

## BOOK REVIEW

G. E. Gantner,<sup>1</sup> M.D.

### *A Review of Self-Assessment of Current Knowledge in Forensic Pathology and Legal Medicine*

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**REFERENCE:** Perper, Josua A., *Self-Assessment of Current Knowledge in Forensic Pathology and Legal Medicine*, Medical Examination Publishing Co., Flushing, N.Y., 1976, 175 pages, \$12.00.

This book follows the time-honored and useful technique of challenging the reader with pertinent multiple-choice questions in a variety of formats and styles such as might be expected in Board certification or other objective examinations. They are grouped according to whether they fall into such forensic subjects as ballistics, neuropathology, anthropology, serology, toxicology and toxicopathology, jurisprudence, and general forensic pathology. This facilitates the self-assessment process after review of a single subject, if desired. The multiple alternatives offered to each question are thoughtfully chosen to instruct the student in reviewing erroneous as well as correct answers, especially if time is available to consult the reference material. The references properly emphasize the more recent texts and monographs that are still in print and available. A few of the classical references are perhaps unavailable to some readers, but these are few in number and involve reasonable questions that are also answered in the other resources which quote the original texts. The list of references would constitute the nucleus of an excellent professional library in forensic pathology and related fields.

The photoquizzes are surprisingly effective in black and white because they have been carefully selected to be adequate in that medium. As a sample of the questions that might be asked about a photograph they are successful. Color photos on an actual examination might show more, but then accompanying questions would also be more demanding. The example of skull characterization and fiber identification are thought-provoking for obvious reasons.

A review document such as this is especially timely in view of the national trend towards self-assessment and continuing education programs as well as the obvious use of providing a look into testing methods which might appear on board examinations.

<sup>1</sup>Professor of forensic and environmental pathology, St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Mo. 63104.