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Gray: LAW AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

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LAW AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE. By *Kenneth George Gray*. Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 1947. Pp. v, 67. \$1.50.

The author, lecturer in medical jurisprudence and forensic psychiatry at the University of Toronto, is both a doctor and a lawyer. His work has familiarized him with the legal problems which confront doctors and hospitals. The purpose of the book seems to be to give the Canadian doctor an idea of the legal problems he may face in the course of his practice; the analysis is thus based on Canadian law. The first two chapters orient the lay reader by explaining in simple terms the sources of the law in Canada, the make-up of the courts, and some of the most common legal terms and procedures. The remainder of the book treats such subjects as expert witnesses, malpractice, unauthorized operations, professional secrecy, business relations and mental illness, in concise, readable form. The book may be of great value to its selected audience as a means of making them aware of possible legal consequences of their everyday work. It would be unfortunate, however, if it should give the doctor a feeling of competence to solve his legal problems without assistance. In several instances the author has mentioned that a solicitor should be consulted,¹ but he has also devoted an entire chapter² to the listing of certain

¹ For instance, pp. 43 and 44.

² C. II.

statutes with the declared purpose “. . . of assisting a medical practitioner in ascertaining the Act in which a particular topic may be found.”⁸ The clear implication is that by consulting the statute, the practitioner is capable of solving his legal problem. If the doctor takes this view, he is as likely to come to grief as a lawyer who tries to cure his ills by studying medical textbooks.

⁸ P. 46.