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Leonarde Keeler

1904 - 1949

Leonarde Keeler, developer of the "lie-detector" technique, died on September 20, 1949, after having suffered a stroke thirteen days earlier while visiting in Wisconsin with his life-long friend and former associate, Charles M. Wilson, Director of the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory.

Although Mr. Keeler was only 45 years of age at the time of his death, his name is indelibly impressed upon the pages of the history of scientific lie detection. His first contribution was the development in 1926 of a practical and effective instrument for recording blood pressure, pulse, and respiration for purposes of detecting deception. More significant, however, was his development of a very successful test procedure and technique for diagnosing deception from these various physiological recordings. His work in this latter respect undoubtedly constitutes the most valuable contribution of any one person to the advancement of scientific lie detection.

The present widespread use of the "lie-detector" technique is due almost solely to Keeler's own efforts. Unmatched was the eagerness with which he engaged in criminal and personnel case work, in training others in the use of the instrument, and in generally promoting the lie-detector technique as a useful aid in the field of criminal investigation.

A very colorful and influential figure has left the stage. His performance will long be remembered.

FRED E. INBAU