

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of "Handbook of Forensic Pathology"

REFERENCE: Fattah, A., *Handbook of Forensic Pathology*, J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, Ill., 1973, 349 pages, \$22.00.

In recent years most of the major advances in the forensic sciences have been in toxicology and other closely related disciplines. Little new or interesting has been written in forensic pathology *per se*. Unfortunately, most textbooks and monographs—with one notable exception—appear quite inadequate.

The *Handbook of Forensic Pathology* by Abdullah Fattah does not substantially alter this situation. It does not adequately meet the needs of the pathologists and medical examiners to whom it is directed. The book contains many categorical statements, has several glaring inaccuracies, and often has the material organized in such fashion that it appears misleading. In a field in which a little knowledge is most assuredly a dangerous thing, this book should be handled with extreme caution by the novice or "do-it-yourself forensic pathologist" who could be led astray by a purportedly authoritative handbook.

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