

BOOK REVIEW

J. C. Rupp,¹ M.D., Ph.D.

A Review of "Investigation of Violent and Sudden Death"

REFERENCE: Hendrix, R. C., *Investigation of Violent and Sudden Death*, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1972, 87 pages, \$6.75.

This slender volume of 87 pages is not a comprehensive treatise on forensic pathology, but is meant to serve as a guide for the practicing physician or hospital pathologist, who by circumstance or inclination finds himself involved in forensic problems and death investigation. The book is succinct, and often too brief; almost every sentence could be expanded into at least a paragraph and sometimes even a chapter. However, the chapters are readable and the book well organized.

For the neophyte, one reading is certainly not enough. This is the type of work that must be read, reread, and referred to until the information is thoroughly absorbed.

The facts presented by the author are generally accurate, and the information is sound and presented in a straightforward and readable manner.

The major criticism of this book is the same criticism that must be leveled at most medical textbooks. The glossy paper is hard on the eyes in a book that is meant to be studied. The photographic illustrations are generally of poor quality and most of the points they illustrate are lost in the printer's reproduction. In this book, many of the large illustrations might have been replaced by an expanded text with resultant benefit to the reader.

This book succeeds in its stated purpose of providing a short manual for the physician who is involved in death investigation, and who has had no formal training in forensic pathology.

¹ Nueces County medical examiner, 2471 Morgan Ave., Corpus Christi, Texas 78405.