

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of "Vademecum Gerichtsmedizin"

REFERENCE: Reiman, Wolfgang and Prokop, Otto, *Vademecum Gerichtsmedizin*, Veb Verlag Volk und Gesundheit, Berlin, 1973, 459 pages, price not listed.

This handbook does not pretend to cover in detail all aspects of legal medicine. However, it mentions, sometimes only briefly, the most frequently encountered problems. An entire chapter discusses the different methods that can be of help in determining the time of death. Most of these methods are not routinely used but may be of interest. Forensic pathology makes up the largest part of this book and the information given is accurate but sometimes too schematic. The toxicology problems unfortunately are not given the importance one expects. However, the chapter on alcohol and its effects is quite thorough. There is a complete and interesting chapter about serology and its applications to forensic medicine.

The presentation of the text is often too schematic for easy reading and is not illustrated by photographs but by simple and accurate drawings. The authors recommend this book to physicians, forensic scientists, and attorneys to whom it may, although written in German, give a quick overview of a complex specialty.

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