

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of *Paternity Testing*

REFERENCE: Silver, H., Ed., *Paternity Testing*. American Association of Blood Banks, Washington, D.C., 1978, 155 pages, \$24.00.

This book consists of an introduction and six monographs that were presented in a seminar at the annual meeting of the American Association of Blood Banks in November 1978. It includes a logical series of topics concerning immunohematology as it relates to judicial concerns by some of the best recognized and respected workers in this area of the forensic sciences. Appropriately, this publication is dedicated by Dr. Sussman to the late Dr. Alexander Wiener. Both have been innovators in the field of the application of immunohematology to jurisprudence. The latter initiated paternity testing in the civil courts of the United States in the 1930s.

The text succinctly and practically covers the polymorphism of the human blood group markers, their inheritance, and their legal considerations. Patricia Tippet of University College, London, discusses blood group genetics, and the red cell blood groups are covered by Phyllis Morel of the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank in San Francisco. Dale Dykes and Herbert Polesky, of the Minneapolis War Memorial Blood Bank in Minneapolis, cover serum protein allotypes and red cell enzymes. The complexities of human lymphocyte-antigen serotyping are presented by William Miller of the Missouri-Illinois Regional Blood Services. The problem of probability in the analysis of this complex is the topic of Richard Walker, William Beaumont Hospital, Michigan. Finally, legal considerations with emphasis on rules of evidence are discussed by Harry Krause, professor of law, University of Illinois.

In all, the authors have provided 72 invaluable tables and figures, 97 references, many formulas, a variety of methods, and sound advice in their areas of expertise. Pitfalls in interpretation, legal custody, selection of reagents, and appropriate methods are presented.

Traditionally, German scientists have been the leaders in blood group determinations in legal matters. Key references and accurate incidence and genetic information are widely disbursed in the world's subspecialty literature. This rapidly expanding field has many applications in scientific investigation; however, reliable current data are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. This slim volume with its excellent data and perspective should be on the bookshelf of every serious forensic biologist.

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