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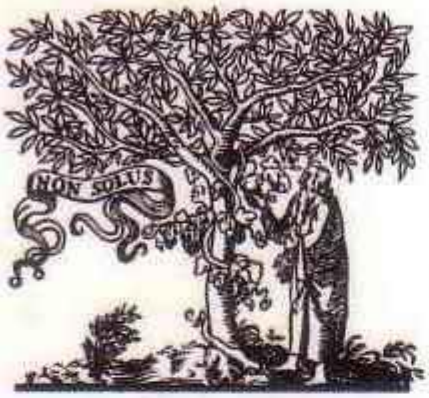
Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

...AN EXCELLENT BOOK ON FORENSIC MEDICINE FOR STUDENTS ...I would recommend this book highly to all undergraduate students, as well as those preparing for their postgraduate examinations...

Forensic Medicine & Toxicology (Smart Studies Series), 1st Edition by Gaurav Aggarwal. Softcover, 8.5" x 5.5"

Elsevier, (A division of Reed Elsevier India Private Ltd), 14th Floor, Building No. 10 B, DLF Cyber City, Phase II, Gurgaon-122002, Haryana, India. Publication Date: 2009, xiv+364 pages, ISBN 978-81-312-1712-2. Price :INR 180.00

Official site: Click here to visit



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The book under review is an excellent work produced by one of the most dynamic academicians in the world of Indian forensic medicine. This book provides all essential details of forensic medicine and toxicology in a nutshell. The USP of this book is presentation of clear, unambiguous information in simple bulleted form, which an overburdened student will find easy to grasp.

This book is, in a way, a two-in-one, since it also gives important MCQs in forensic medicine. These are found scattered within the text in grey background (to enable the student to make them out quickly). The answer of each MCQ is explained in detail.

An important achievement of the author is that very painstakingly he has collected and compiled all MCQs asked in all major examinations (AIIMS, AIPG, Delhi PG, U.P.PG, JIPMER, MAHE and Maharashtra) from 2000 till 2008 (Nine years in all). Each question has a subscript, informing the student, regarding the particular center and year where that question was asked. Since many of these questions are often repeated, students would find this aspect very very attractive.

A sample page from the book under review (Please Click to enlarge)

13. In a firearm injury, there is h the wound, along with cherr and is cruciate in shape, the i

a. Close shot entry
c. Contact shot entry

Answer c (Contact shot entry)

Explanation:

- Burning, blackening, tattooing— within close or contact range of e
- Cruciate shape (irregular hole v margins) is seen when the woun wound of entry. This shape is du periphery of the entrance wound

A further achievement of the author is that each major chunk of information that he gives, is supported by an authentic reference. So the student is never in doubt that he is reading the wrong information. A view of the adjoining picture will tell the readers what I am talking about. It is just one page from the book. It can easily be seen, how the MCQ is corrected quoted (place of center, year of examination at the end of MCQ), how well it is explained and how the author gives the reference of an authentic book at the end of that information.

As I leafed through the book, I liked the book more and more. The author Gaurav is known to all of us, as one of the top academicians deeply interested in forensic medicine. I have personally known him for quite sometime, and every time I meet him, I learn something new! He is a faculty at one of the leading PG entrance coaching institutes (with 20 classroom and 122 test-centres). He also teaches foreign medical graduates preparing for MCI screening tests. He has 11 years of experience in Forensic Medicine and has worked and taught at as many as seven different Medical colleges in several different states of this country.

A sample page from the book under review. It can easily be seen how the author clearly explains th explaining another key concept explained to the student visually. The book is peppered with such key li



Fig. 4.3. Suic

Stab or Punctured Wound

A stab wound is produced from per
knife, dagger, nail, needle, spear, a
the body, penetrating the skin and t

The author's dynamism can be made out from the fact that is also actively involved in training doctors in several aspects related to legal medicine, such as Medical Negligence Issues, Consumer Protection Act and Professional Indemnity Insurance. I have had the good fortune of participating in some of his programs and I personally know how much clout he enjoys all over India. He has also made a very good CD on age estimation (it is actually part of a larger CD on sexual assault), which should be seen by all medicolegal practitioners. Currently he is teaching as an Associate Professor in Forensic Medicine at Saraswathi Institute of Medical Sciences, Ghaziabad.

The book is illustrated by several line diagrams and pictures also, which the student would find helpful. A general flaw in such “exam-oriented” books is that they encourage the students to cram the subject rather than make him understand. The author must be lauded that he has not allowed this flaw to creep up in this book. He gives the information in small capsules, and yet makes the student understand the “hows” and “whys” of each question. It is this aspect of the book, which appealed to me very much.

I would recommend this book highly to all undergraduate students, as well as those preparing for their postgraduate examinations.


Dr. Gaurav, the author may be contacted by clicking here.

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Editor's recommendation. This book is recommended by the editor.