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## Editor's Note

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# POLICE SCIENCE



FRED E. INBAU [ED.]

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*Editor's Note*

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This issue of the *Journal* contains two articles on the forgery of finger-prints. One is written by Dr. Harold Cummins of the Department of Anatomy of Tulane University; the other by Captain C. D. Lee of the Police Department of Berkeley, California. Both men have established enviable reputations in their respective professions. Dr. Cummins is an outstanding authority on dermatoglyphics. The results of his research in this field have been published in the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, the *American Journal of Anatomy*, the *Anatomical Record*, and many other scientific periodicals. Captain Lee is the author of numerous articles on various phases of police science, particularly finger-printing and handwriting. He is co-author with R. A. Abbey of "Classification and Identification of Handwriting."

In publishing the contributions of Cummins and Lee upon this much controverted and misunderstood subject, the *Journal* realizes that a certain amount of criticism will be forthcoming from those individuals who seem to think that such discoveries and facts should remain deep, dark secrets. Nevertheless, the value of this information to the finger-print expert should more than compensate for the attacks upon the science of finger-print identification which might be provoked by the dissemination of such knowledge.

The possibility of counterfeiting finger-prints does not destroy the value of finger-print identification, for the same reason that the remote possibility of perfect forgery of a signature does not nullify the effect of handwriting identification. The skill required to perfect