get him or her to hospital as quickly as possible. Nor is the possibility discussed that lights and sirens would lead to fewer changes of speed and thus a smoother journey.

Some discussion of police chases is an inevitable component of a book of this nature. This has been contributed by a lawyer who is a District Attorney. The discussion is reasonably balanced and comes to the common-sense conclusion that police officers need clear guidelines and proper training on when a chase is appropriate. An acceptable and reasonable response may be to call the chase off.

This is an interesting book that deals largely with principles rather than the nuts and bolts of accident reconstruction. Whilst firmly rooted in United States law and practice some of the discussion is highly relevant to other jurisdictions. Anyone responsible for managing emergency vehicles or investigating incidents involving them would find something to think about in this book.

DA Rudram

THE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE
CRIME LAB: A Guide for Nonscientists
John Houde
(Calico Press, LLC, P.O Box 6248, Ventura, CA 93006, 206pp, index, ISBN 096582862-X; $24.95)

The author is to be congratulated on this highly readable account of basic crime scene investigation and forensic laboratory analysis. The book has given this reviewer a much greater appreciation of a number of the forensic science sub-disciplines. The text also reminds the reader of the importance of thinking outside your immediate area of expertise when analysing a forensic case. John Houde’s long-standing experience as a criminalist and educator clearly shows through with his superb ability to explain various difficult concepts with considerable clarity.

The foreword reminds us that although this book is dedicated to ‘The Juror’ – its worth extends far beyond this group, as “police officers, attorneys, judges and journalists will find this an interesting read”. Healthcare professionals involved in delivering expert opinions for a criminal investigation or trial, will also benefit from reading this volume.

The print is clear, and the illustrations are complimentary to the underlying text. There are chapters on assessing the crime scene, blood splatter analysis, perishable evidence, microscopic evidence, analytical equipment, trace evidence, blood and DNA testing, drug and chemical analysis, detection and investigation of impressions, and finally, issues regarding expert testimony and credibility are discussed. The writer takes you on a tour of the criminalist sciences using the investigation of a highly complex hypothetical crime scene as a template. This is a very successful and entertaining approach; with many interesting illustrative anecdotes included as well. A short bibliography is given at the end of the book for those seeking suitable extra reading. The text is up to date, and includes some thoughts on the OJ Simpson trial’s impact on criminalist professionalism, particularly as it relates to the United States. Forensic science educators will value this book for both its illustrative examples, and clear explanations about complex science issues. Although this book is written from a US perspective, the content is directly transferable to forensic practice in most developed countries.

The concluding paragraph reminds us that a number of forensic topics were not covered, such as soil comparison and questioned document examination, though this detracts little from the quality of the volume as a whole. The book was a pleasure to read and review; and will definitely remain in the frequently used portion of my book collection. CRIME LAB: A Guide for Nonscientists deserves a place on the library shelf of anyone even remotely interested in criminalistics.

Rod Williamson

NAME YOUR POISON
Criminal Poisoning – Investigational Guide for Law Enforcement, Toxicologists, Forensic scientists and Attorneys
John Harris Trestrail III
(Humana Press, Totowa, New Jersey, 2000, 164pp, ISBN 0896035921; $59.50)

This short book (164 pages) is one of a series on Forensic Science and Medicine aimed at filling a gap in the market for up-to-date texts in these rapidly growing areas of science. The text is intended to act as a guide for law enforcement investigators, toxicologists, forensic scientists and lawyers to provide general background information concerning toxicology and how it applies to modern litigation. The book comprises ten chapters entitled: Poisons throughout History, Types of Poisons, Poisoners, Victims, Crime Scene Investigation, The Forensic Autopsy, Proving Poisoning, Poisoners in Court, Poisoners in Fiction, Conclusions. The chapters are supported with an Appendix providing information on six common homicidal poisons and an extensive bibliography.

