

## BOOK REVIEW

R. C. Froede,<sup>1</sup> M.D.

### A Review of "Forensic Medicine"

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**REFERENCE:** Simpson, Keith, *Forensic Medicine*, 7th ed., The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1975, 362 pages, \$23.00.

The text of this concise volume attempts to cover all major aspects of forensic pathology and forensic medicine. The book is interesting, fairly timely, and easy to read. It is apparently designed to begin the education of the medical student, attorney, and novice criminal investigator in the rudiments of forensic medicine. In this, the book is quite successful, utilizing, in part, a format of question and answer. This can be particularly useful to a person who is developing a technique or method of investigation for the casual medicolegal case. This is the second edition of this little book that has found its way into my library, and I use it to give to a student to read over several days as a start in the field.

The text, as the author has stated, is concerned with English Law, and therefore, the reader in other than England or some Commonwealth countries may find some of the material irrelevant. This material is handy to have when one is required to give a lecture on comparative medicolegal investigative systems. The value of the drug listings, again appearing to be irrelevant, is in the investigation of deaths due to drug abuse where drugs have been imported from other countries.

As in most books, there are some drawbacks. The volume gives no references so the reader is obliged to seek other books with source material. The theoretical aspects of forensic pathology have been omitted, as well as discussion of more modern biochemical, radiographic, and nuclear techniques useful in the medicolegal investigation.

The value of the book is in its use as a basic teaching guide and its concise definitions. I would recommend it as a handbook for the novice for these purposes and for the reader to gain information based on the author's extensive experience.

<sup>1</sup>Chairman, Department of Forensic Sciences, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D.C. 20306.