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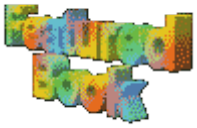
Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

(Page 4 c - Review by Dr. Srijit Das, India)

FEATURED BOOK



HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Rating : 9.0
★★★★★★★★★
(9/5)

Clinical Forensic Medicine - A Physician's Guide, 2nd Edition, *Edited by* Margaret M. Stark. Hard Bound, 6" x 9". [Includes eBook/PDA on CD-ROM]. Foreword by Sir John Stevens, former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service, London, UK
Humana Press Inc., 999 Riverview Drive, Suite 208, Totowa, New Jersey 07512; Publication Date: 11 April 2005. xvii + 438 pages, ISBN 1-58829-368-8, E-ISBN 1-59259-913-3. List price US $99.50 (10% discount with online order).

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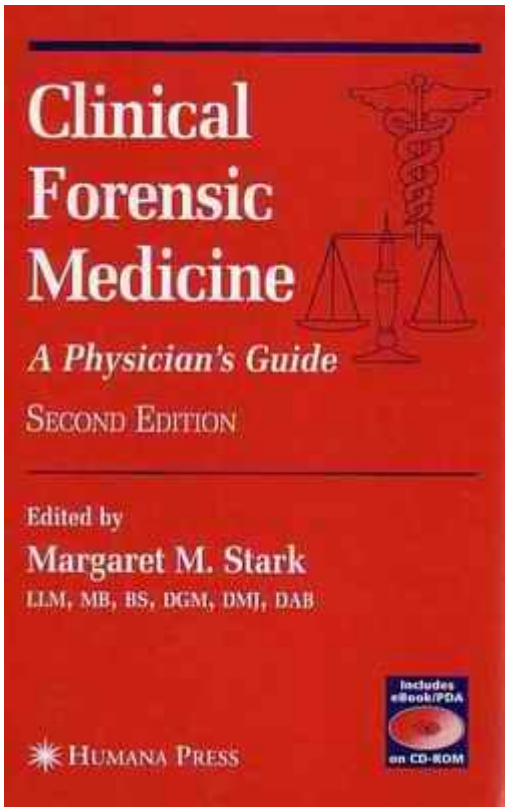

The book under review consists of 12 valuable chapters which have been meticulously arranged.. The 1st chapter has important details regarding the typical role of a forensic physician and understanding such roles would surely be beneficial for any individual. The 2nd chapter discusses the fundamental principles and they are mentioned systematically. The interesting fact is that the pitfalls are discussed in detail and I am sure the reader will benefit from such valuable information.

The 3rd chapter on sexual assault examination is very important for any forensic physician. Often some vital evidence is lost because of negligence, unawareness of the procedure, lack of proper knowledge. The basic principles of examination, collection of samples and analyzing them have been effectively dealt with. The author has taken the trouble of even defining the normal anatomy and the physiology. Chapter 4 describes injury assessment, documentation and interpretation. The reader will benefit immensely from the tables describing the potential relevant factors to determine from history and potential relevant information required when assessing any injury. The injuries have been defined in detail. The embellish effort of the author in making the chapter on injury is praiseworthy.

Chapter 5 deals with the non accidental injury in the children. The role of the physician in assessing such injuries is important in day to day clinical practice. Headings like good practice tips shall be of much help to any reader. Chapter 6 deals with the crowd control agents and the table describing the clinical findings as a result of exposure to such chemical agents is very informative. The chemical agents have been described in detail. The treatment details for such exposure has been thoroughly described to benefit any reader.

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An interesting Chapter No.7 deals with medical issues relevant to restraint. Vital information on injuries due to handcuffs, batons and other problems related to restraint have been described in

detail by the author. The Chapter No.8 describes the care of the detainees. Medical assessment of detainees is very important and it has been effectively dealt with. The common medical problems are mentioned in detail. The table on head injuries indication for hospital treatment is informative. Personal safety measures have been described to benefit any forensic physician. False confessions have been highlighted. Any individual may benefit from the scheme of examination.

…Overall the book describes the conscientious approach of the author in describing different facts. The book is sure to benefit trained doctors, forensic personnel or any individual in day to day clinical practice. In the arena of criminal justice the role of trained doctors associating with the police is very important…

The 9th chapter on the role of physician in infectious diseases is provides valuable information. Awareness and precautions are the best methods to avoid any accidental exposure. The knowledge of the role of transmission is very important and the author has put in a compendious effort to present such. Chapter No.10 deals with substance misuse. Details about substance misuse, the history taking part and examination have been described in detail. All the drugs have been elaborately described and the treatment details is informative. A lot of information has been given on alcohol.

Chapter No.11 deals with the deaths in custody. The steps for investigating such deaths have been clearly defined. The causes of death have been meticulously described. Information on deliberate injuries may be of immense benefit to any physician. The last chapter i.e. 12th chapter deals with traffic medicine. The different diseases and the role of alcohol has been highlighted. The role of a physician in dealing with such cases has been effectively dealt with. The role of drugs and driving is informative. This chapter may be of good use to any medical personnel.

Overall the book describes the conscientious approach of the author in describing different facts. The book is sure to benefit trained doctors, forensic personnel or any individual in day to day clinical practice. In the arena of criminal justice the role of trained doctors associating with the police is very important. Often it is not possible for forensic physicians to attend regular orientation programs and under such conditions the book may come handy. The book has kept abreast with the latest technological methods for forensic sampling. There are ample references for further reading. The explicit effort of the author in defining and presenting the subject gives the book a different look in comparison to the previous edition. I would surely recommend the book to any medical personnel to have a comprehensive knowledge about clinical forensic medicine.

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Dr.Srijit Das is working as Assistant Professor of Anatomy in Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi (India) since 2001. Dr.Das completed his medical degree in 1992 from V.S.S.Medical College, Burla, situated besides the famous Hirakud dam in Orissa. He completed his post graduation in Anatomy (i.e MS degree) from S.C.B.Medical College, Cuttack, Orissa, in 1997. Dr.Das worked as a Senior Resident in Anatomy in the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi from 1997 to 2001. He was selected as Asst Prof through UPSC interview in 2001. Dr.Das has been selected earlier for faculty posts in Libya, Nepal and Mauritius.

Dr.Das has several publications in National and International Journals. He has reviewed article for 'Clinical Anatomy' published from USA. Dr.Das special research areas include gross anatomy and osteology. Dr.Das has worked on ABO blood groups and secretor status. Dr.Das has also worked on the opioid receptors in CNS and this work was presented in European Opioid Conference in 2000. Dr.Das is a member of Anatomical Society of India, Biotech Society of India and International Society for vertebrate Morphologie.

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