

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of *Forty Years of Murder*

REFERENCE: Simpson, Keith, *Forty Years of Murder*. George G. Harrap and Co., Ltd., London, England, 1978, 327 pages, £6.75 (\$11.50).

There have been several autobiographies written lately and some have already been reviewed in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, but this one happens to be of a very different nature. In addition to a very interesting narrative review of his career, Professor Simpson has included some excellent philosophy and his own personal touch by giving his opinions on long-standing forensic science problems.

The cases covered in the book are those from the very beginning of Professor Simpson's career, and they span the war years and some of his relationship with Professor Spilsbury, who was a dominant figure in forensic medicine in the period from World War I to World War II. Many of the famous cases that occurred then were covered by Professor Simpson, and in his narrative he brings in the relationships he had with his contemporaries, the late Francis Camps and the late Donald Teare, both of whom were active during that time.

Professor Simpson's activities include being called in as a consultant on cases from overseas. Perhaps his main contributions to forensic medicine have been his works that were a continuation of Taylor's principles and practice of medical jurisprudence as well as other works in the forensic sciences.

This is an excellent book. It should be a part of the library of anyone interested in forensic science, and certainly reading the book was a memorable experience for me, especially because I have known the reputation of Professor Simpson for many years.

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