

Identification of cadavers and skeletal findings

Abstract

"Identification" is an act of declaration of identity. The identity (particularly in today's globalized society) deservedly draws attention not only in a normal social interaction, but is also enshrined legally. Its purpose is also important in the sad events of last identification of a person - the identification of the dead.

Thesis sets as a goal in a clear and comprehensible form to offer a presentment to an extremely interesting and inspiring topic of identification of the dead human body, using multidisciplinary approach with focus to criminological practice. It provides a comprehensive overview of all the components of identifying corpses, demonstrates the process of identifying, from the finding of the dead body, through autopsy, up to some practice expertise to determine its identity. To achieve this, the method of literature review using books and journals, both domestic and foreign, with subsequent synthesis of acquired knowledge and information with their critical evaluations is used. Clarity, however, is not exchanged for cursoriness and perfunctoriness in the work and therefore some topics suitable for detailed analysis (analysis of DNA, thanatology, the procedure of finding dead bodies in the terrain) are evolved in such a degree to involve even a disinterested researcher, giving him a complex look at the issue.

The one, interested in the topic can become acquainted with the process of identifying of the corpses, from its finding, through autopsy (and its various types), up to some main technical investigative techniques (forensic techniques) used in the identification of corpses and skeletal remains such as visual identification, dactyloscopy, forensic biology and forensic anthropology. Some criminalistic techniques stand autonomously in various literary sources (e.g. DNA analysis, forensic entomology, forensic dentistry, superprojection), the thesis incorporates them under the larger units, where they logically and from historical point of view pertain. Inspiring chapter is a treatise on death, which serves as a introduction to the topic and presents a "death" in a broader context of medical science and jurisprudence.

Appendices are divided into several blocks and are used to illustrate better the text-only information from the core of the work (annex of pictures of insects complements the information from the chapter about forensic entomology), an specially essential and illustrative annex are a case studies from the Institute of Forensic Medicine Faculty of Medicine in Bratislava, which significantly contributes to the overall picture and also show how to implement the theoretical knowledge described in the thesis into practice, so balancing the theoretical tone of the thesis.

Key words

death, corpse (cadaver), skeletal remains, criminalistics, identification