BOOK REVIEW

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Review of Medicolegal Aspects of Alcohol Determination in Biological Specimens

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REFERENCE: Medicolegal Aspects of Alcohol Determination in Biological Specimens. James C. Garriott, Ed., Lawyers and Judges Publishing Co., Tucson, AZ. 317 pages.

Medicolegal Aspects of Alcohol Determination in Biological Specimens was first published by PSG Publishing Company in 1988. This reprint of the book by Lawyers and Judges Publishing Company leaves each chapter intact with the exception of the deletion of the delightful cartoons from the New Yorker magazine in chapter 14.

In the preface the editor states his goal to bring the science of alcohol, its disposition in the body, decomposition influences, legal considerations and other facets together for the first time in a single volume. He selected a number of distinguished forensic scientists with vast experience to review the literature and write the chapters which include the chemistry of alcohol; the disposition of alcohol in man; the analytical aspects of blood, urine and breath testing; the collection and storage of specimens for alcohol analysis; quality assurance in the laboratory; State and Federal regulations concerning driving while impaired with alcohol; psychomotor performance impairment; and the expert witness. The editor has added chapter 15 titled "current science and issues in forensic aspects of alcohol." This book is a valuable reference and teaching aid and I hope it will soon go into a second edition with each chapter updated.

The book is essential to analytical toxicologists and criminalists in the forensic laboratories, to medical examiners, forensic pathologists and others who must weigh and interpret laboratory findings, and to the lawyers who prosecute and defend the drinking driver in court in the preparation of their cases.

I have used this book for reference and training since it first appeared and I would encourage those who deal with any aspect of forensic alcohol to add the book to their library without delay.