# Contents


**1. The Art of History Taking** **1**

Why is it an Art and not Merely a Science? *1*

**2. Preliminary Information About the Patient** **4**

Disease More Common in Men
(Excluding Diseases of the Genitalia) *8*

Diseases More Common in Women
(Excluding Diseases Involving Genitalia) *9*

Diseases Common in Children *9*

Diseases Common in Elderly *10*

**3. Chief Complaints and History of Presenting Illness** **11**

**4. History on Enquiry** **37**

Enquiry to Look for any Associated Symptoms *37*

Enquiry into Possible Aetiological Factors *38*

Enquiry into Possible Complications *40*

**5. Past History (Including Medical History)** **42**

**6. Occupational History** **45**

**7. Personal History** **48**

**8. Family History** **51**

**9. Menstrual History** **53**

**10. Do's and Don'ts in the Surgery Ward** **55**

**11. Points to Ponder** **58**

**12. Model Case History** **59**

**13. Impediments to Good History Taking** **63**

Poor Communication Skills on the Part of the Clinician *63*

Poor Communication from Patient's Side *64*

Poor Infrastructure and Working Condition *66*

**14. Conclusion** **67**

*Index* *69*