Brucellosis is uncommon in Sri Lanka, but continues to be an important human disease in many parts of the world, with an annual reported incidence in excess of 500,000. It is a zoonosis transmitted to humans almost exclusively by contact with infected animals or their products such as meat, milk, and cheese. Its history in relation to human habitats, economies and migrations is a fascinating subject by itself. And ever since the early weeks of my internship year, in which my chief the late Dr. Wickrema Wijenaike diagnosed brucellosis in a 55-year-old farmer from Moneragala District, admitted with a 20-day history of fever, on the basis of right epididymoorchitis and sacro-ilits queried by a radiologist on a plain x-ray of the abdomen, I have been intrigued by the disease.

This short book on brucellosis is concise, comprehensive, well-illustrated, reader-friendly and beautifully produced. Separate chapters deal with clinical features in humans and animals, laboratory diagnosis, treatment, epidemiology, prevention, and eradication of the disease in animals. I found the sections on vaccine and immune system stimulants, post-exposure prophylaxis and prevention of brucellosis in nomadic or migratory populations particularly engaging. The book has useful tables with key points clearly emphasized in boxes, and it is well referenced.

The book is a valuable reference source for clinicians, laboratory specialists and technologists, veterinary surgeons and personnel, epidemiologists, and public health specialists. It is a must for libraries devoted to medical and veterinary sciences.

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Professor T.W. Wickramanayake, *Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle*

*Nutrition Throughout the Life Cycle* is Professor Wickramanayake’s latest contribution to the field of nutrition in Sri Lanka. Professor Wickramanayake, an eminent pioneer of nutrition research and education in this country, has written this volume in response to the large amount of new data and scientific discoveries that have been made since he wrote his first book, *Food and Nutrition*. In this book, the author covers a range of topics in nutrition. As the title suggests, the book comprehensively deals with nutritional state throughout the life cycle of a human being, beginning with pregnancy and fetal growth and spanning through infancy, childhood, adolescence, ageing and ending with nutritional disorders and the nutritional aspects of diseases such as diabetes and cancer.

For the subject material in this volume, Wickramanayake has drawn upon his extensive experience as a biochemist and nutritionist. What makes this meticulously researched book unique among the many books on human nutrition is the fact that it contains a great deal of information pertaining to Sri Lanka and the Asian region. Thus, this book gives a practical overview of nutrition with special emphasis on the Sri Lankan situation, of particular use to local health professionals. In his book, Wickramanayake has endeavoured to emphasize the importance of proper and adequate nutrition throughout an individual’s lifetime by showing that nutritional issues play a major role in many health issues including chronic life style related diseases. The book is an essential read not only for nutritionists but for all health professionals.

The author introduces the subject by describing the major nutritional and health problems faced by humans, especially in developing countries. He uses an analytical mode of writing, with an abundance of scientific data to support his hypotheses and theories. The first section of the book is devoted to nutritional needs during the life cycle while the second part focuses on nutritional disorders. A major proportion of the first part of the book is devoted to a description of maternal and fetal growth.