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# Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

...AN EXCELLENT ADDITION TO FORENSIC LITERATURE ...All in all, a very useful book. I would highly recommend this book not only to all forensic physicians, but to everyone practicing in this field. I would imagine that his book would be highly useful for lawyers, police, medical and dental practitioners, forensic scientists. I would also recommend this book to all undergraduate and postgraduate law and medical students preparing for forensic medicine examinations. ... Rating : 10/10...

Current Practice in Forensic Medicine, 1st Edition, edited by John Gall, Jason Payne-James, 9.8" x 6.9" x 0.9", Hardcover..
Wiley-Interscience (A John Wiley & Sons, Inc Publication), 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, U.S.A. 348 pages, ISBN-10: 0470744871; ISBN-13: 978-0470744871. Price $99.95.

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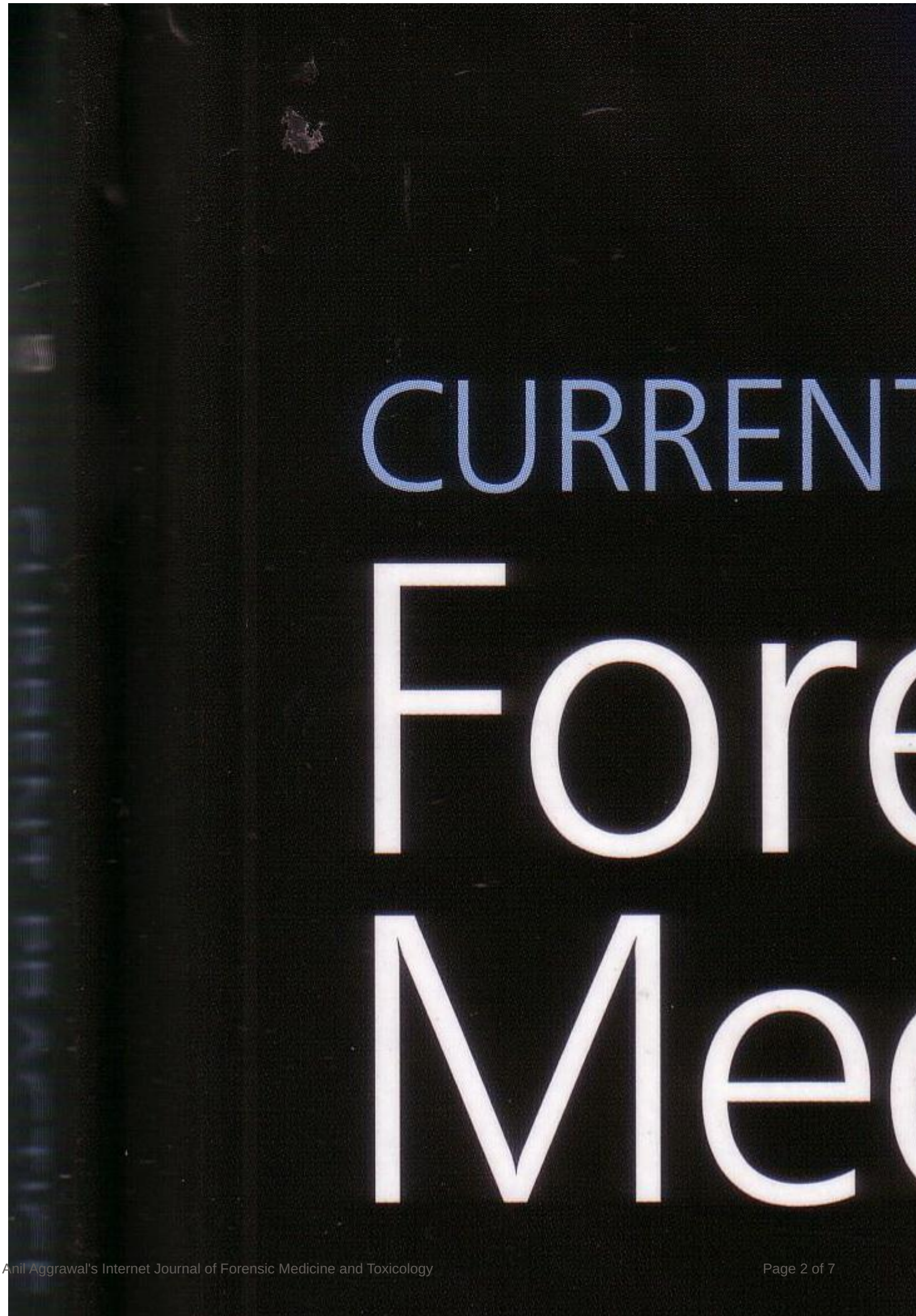
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*F*orensic Medicine till now has been taught mainly from a theoretical angle with little practical help for the practicing forensic physician. The book under review – edited by two most eminent forensic physicians in contemporary world – fills this gap admirably.

Editors of this volume do not need any introduction. Both gave us the invaluable Color Guide of Forensic Medicine sometime back. Jason gave us the 4-vol modern encyclopedia of Forensic and legal medicine and is currently the editor of one of the most successful forensic journals – Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine.

As I leafed through the pages, I realized that the book provides a unique, in-depth and critical update on all relevant topics. The book covers a wide range of aspects of forensic medicine, including law, science, medicine (forensic pathology, clinical forensic medicine and forensic psychiatry) and dentistry.

The topics include - a guide to the presentation of forensic medical evidence, bioterrorism, the paediatric hymen, assessment and interpretation of bone trauma in children, adult sexual assault, genital photography, forensic photography, common errors in injury interpretation, self-inflicted injuries and associated psychological profiles, bite marks and the role of the pathologist in aviation disasters.

**Two of the several illustrative photographs from this book. These appear on page 292 and are from the
They show the torso of a toddler killed by dog attack [click to enlarge]**





Key points are illustrated with good color figures. This team has earlier produced a very good Forensic Medicine atlas and we are all aware of their fascinating collection of color forensic photographs.

I was tempted to read DNA profiling chapter first, as I have never been able to understand it in its entirely, and I must say that for the first time, I could understand the concepts clearly. This chapter alone justifies this book in one's library.

Sexual assault chapter was another one that I read thoroughly as we get these cases daily, and I must admit that despite my 35 years of experience in this field, I could still get some useful points.

There is a separate chapter on pediatric hymen. I have never seen anything like that in any other forensic book. The pictures are clear and crisp and render lot of information, which only words could not have given. This chapter should be useful to professionals working with child sexual abuse.

There is a chapter on assessment and interpretation of bone trauma in children. Once again this is a unique chapter, rarely found in forensic texts. A number of X-ray plates, ultrasound images and MR images supplement the chapter.

All in all, a very useful book. I would highly recommend this book not only to all forensic physicians, but to everyone practicing in this field. I would imagine that his book would be highly useful for lawyers, police, medical and dental practitioners, forensic scientists. I would also recommend this book to all undergraduate and postgraduate law and medical students preparing for forensic medicine examinations. As for me, this book is going to be on my study table always, so that I can fall back upon it, whenever I need some practical advice.

Review by *-Puneet Setia and Avneesh Gupta*





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