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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph F. Turner*

SURREPTITIOUS ENTRY, by *Willis George*. The D. Appleton-Century Company, New York, London. 1946. Pp. 214. \$2.50.

Surreptitious Entry will undoubtedly provide interesting reading for the detective who prefers to operate from the armchair and enjoy vicarious thrills. Basically, it is an adventure story concerning the activities of one Willis George, while in the employ of the United States Treasury Department, Office of Naval Intelligence, and the OSS.

The experienced investigator will probably not find much of interest in the book from a technical standpoint. It is relatively short, easy reading, and overall, a glamorized account of what is routine work to many.

When the book first appeared, this reviewer thought it might contain certain information relative to criminal modus operandi which would serve to enlighten the potential burglar and frustrate the police officer. However, this does not appear to be the case. Methods of breaking and entering are similar to those alluded to in fiction and the pulp magazines.

Officers working on special assignments may, however, have their imagination stimulated by the somewhat extensive accounts of the methodical preparation and meticulous attention to detail practiced by the author when he and his crew were preparing for a surreptitious entry. This is the only redeeming feature, as far as policemen are concerned.

If the investigating officer gets one or two new ideas which may help him in planning and executing a certain type of investigation, the book will have served its purpose; it is primarily an interesting story for the uninitiated.

RALPH F. TURNER

Michigan State College

LEGAL MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY, by *Thomas A. Gonzales, M.D., Morgan Vance, M.D., and Milton Helpert, M.D.* D. Appleton-Century Company, New York, London. 1940. Pp. 754. \$10.00.

The second printing of this book is no doubt one of the most complete and reliable treatises on the subject of legal medicine. It is particularly unique in that the three authors have international fame in this field and have many years of experience in both the practice and teaching of legal medicine. Their years of training are reflected in the details and technics described in various chapters.

The chapters are arranged with clear organization, starting with a comparison of the Coroner's system and the more efficient medical examiner's system, their respective responsibilities and their relations with the local health and police departments, the district attorney, and the courts. Following are chapters on identification, technic of the

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autopsy, determination of the cause of death, both natural and otherwise. These chapters on the determination of the cause of death are well illustrated by actual case histories and photographs. The chapters on the microscopic examination of hair and the medicolegal examination of blood contain much information of great practical value.

The remaining chapters deal with the general considerations of toxicology. The drugs and poisons are separated into their various logical groups and are discussed separately as to the lethal dose of each, its action on the human body, and lastly, and of great value, the methods of isolation and detection from biologic material. The chapters on toxicology contain a quantity of information on the technics which is not found in other books of this type. These are based on the authors' experiences in the Medical Examiners in New York City, where since its organization in 1918, over 30,000 bodies have been examined in the toxicological laboratory. This represents a cross section of all the common poisons and more than a rare occurrence of the more subtle and uncommon poisons.

This book so completely and thoroughly discusses the various subjects of forensic medicine and toxicology that it should become the text and reference book for the pathologist, coroner, coroner's physician, medical examiner, toxicologist, and related specialists interested in the practice of legal medicine. It also should prove of value as a text and reference in the teaching of scientific crime detection either in the laboratory or in the police academy.

SIDNEY KAYE

Toxicologist
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THE POLICE AND MINORITY GROUPS. (A manual prepared for use in the Chicago Park District Police Training School). By *Joseph D. Lohman*, Lecturer in Sociology, University of Chicago, and Associate Director for Race Relations, Julius Rosenwald Fund, and the Supervisory Officers of the Division of Police. Chicago Park District, Chicago, Illinois. 1947. Pp. XIII, 133. \$2.00.

The materials contained in the manual are the substance of a program of study and conference in the field of human relations by the supervisory police personnel of the Chicago Park District and include a discussion of the following: World wide and neighborhood aspects of human relations; background and conditions of national, racial, and religious tensions; the facts about race; the social situation in which tensions arise; the role of the police officer in dealing with tensions; the law and administrative control as they affect human relations; Illinois statutes affecting race relations and the municipal code of Chicago.

The purpose of the manual is to present constructive, practical suggestions on preventive policing in the field of interracial relationships. Emphasis is placed on police techniques for preventing riots and improving relations between different groups. It stresses the importance of demonstrating sincerely and effectively to all factions that each enjoys impartial and equal protection at the hands of the police. This cannot be accomplished after trouble starts, but should be the objective of a long-range public relations program and inherent factors in day to day departmental policy. While the materials in the manual were designed for the

the specific information of the Chicago Park District Police Training School, which is now in its eleventh consecutive year of continuous training in all subjects pertaining to police procedure and practical police problems, there is no question of their value and importance in the instruction and guidance of the civil authorities in other communities throughout the nation.

This manual has its chief significance in demonstrating the relevance and practical application of scientific knowledge about human relations in the training of police officers. It has been established that the sciences of chemistry, biology and physics are of great value in perfecting methods of crime detection. Police methods will also be immeasurably advanced if scientific knowledge and methods about human relations are universally employed in the training of police officers.

JOSEPH KLUCHESKY

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