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## Police Science Notes

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## POLICE SCIENCE NOTES

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**Medico-Legal Committee**—In a report submitted at a recent meeting in Washington, D. C., by the Medico-Legal Committee of the American Bar Association the Chairman, Dean Albert J. Harno, made the following statement: "The Committee proposes the following organization in each of at least our most populous states: (A) A Division of Police Science with departments including a Police School, a Police Laboratory, Identification and Police Administration; (B) A Division of Clinical Medicine and Laboratory Science. This division to be staffed to handle records, photographs and work in pathology, bacteriology, immunology, toxicology, and chemistry. This division should be conceived to give scientific aid to investigators, coroners, prosecutors and courts."

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**Department of Justice**—Describing the function of the Department of Justice in a radio address recently, Homer Cummings, Attorney General of the United States, made an interesting comment on the success of that department in kidnaping investigations. He stated: "The intensive campaign against kidnapers, racketeers, and other predatory criminals, which was commenced last March, has made distinct and gratifying progress. In the 20 kidnapings reported, the Division of Investigation, under the very capable leadership of J. Edgar Hoover and in cooperation with state authorities, has achieved a solution in every instance. I do not know what

the future may hold, but thus far we have not recorded a single failure. 43 persons have been convicted and 20 are in custody awaiting trial. The sentences imposed include 1 death sentence, 10 life sentences, and aggregate terms of imprisonment amounting to 405 years." (Quoted from "The South Dakota Peace Officer" of May, 1934.)

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**Bullet Photography**—In an article by Mr. C. A. Peterson, Deputy Sheriff, Dade County, Miami, Florida, in the May, 1934, issue of Police "13-13" entitled "A Camera for Bullet Photography," the author describes his recently invented bullet camera which photographs bullets so that their surfaces may be viewed in their entirety. The camera is said to involve an adaptation of a Sept movie camera.

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**Police Training School**— During the week of June 17th the League of Kansas Municipalities conducted a Police Training School in Wichita, Kansas. The course was held under the direction of Chief O. W. Wilson. Three distinct phases of police science were listed for consideration: *The Laboratory*; *Investigation at the Scene of a Crime*; and *Police Tactics*.

Chief Wilson appointed Professor Leonarde Keeler of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory of Northwestern University School of Law to supervise the course of instruction in *The Laboratory*, in addition to his giving a series of lec-

tures on the scientific detection of crime, especially as concerns the detection of deception.

The instruction in *Investigation at the Scene of a Crime* included "the method of procedure, finding and preserving evidence, latent fingerprints, casts of various materials, sketches and photographs, examining witnesses, questioning prisoners."

The instruction in *Police Tactics* included "The approach to the handling of the traffic violator; the stoppage of a suspicious car; handling suspects and prisoners; procedure in getting desperate criminals out of a house; procedure when a call is received that a criminal is in operation; blocking off a city or a district." It also included "a discussion of patrol work, crime repression, public relations, and police fundamentals."

Several optional subjects were listed for the benefit of those police officers with particular interests, such as: Instruction in Police Weapons; Commercialized Vice; Police Records and Reports and Follow-up; Gymnasium; What the Policeman Must Know About Law; Juvenile Problems and How the Police May Assist; etc.

In explaining the purpose of the course in *The Laboratory* Chief Wilson made the following statement, which certainly should be firmly impressed upon the mind of every student in this and in every other similar course of instruction: "It is not intended to create experts of the students but only to demonstrate the possibilities offered in this field; to enable them to know when they should call for expert assistance and what they may reasonably expect from such assistance."

A similar course will be conducted in September for Ohio by the

Political Science Department of Ohio State University.

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**Legal Medicine**—A recent number of the "Arquivos de Medicina Legal e Identificacao" (Ano 4, N. 8, Jan., 1934), published in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, contains several articles of interest to the medico-legal expert or the criminal investigator equipped with a reading knowledge of the Spanish language. Among them is "El Cardio-pneumopsicograma en la mentira," by Dr. Israel Castellanos, in which he describes the work done in the United States toward the detection of deception. Another, by Felisbello Belletti on "Os dedos na elucidacao dos crimes," contains a very interesting group of pictures of the "Laboratorio de Policia Tecnica" in Rio de Janeiro and of some of its activities.

Following are a list of some of the other material to be found in this publication: "Problema do arquivamento de manuscritos," by Claudio de Mendonca; "A mimica escrita e o ambidextrismo," by Dr. Carlos de Aproxellas Galvao; "Asfixias em geral," by Prof. Antenor Costa; "Histeria y errores de diagnostico," by Prof. Nerio Rojas; "Curso de antropometria," by Prof. Jose Bastos D'Avila; "Pericia da investigacao da paternidade," by Leonidio Ribeiro; "Tecnica e pratica das necropsias," by Prof. Raul Leitao da Cunha; "Identificacao pelos dentes," by Dr. Aloysio de Carvalho Filho.

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**Wiard Resigns**—Major Seth Wiard of the Staff of the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory has resigned his position as Instructor in Police Science to serve the

United States Government in the Division of Investigation. Northwestern University officials accepted his resignation with deep regret as Major Wiard in his four years of service to that Institution has proved himself to be thoroughly competent as an expert in firearm identification, his chosen field. In addition to serving as expert witness in scores of important criminal cases, Major Wiard has been active as an instructor in criminal investigation, having promoted and supervised several of the short courses for police officers offered by the Laboratory.

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**Metropolitan School of Criminology**—Columbus University in the District of Columbia has established a school for police officers which operates upon a most interesting plan. It is open only to members of the Washington Metropolitan police force and no tuition is charged. All classes are given in the evenings. Criminal Law, Evidence and applied criminology and related subjects are taught. The work is under the personal supervision of Doctor John Fitzpatrick, Dean of the law school who is donating his services while the officials of Columbus University are donating the facilities of their institution. Doctor Fitzpatrick is a professor of the Law of Evidence in Columbus University and is an Assistant

United States attorney in and for the District of Columbia actively engaged in the trial of criminal cases in which the various members of the local police force appear as witnesses.

When the plan of the University first became known more than two hundred and fifty members of the police force applied for admission. From that group, one hundred men and women were selected by Major Ernest Brown, Superintendent of Police and Inspector F. S. W. Burke, both of whom collaborated with Doctor Fitzpatrick in the organization of the school. The group includes fifty-seven officers and forty-three privates. Doctor Wilmer Souder, nationally recognized handwriting expert of the Bureau of Standards is the only lay person enrolled. After selection by the police officials the men are relieved from all duty on the designated evenings in order that they may be free to attend classes. The school has the approval and active support of the local police officials.

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**Vollmer in Hawaii**—Professor August Vollmer of the Bureau of Public Administration, University of California, Berkeley, left June 15 to lecture at the University of Hawaii. He will present his course in police administration at the Summer school and will return to Berkeley about August 10.