

VETERINARY LABORATORY MEDICINE (Clinical Biochemistry and Haematology)

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1st Edn. Blackwell Scientific Publications, Oxford, OX2 OEL. 1989 pp XV111 and 270, 26 figures and 12 colour plates. (ISBN 0-632-02255-8)

There are 3 sections in this book namely those dealing with haematology, clinical biochemistry and practical laboratory medicine.

The section on haematology is subdivided into 3 sections: The section on the erythrocyte which covers red cell parameters; erythropoiesis and the control thereof; erythrocyte morphology; polycythaemia and anaemia. The leucocyte section which covers types, development, counting methods and steroid reaction. The section on platelets and coagulation factors which covers platelet production, function and abnormalities; the coagulation mechanism; anticoagulants and clotting defects and the diagnosis and treatment of bleeding disorders.

The section on clinical biochemistry covers basic principles of biochemistry, the plasma proteins, electrolytes, minerals and nitrogenous substances; carbohydrate, fat and bilirubin metabolism; clinical enzymology; clearance and absorption tests; examination of non-blood body fluids; initial test selection using a standardised approach and individual organ tests.

The section on practical laboratory medicine covers sample collection, processing and storage, the use of external laboratories, establishing and running a laboratory and specific methodologies for haematology and biochemistry.

The book is well laid out and easy to read. The approach is straightforward diagnostic clinical pathology with no frills and exotics added. This book would be most useful to the private practitioner wanting to refresh his/her knowledge in the field of diagnostic clinical pathology or set up a small laboratory in their own practice. For the undergraduate I would recommend this book as supplementary reading.

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