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## Notes

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## NOTES

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The Vienna Meeting of the International Academy for Criminalistic Science.—The International Academy for Criminalistic Science, founded last year at Lausanne, and having its secretariat in Vienna, has just held its 1930 session, October 3-10, at the Vienna police department. The session was opened by Professor van Ledden Hulsebosch from Amsterdam who stated that the moment had come to let national barriers fall, and to attack those hindrances caused by geographical distances and language differences which make a close relation between the criminologists of the world difficult. If on the one hand the League of Nations, and on the other the International Criminal Police Commission are attempting to cooperate in the battle against the international criminal, also the representatives of the criminalistic sciences must also work together toward the same goal and further international relations.

Delegates were present at the meeting from Germany, America, Holland, Austria, and Sweden, and lectures or reports were given on the following topics:

*By Professor Bischoff of Lausanne:*

On the affair of the false Grand Duchess Anastasia of Russia.

*By Professor Brüning of Berlin:*

On fire arms examination.

*By Mr. Dangle of Vienna:*

On the examination of criministically important traces of different types of sealing wax.

*By Professor Danckwort of Hanover:*

On photography with infra-red rays.

*By Dr. Heese of Stuttgart:*

On how to determine the make of the pistol through a study of fired bullets and shells.

*By Dr. Hesselink of Holland:*

About arson.

*By Professor Van Ledden Hülsebosch of Amsterdam:*

On the study of faded handwriting.

*By Professor Jellinek of Vienna:*

On the study of traces of electricity.

*By Professor Kockel of Leipzig:*

On medicine and medical science in their relation to criminalistics.

*By Professor Michel of Vienna:*

On the newest methods of investigating and identifying precious stones and pearls.

*By Professor Oppenheim of Vienna:*

On the criministically important professional marks and injuries on the skin.

*By Professor Popp of Frankfurt:*

On methods of determining whether murder or suicide has occurred, in the case of persons found hanging in trees.

*By Dr. Söderman of Sweden:*

On the examination of bullets, shells and powder stains.

*By Professor Türkel of Vienna:*

On dust investigation and examination of shells.

*By Professor Wasicky of Vienna:*

On the newest methods of finding substances which might be of value to Criminalistics.

Furthermore report were presented by:

*Professor Lochte of Gottingen:*

On dust examination.

*Professor Hulst of Holland:*

On the value of microscopic examination of the lungs and stomach content.

In the general session of the members it was determined that the next meeting of the Academy would take place in Amsterdam in September 1932. Before the end of the session the members paid a visit to the Chancellor, Dr. Schober in order to thank him for his interest in the Academy.

**Criminalistic Institute of Vienna Police.**—The school year 1930-1931 of the Criminalistic Institute of the Vienna Police Department is just beginning. The work of this Institute covers two years divided into four semesters. The first and the third terms opened October 15th, the following courses being offered in the first term:

Photographic Chemistry—Prof. Josef Daimer of the Graphic Institute, Vienna.

Occupational Skin Changes of Criminalistic Importance—Prof. Moritz Oppenheim, University of Vienna.

Business Management with Seminar Exercises in Accounting—Prof. Karl Seidel, Institute for World Commerce, Vienna.

Criminalistic Symptomology and Diagnosis of Photographic Optics—Prof. Siegfried Türkel, Scientific Director of the Criminalistic Institute.

Commercial Technology: Organic Raw Materials and Other Microscopic Examination—Prof. Joseph Weese, Institute of Technology, Vienna.

In the third term the following courses are offered:

Criminalistically Important Parts of Chemical Technology—Prof. Friedrich Böck, Institute of Technology, Vienna.

Medico-legal Evidence—Dr. Philipp Schneider, University of Vienna.

Special Phenomenology and Elementary Criminalistic Technology—Prof. Siegfried Türkel.

Forensically Important Parts of Toxicology and Related Subjects—Prof. Richard Wasicky, University of Vienna.

In addition, lectures on the following subjects will be given:

The Technique of Graphic Representation—Prof. Karl Albert, Graphic Institute, Vienna.

Preparations for the Microscope with Practical Exercises—Dr. Theodor Bauer, University of Vienna.

Criminalistically Important Simulations of Diseases—Prof. Siegmund Erben, Karl Lindner, Heinrich Neumann, and Emil Raimann.

Scientific Police Technique—Dr. van Ledden Hülsebosch, Amsterdam.

Exercises in Photographic Optics—Prof. Türkel and Mr. H. Kaiser.

Special Course for the Criminalistic Experts—Prof. Türkel.

More detailed information can be secured from Kriminalistischen Institutes der Bundespolizeidirektion Wien, IX. Rossauerlande 7, 1/88/89.—T. S.

**What Shall We Do With Our Convicts?**—The recent riots in our state and federal prisons, amounting to actual warfare between convicts and guards and resulting in the burning of buildings and the killing of many of the combatants, ought to suggest something more to the American people than stronger bolts and a larger force of armed guards.

We already have the reputation for being the most criminal of civilized people, and these recent prison riots will go far to convince the world that we have the worst of all penal systems.

Our county jails are merely iron cages where we keep men and women in idleness while they are awaiting trial or serving a short sentence.

Our so-called industrial schools and reformatories for boys and girls are, with moral degenerates. And a large percent of them come out of these institutions of them are notorious schools for crime.

Boys who have committed no greater offense than loafing, truancy, or petty theft, are sent to these institutions where they come into intimate association with moral degenerates. And a large percent of them come out of these institutions with a thorough knowledge of criminal technology. I was told by the Superintendent of the John Worthy School of Chicago that twenty per cent of the boys committed to it were sent back for a worse offense.

Our federal and state penitentiaries are institutions where men and women are herded, fed and worked, like beasts, and we should not be surprised if they sometimes act like beasts.

Nothing can be done in the way of reforming these prisons. If the walls could be made high enough and the machine guns and guards numerous enough, the riots might be kept down, but that would mean more repression of the convicts which would still further dehumanize them.

The only remedy for these inefficient and expensive institutions is to scrap them and start anew with some other method of dealing with violators of the law.

Were I an American Mussolini I would put into operation a criminal procedure somewhat as follows:

First, and as the most indispensable element of justice, I would apply the principle of restitution to all classes of offenders. In every case of theft, or injury to a person, the offender should be compelled to make restitution in full or as far as possible, and by such means as the court might prescribe.

Instead of sending a man to prison for theft or other minor offenses I would have him put under bond and under guardianship until he compensated the party he had wronged.

This procedure would not be a radical departure from the practice in European countries and in some of our juvenile courts, of placing young offenders under a trained probation officer who, for a specified period, supervises their conduct. I would place all minor offenders under probation or under bond with the principle of restitution always insisted upon.

This procedure would simplify the convict problem by doing away with about one-half of the convicts, and at the same time, prevent the first offenders and minor offenders from intimate association with criminals of the incorrigible type.

Our present procedure in reference to theft is as ridiculous as possible, and as far removed as possible from any principle of justice. For instance, three white boys in Oklahoma recently robbed several farms of their chickens

and were caught in the act of cashing a check for the proceeds. The boys were convicted and sent to the State School for juvenile offenders. The farmers who lost their chickens got no compensation, but they will be taxed to pay for the keep of these boys at the state school.

A negro boy in Oklahoma was recently sent to the penitentiary for seven years for forging a name to a bank check. The party defrauded received nothing by way of restitution, but will be taxed to help support the Negro for a period of seven years.—*Jerome Dowd*, Professor of Sociology, State University, Norman, Okla.

**PAGES 479-482 ARE  
INTENTIONALLY OMITTED**

