The diagnosis of human disease is becoming ever easier, thanks to the scientific facilities available – x-rays, ultrasound, scans – but the importance of the clinical diagnosis has not decreased. All scientific examinations are supplementary to the clinical diagnosis, and the history is the major factor in the clinical diagnosis.

History taking evaluates the feelings of a person, but also provides the temporal development and profile of the illness. Such feelings are nothing but the symptoms of different diseases. They cannot be quantified, or expressed in scientific terms, nor sometimes expressed in words. On occasions, it is only the body language of a patient which gives expression to the symptoms.

Thus to take a good history, a doctor must have the necessary skills to interpret emotion, vocabulary and behaviour, in short, to possess the art of history taking.

This handy pocket sized manual begins with important general considerations, then discusses the most common complaints, before dealing with more specific disorders. It is an inexpensive, easy to read book that can be dipped into or read in one sitting, useful both to trainees and to practising doctors.

Contents:
General Considerations * Personal Information* Chief Complaints and Present Illness * History of Past Illness * Family History * Personal History * Menstrual and Obstetrics History * Treatment History * History in Cardiovascular Disorders * History in Neurological Disorders * History in Respiratory Disorders * History in Gastrointestinal Disorders * History in Genitourinary Disorders * History in Unconscious Patients