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Book Reviews: Technical Books Section

...AN EXCELLENT BOOK ON TOXICOLOGY ...Describing the entire book is a challenging, however, the thrill of suspense as what else might be there in the book should hereby enthrall a person. I would recommend this book highly to all forensic and toxicology practitioners, who want to explore toxicology... Rating : 10/10...

Clinical And Forensic Toxicology - 2 vols (Including Video & Atlas), 1st Edition, by Anil Aggrawal. Hardcover, 9.3" x 6.1" x 0.8".
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Anil Aggrawal

CLINICAL AND FORENSIC TOXICOLOGY

(Including Videos and Atlas)

Volume I



*T*o start with, I would like to quote a verse from the bible John 5:37 “You have never heard my father's voice nor seen his form”. This could be equated to the book on Clinical Forensic Medicine and Toxicology by Anil Aggrawal as “One has never seen in the past nor will he be able to see in the future such a masterpiece”. The year 2014 saw a revolutionary breakthrough in the list of expert treatises in India with the release of ***Anil Aggrawal’s Textbook of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology***. In the later years Standalone expansion Such as ***Injuries-Clinical and Forensic Aspects*** and ***Clinical Forensic Medicine and Toxicology*** saw their way through.

This comprehensive textbook on Toxicology is the first of its kind in many ways. The book is divided into 2 volumes each having 600 pages each with content so vast and yet simplified. The diagrams (of which some diagrams are spread over two pages), the examples, illustrations, analogies, mnemonics and case studies just captivate readers to a level never experienced before. A much-awaited concept in this book was the introduction of reductionism with regard to action of poisons and resulting clinical features. In fact, I even made an in-depth video review of this book to highlight this point.

…The books [both volumes] also contain video demonstrations of several bedside tests for detection of poisons, preservation of viscera in special cases of poisonings, clinical examination of a case of drunkenness, identification of venomous snakes and many more vis-à-vis EduMed mobile application…

The books [both volumes] also contain video demonstrations of several bedside tests for detection of poisons, preservation of viscera in special cases of poisonings, clinical examination of a case of drunkenness, identification of venomous snakes and many more vis-à-vis EduMed mobile application. In this vast ocean of a book, it feels pleasant to highlight a few aesthetics which I personally liked such as the Periodic Table of elements in the heavy metallic poisons chapter, the glue-paper analogy in carbamate poisoning treatment section and the mixed age group of people walking in a heavy mud pile for understanding thin layer chromatography.

The author has also brought to light so many concepts unknown to many like the endogenous cannabinoid receptors, and many more making it a must read to expand one’s knowledge. Speaking of which one can also notice a mini atlas of Anil Aggrawal holding a couple of legally served bottles of Cannabis beer in a supermarket at Amsterdam, for photographic purpose of course! Apart from the main segments, there is a wonderful section on Agatha Christie’s Poisons where the type of poisons used in her thriller detective novels spice up the readers interest higher. Simply put, the appendices are a readers delight which is particularly not new to me as Anil Aggrawal is a magician when it comes them. The section on Pioneers in Toxicology is another interesting read describing Francis Camps, Bernard Spilsbury, Tzee Cheng, Hoffman and many more. Interestingly while all books describe in brief in the first pages of a book, this idea of paying tribute to historically famous figures in toxicology as the last chapter in detail shows the mindset of not only a genius writer but one who respects the teachers from whom one can learn.

As it was difficult to carry this daily read back and forth from house to college, without second thought I got two copies for myself, One for the college and one for the house. Describing the entire book is a challenging. However, the thrill of suspense as what else might be there in the book should hereby enthrall a person. I sincerely recommend this book as a must read for all Post graduate students in Internal Medicine, Forensic Sciences, Emergency medicine and last but not the least the faculty of these specialties as well.


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