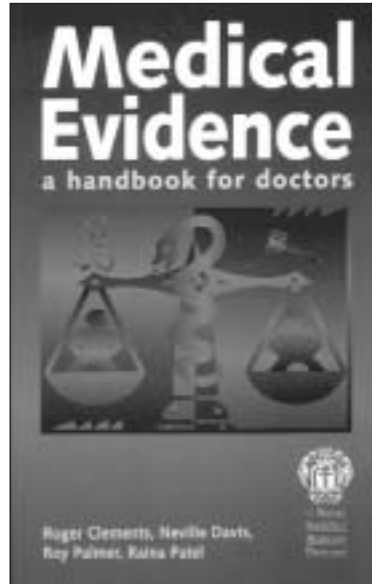


# NEW TITLES



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The Clinical Forensic Medicine Section of the Royal Society of Medicine has been quite prominent over the last decade in the education of doctors and medical undergraduates in the medico-legal matters. As medical practitioners become more frequently involved in forensic matters whatever their clinical or laboratory speciality, this slim booklet is yet another way that doctors can be introduced to their obligations in terms of giving oral and written evidence to the courts, and their expected deportment in the civil and criminal courts, HM Coroners' inquests and in tribunals.

This publication is aimed strictly at those practicing medicine in the British Isles – but outwith Scotland. A 'throw-away' paragraph, which is quite economical, both in its brevity and its correctness, refers to the Procurator Fiscal and the Scottish legal system, but that is all there is for the Scots!

For the others, its component seven chapters are set out in an orderly and very readable sequence, and are easily assimilated. They are written by eminent and experienced doctors who have often given testimony. This publication also takes into account the latest legal

and forensic practices, and thus updates those who are embarking on the preparation of reports for the court and who will be giving medical evidence, whether in civil or criminal courts, inquests and in tribunals. Taking cognisance of increasing medical litigation, a chapter is devoted to advising and appraising the doctor as to his rights when he happens to be in the firing line as the defendant. A helpful glossary of legal terms is also provided in the last seventeen pages of the book. Case law and statute are comprehensively referred to where this is essential.

Witnesses, including 'expert' witnesses, must always keep in mind that they are there to assist the court and not to win cases. Expert testimony, whatever the odds, should therefore always keep this tenet in mind, and be objective, disinterested, comprehensive, thoroughly prepared, well-referenced and accurate. This small book goes a long way to help those who have been requested or subpoenaed to help the courts from an elevated and respected platform of their professional expertise and experience.

**AB**