

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of "Dental Evidence: A Handbook for Police"

REFERENCE: Gladfelter, Irl A., *Dental Evidence: A Handbook for Police*, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Ill., 1975, 191 pages, no price listed.

This book proves an exception to the old axiom, "You can't judge a book by its cover." On the book jacket Dr. Gladfelter's qualifications are listed as, "Member, American Society of Forensic Odontology" and "Member, International Society for Forensic Odonto-Stomatology." This is analogous to an author of a book on literature giving his qualification as membership in the Book-of-the-Month Club and Literary Guild.

None of the case material presented in the book is original. One gets the distinct impression that the author had never handled an actual case when he wrote the book.

The author's concepts of dental evidence are too limited. His statements on bite marks are confused. His photographs are of poor quality.

The anthropologists will be unhappy with this book because the author makes the common error of confusing the terms "caucasoid" and "caucasian race." The forensic odontologist will be unhappy because of the content of the book. The law enforcement officer will be unhappy because he has purchased a "bound term paper." This reviewer obviously is unhappy with the book, but most unhappy will be the ecologist when he thinks of the trees needlessly sacrificed for this book.

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