The first chapter on Poisoners throughout History provides an account of poisons used by early civilisations together with 24 specific case histories relating to famous/infamous cases. This provides an excellent introduction to the book and is written in a relaxed and informative style that creates in the reader a sense of great expectation for the following chapters. In Chapter 2 – Types of Poisons, the author discusses the definitions of poisons, the characteristics of poisons in context of the poisoner wishing to select the ideal
substance, how poisons kill and a discussion of the sort of questions that the investigator should consider when investigating a potential case of poisoning. Chapter 3 attempts to provide a means of categorising poisoners with respect to their thought processes and psychological profiles. The author also uses data from 679 documented poisoning cases in an attempt to analyse the most common poisons used and categorises poisoners by gender, occupation and number of victims. Chapter 4 provides a brief account of the classic symptoms of poisoning generated by some of the more common poisons while Chapter 5 provides some outline about types of poisoning cases and provides some guidelines about the information that should be gathered to assist the investigating officer. The Forensic Autopsy, Chapter 6, is a three page chapter that is so brief that it seemed to be somewhat out of place in this text. In a book designed for investigators and lawyers this chapter somehow seemed to miss the mark and the book would not have been incomplete without it. The chapter introduced the concept of post-mortem change and the effect that this may have on drug concentrations in blood taken from different sites in the body. The guidelines at the end of this chapter were all very relevant and important but no real description of the autopsy was provided and this chapter might have been better given a different title. Chapter 7 was another very brief chapter in which Dr Trestrail presents the findings of his statistical analysis of poisoning cases. This chapter was also somewhat disappointing in that just as the reader is becoming engrossed in the outcomes of the analysis the phrase “The next part of this study will look at the data that represents....” and this completes the chapter. For a few moments I found myself looking around the remainder of the book to find the “next part of the study” in case my copy had been mis-paged during binding only to realise this was simply a chapter that ended abruptly. Poisoners in Court, Chapter 8, saw a return to the quality of the earlier chapters (Chapters 1 to 5) and provides some useful guidelines concerning what is necessary to secure a conviction in court. The book concludes with 35 pages of bibliography which is fairly comprehensive and very useful.

Despite two chapters that were disappointing because of their brevity, this is a book that I would certainly recommend to all student toxicologists and crime investigators. It is also a book that the experienced toxicologist might find useful to have on the bookshelf. The book is reasonably priced, is written in a congenial style and presents a number of concepts in a clear diagrammatic form that the lecturer might find useful. Dr Trestrail has researched his case histories well and has included case histories from both sides of the Atlantic to use as illustrative material. Dr Trestrail concludes by reiterating a concern that many toxicologists have expressed over the years viz. “If all those buried in our cemeteries who were poisoned could raise their hand, we would probably be shocked by the numbers”. The toxicologist can only find poisons if he is presented with the material to work with and the front line in any poisoning investigation has to be the crime investigator and pathologist. If this book can stimulate investigators to “think poison” it will have succeeded in its purpose.

M David Osselton

HARD DRIVE FOR EVIDENCE

Digital Evidence and Computer Crime
Eoghan Casey

Digital technology is everywhere. The advances in power and capabilities of such systems has already resulted in very sophisticated items fitting comfortably in the palm of your hand or inside a pocket. While such advancements were designed to aid both businesses and communities, they now also present attractive targets for criminal exploitation. Computers and computer technology can be used to commit crime, can be the target of crime and can contain evidence of crime. Understanding the nature of the digital evidence that may be found in each of these situations is a key issue addressed in Eoghan Casey’s book.

Digital Evidence and Computer Crime provides an introduction to many concepts from computer science about networks, and in particular the Internet. It details the application of forensic science principles to the location, recovery, and examination of digital evidence. Various aspects of behavioural evidence analysis are described with particular reference to the possible assistance that can be provided in investigations by digital evidence. The development of legislation covering digital evidence in various countries is outlined, together with particular consideration to ‘search and seizure’ issues. The author ends with a look into the future describing how digital evidence may increasingly occur in many traditional crime types and how each of us needs a greater awareness of the implications of the growing use of such technology. Each chapter in the book is fully supported by case examples to clarify particular points made. It also contains many references to specialized literature and on-line resources as well as a helpful glossary of terms.

This book was clearly written with a diverse audience in mind, comprising law enforcement personnel who have to deal with collecting evidence, forensic scientists who perform analyses and may provide expert evidence, lawyers who provide legal counsel, and other technical people such as computer security professionals, programmers, and system administrators who may become involved in producing digital evidence. It is likely, however, that this