

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Malpractice and Product Liability Actions Involving Drugs

REFERENCE: Compiled by the Editorial Staff of the Publishers of *Lawyers' Medical Cyclopedia, Malpractice and Product Liability Actions Involving Drugs*, The Allen Smith Company, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind., 1976, 409 pages, \$24.50.

This book fills a need for lawyers as a source for reports of drug liability actions. It deserves a special thanks for the compilation of a wealth of factual information scattered throughout the literature and the law prior to 1975. It is superbly indexed, giving both the trade name and the generic. The problems presented are far from solved, and this book spotlights the questions as well as provides some answers.

The book richly documents the difficulties between the drug manufacturers, dispensers, and the lawyers who handle these cases. It is a no-nonsense digest and gets right down to business, naming drugs (trade and generic name) and the lawsuits and decisions arising therefrom.

Selected drug literature references are footnoted as each drug is named. The discussion on each drug is brief and is taken from the *Physicians' Desk Reference* (PDR), but as stated in the introduction this work is intended as a source of litigation history and not as a source of drug information (I think that is a mistake). All of the selected references and footnotes relate to medical publications. The only legal citations are those given for the illustrative case on the particular drug.

As every lawyer knows, cases are decided on their own factual situations and the jurisdiction, and decisions vary. A particular court may be liberal or conservative. It would have been very helpful if a few more legal citations had been given on each drug (I assume the book was meant to be sold to lawyers).

The book has a short medical glossary, a table of cases listed alphabetically, and a drug index listed by trade name followed by the generic. For this the distinguished list of editors, contributors, and consultants are to be congratulated.

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