

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of *Pharmacy and the Law*

REFERENCE: DeMarco, C. T., *Pharmacy and the Law*, Aspen Systems Corp., Germantown, Md., 1975, 375 pages, \$19.75.

This book is written primarily for practitioners and students of the profession of pharmacy, and broadly covers the law as it applies to all aspects and subspecialties of pharmacy practice. In lieu of an index, it contains an expanded outline which facilitates rapid and efficient use of the book. In addition, it contains a series of appendixes in which many of the most important laws applicable to pharmacy and drug regulation are reproduced.

Pharmacy and the Law is divided into four parts. The first is concerned with the practice of pharmacy itself and what is expected of pharmacy practitioners. The second part deals with the drug laws, particularly those regulating drug products. The third part is concerned with the Controlled Substances Act enumerating the rules and consequences of this law. The fourth part deals with the liabilities of a professional whose activities may result in injury to a patient.

Much emphasis is placed on the historical and chronological development of the drug laws. The book is designed primarily as a reference compendium tending to identify briefly but completely all pertinent laws and requirements while limiting discussion about each. No attempt is made to present court cases and decisions relative to the laws as defined.

While the book is intended primarily for pharmacists, it contains several chapters that may be useful to forensic and clinical scientists. These include a chapter entitled "New and Investigational Drugs," which provides complete information on the procedures and forms required prior to using a new drug substance in humans. The chapter on "Identification of Relevant Laws and Controlled Substances" reviews the classification of controlled substances into five schedules listing the requirements and composition of each group. Very limited chapters are presented on "Alcohol Tax Law" and "Methadone."

Pharmacy and the Law defines and classifies the laws dealing with the practice of pharmacy and is useful for the purpose Mr. DeMarco intends, that of a bookshelf reference and a textbook for pharmacy students.

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