ANIL AGGRAWAL'S
Internet Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology
The world's first online journal devoted entirely to forensic medicine and toxicology · Published 1 January and 1 July

VOL. 18, NO. 2
Downloaded from www.anilaggrawal.com · ISSN 0972-8074 (Online) · https://www.anilaggrawal.com/ij/vol_018_no_002/reviews/tb/page001.html

# Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

...AN EXCELLENT BOOK FOR UNDERGRADUATES ...This excellent book is an important addition to existing forensic literature. I would heartily recommend it not only for all undergraduates and postgraduates, but also for every forensic pathologist...

Forensic Medicine and Toxicology for MBBS, 1st Edition, by Anil Aggrawal. Soft cover, 11" x 8.5" x 1.5".
Avichal Publishing company, 8 Industrial Area, Trilokpur Road, Kala Amb 173 030, Distt. Sirmour (HP), Delhi Office: 1002 Faiz Road (opp. Hanuman Murti), Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110 005. . Email - apcmedicalbooks@yahoo.co.in; manchanda_rajiv@yahoo.co.in; anil@anilaggrawal.com; dr_anil@hotmail.com. Publication Date 2016. 694 pages, ISBN-10: 8177394916;ISBN-13: 978-8177394917 (art paper). Price: Rs 679.00

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# FORENSI

# AND TOXI

The current book under review “Forensic Medicine and Toxicology for MBBS” has been written by the author in response to a large demand by the students for a shorter book which gives all information needed by MBBS students. Earlier Prof Aggrawal had written two more comprehensive books, namely “Textbook of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology” and “Essentials of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology”. Of these, “Textbook” has proved very popular among postgraduates and “Essentials” among both postgraduates as well as practitioners.

Forensic Medicine and Toxicology for MBBS” as the name suggests prunes down unessential information, and gives only what is necessary for MBBS students to understand a concept and write in exams. The text has been entirely rewritten with a number of new figures and diagrams [eg pics of Raccoon eyes on page 162].

About 250 mnemonics and memory aids distributed throughout the book make the book very appealing to students. A typical mnemonic [appearing in chapter 40 on CNS Depressants on page 591] would illustrate the point:

Memory Aid 13– Major symptoms of barbiturate poisoning

**BARBITURATES**

**B** abinski +ve, **B** P ”

**A** taxia

**R** esponse to painful stimuli lost, **R** eflexes ” , **R** /r ”

**B** owel sounds absent

**I** ncontinence of urine and feces

**T** emperature ” ed; Ver **T** igo

**U** rine ” ; contains albumen, hematoporphyrin, sugar

**R** eflexes inhibited or lost; **R** espiratory depression; pa **R** esthesias

**A** bnormal senses [hallucinations]

nys **T** agmus

**E** ye can not see properly [visual disturbance]

**S** mall pupils [contracted], **S** kin cold and clammy and shows bullae, **S** leepiness, **S** lurred speech, **S** tupor progressing to deep coma [final stage]

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…Forensic Medicine and Toxicology for MBBS” as the name suggests prunes down unessential information, and gives only what is necessary for MBBS students to understand a concept and write in exams. The text has been entirely rewritten with a number of new figures and diagrams…
The book has 4 very useful appendices. Appendix 1 deals with all relevant sections from IPC, CrPC and IEA, appendix 2 gives all fatal doses and fatal periods in a nutshell and appendix 3 gives important measurements of organs [weights, diameters etc]. Perhaps the most instructive is appendix 4, which lists 65 common mistakes given in various books. The mistakes are arranged by chapters and corresponding correct information is also given. Sample the following few examples

Appendix 4 – Common Mistakes in some books

| S.no | Chapter | Incorrect information | Correct information |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 3 | Sciatic notch index is 4-5 in males and 5-6 in females | It is **145** in males and **166** in females. Figures 4-5 and 5-6 are for male and female fetuses respectively. |
| 1. | 3 | Age of criminal responsibility is **5 years** according to *Railways Act [RA] 1989* | No such age is prescribed in *Railways Act* . A child of any age can be convicted |
| 1. | 3 | In fingerprinting, **16 points** of comparison are accepted as proof of identity | This figure varies from country to country, and within India from state to state |

The book is illustrated with very good and illustrative line diagrams.

Another good feature of the book is the neat arrangement of all information under 7 levels of heading. Each topics starts with a definition, and then goes on to list important salient features of the topic in a point wise fashion. The numbering system is very helpful to the student, and is similar to what the author used in his earlier “Textbook” and “Essentials”. Thus a student reading, say, signs and symptoms of cyanide already knows he has to remember 8 points under CNS, 2 under CVS, 2 under respiratory system and so on.

All in all, I would say, it is a good book and MBBS students must read this book. I will certainly keep this book at hand for my own lectures and court appearances.

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*-Jatin Bodwal*



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