

## BOOK REVIEW

*Lawrence B. Erlich,<sup>1</sup> M.D.*

### Review of: Hickley, "Goodbye My Little Ones"

---

**REFERENCE:** Hickley C, Lightly T, O'Brien J. Goodbye my little ones, Onyx, Harmondsworth, England, 1996, \$5.99.

This book concerns the prosecution of Waneta Hoyt, a woman who murdered her five children as infants. In each of the five deaths the initial clinical diagnosis was Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Mothers who murder their children are apparently of some interest to the general public since the second page of the book lists three other books about the same subject.

This book reads like a novel. It moves quickly and keeps the reader's interest. The authors stated that all of the events are real and that none of the names were changed to protect either the innocent or the guilty. Some of the names of the participants in the case are people who are well known to the members of this Academy.

The book is written from the point of view of the prosecutors of the case. It give a layman an insight into the legal process and

the way expert witnesses are viewed and handled by competent lawyers. The laymen can get a grasp of the way an expert can support a case and the way the experts for the other side are thought of and examined.

However, most of the readers of this journal are forensic experts and this sort of situation is all too familiar to us. I am sure that everyone reading this review has had cases of child murder in their practice. I certainly have had cases of this nature, more poignant and perhaps more interesting than this one. Most of us can take most things in stride, but child murder may not be one of them. Quite frankly, I don't want to be reminded of the child murder cases that I have done and there are probably other forensic experts who feel the same way. However, for the layman, this is a very interesting book.

<sup>1</sup> P.O. Box 83428, Baton Rouge, LA 70884-3428.