, by the time discussion of history and examination is over, time for the session also gets closer to the end. Hence, scant time is available for the differential diagnosis. Here is the book to help the students in such a situation. The book can act as a resource beyond the hospital wards, though its usefulness will be more if it used in the wards also.

The book has dealt with 42 commonest symptoms. For each symptom there are four sections - important diseases in which these symptoms are seen, the characteristic signs and symptoms of these diseases, (which will confirm or exclude the diagnosis) other less common diseases and lastly the features of important diseases. However, the list of symptoms is not complete and there is some scope for the inclusion of a few other symptoms.

Thus when a student is faced with a particular symptom, he can turn the pages of this book and proceed further. In this way this book can be a very good supplement to Clinical Methods for every medical student.

Dr. Pathak is an experienced physician with a lot of experience in writing books for the students. He has already published two books, one on Medicine and another on Clinical Methods. This book represents a logical continuation of his past efforts. I hope our medical students will utilise the book fully.

R. K. A.