

Medical-Legal Evaluation of Hearing Loss

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As stated in the first chapter, this book will be of most use to otologists and otolaryngologists. It can also supplement the professional training of others such as audiologists, engineers, attorneys, etc. It is stated that nothing in the book requires more background than high school science and eighth-grade mathematics. A brief discussion of the principles of acoustics is followed by a description of the ear and the various tests that can be made to determine hearing acuity.

While much of the book contains information of interest to medical specialists, there are several chapters that relate to noise, noise-induced hearing loss, non-occupational noise sources, hearing conservation and reduction of noise exposure, legal remedies for hearing loss, and the role of the expert witness.

A brief history of federal and state regulations related to noise exposure is included in the chapter on hearing conservation. Sources of sound (noise?) discussed under nonoccupational hearing loss include shooting, loud music, recreational sources, household appliances and transportation noise. The chapter on legal remedies for hearing loss includes a discussion of workers compensation, product liability claims, and the importance of federal noise regulation on injury litigation.