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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Paul V. Trovillo

BLOOD GROUPS AND BLOOD TRANSFUSION. Second Edition. By *Alexander S. Wiener*, M.D. (Serologist and Bacteriologist in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of New York City.) Charles C. Thomas. (Springfield, Ill., and Baltimore, Md., 1939.) Pp. 306. with 52 illustrations. \$5.00.

Rarely does one find a book on such a specialized subject which is so admirably suited to a wide range of readers: criminal investigators seeking to discover from blood stains circumstantial evidence bearing upon a criminal assault; judges and attorneys charged with the evaluation of blood grouping evidence in cases of disputed paternity or of crimes of violence involving bloodshed; physicians or surgeons, interested primarily in blood transfusion to strengthen a patient suffering from disease or hemorrhage; immunologists concerned with the serological factors which characterize individual human beings; geneticists interested in the transference of these individual characteristics from parent to offspring. All such groups will find this volume to be of inestimable value. The first edition of Dr. Wiener's book, published in 1935, was excellent; this second edition, enlarged by some 80 pages of new material, is truly a distinguished work.

Of special interest to the readers of this Journal are the chapters on "Medico-legal Application of Blood Tests in Disputed Parentage" (15 pages) and "Individual Identification of Stains in Forensic Cases" (19 pages). In the former chapter the application of biological laws of inheritance of blood grouping characteristics in the establishment of non-paternity is completely discussed. The author emphasizes the importance of determining the M and N factors of Landsteiner and Levine in addition to the ordinary blood grouping characteristics. The chances of exculpating an innocent man who has been falsely accused in a paternity dispute are given. These vary from 8% in a man having A—MN grouping to 64% in a man having AB—N grouping. On the basis of experience with these tests in European courts, it appears (p. 255) that approxi-

mately half of the men accused in paternity disputes are actually innocent of the charge. The importance of blood tests in the adjudication of such cases is indicated—particularly in view of the absence of other objective evidence. The author discusses statutes of states in which courts are granted permission to order blood grouping tests, and presents a resumé of appellate court decisions bearing on the admissibility of the results of such investigations.

In the chapter on "Individual Identification of Stains in Forensic Cases" it is pointed out that blood grouping tests can never prove that the stains in question *did* come from the blood of a definite person; they can only show that they *may* have been produced by a certain person's blood. Thus, except to upset an alibi that blood stains on the clothing of a defendant were produced by his own blood, these tests are of more value to the defense of criminal cases than to the prosecution. The author emphasizes the care and thoroughness with which forensic grouping tests of stains should be conducted. It is pointed out that incompetent "experts," by searching only for agglutinins, which deteriorate rapidly, and ignoring the presence of agglutinogens, may easily arrive at an erroneous conclusion. To an attorney confronted with the necessity of evaluating expert testimony bearing on the grouping of blood stains, this chapter will be of cardinal assistance.

Both the author and the publisher are to be complimented for providing a complete and scholarly review of an exceedingly complex field of science, in language which though necessarily technical is nevertheless understandable to the layman.

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POLICE INTERROGATION. By *W. R. Kidd* (Lieutenant, Police Department, Berkeley, California). *R. V. Basuino* (The Police Journal, 1123 Broadway, New York, N. Y., 1940). Pp. 198. \$2.00.

Police Interrogation is a handbook which everyone who has occasion to ques-

tion criminal suspects should read at least once. Many police officers and other investigators, studying the interrogation techniques described here and applying them to their own cases, could measurably increase the number of successful prosecutions. The author is a police lieutenant of years of experience who writes in common language on a subject about which little is known except word of mouth instruction. Indeed, although attorneys and others may be familiar with the fine works of Wigmore, Gross, Münsterberg, and other writers, this is the first book in English known to this reviewer which deals with police interrogation in a policeman's language.

The author first surveys the trend toward conversion of police work into a professionalized service, and gives great credit to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for setting the preëminently high standards which, he says, are approachable by all police departments. He stresses successful methods of questioning as one of the first prerequisites of a professionalized force and calls attention to the "fact" that although a proper investigation is the foundation of good interrogation, there is, nevertheless, only one instance in which an arrest can be made and sustained by scientific evidence, and that is a "properly identified latent fingerprint." Otherwise, he says, arrests and successful prosecutions are made through "interviews and interrogations" (p. 14). And since these involve not only guilty suspects but also many reputable citizens, it is important to consider what attitudes the officer should take toward persons he is interviewing and what attitudes the interviewed person is most likely to assume toward the policeman. The author then submits a selected series of typical attitudes: (1) the citizen's attitude when seeking assistance in non-criminal cases, when lodging a complaint, when he is subject of a complaint, when he is a witness, when he is victim of a crime, when he is suspected of a crime; (2) the policeman's attitude when investigating non-criminal cases, in questioning complainants, persons complained of, informants, crime victims, and suspects. Good interrogation includes explanations to citizens as to *why* they must be arrested or detained, and proper recognition of

"face saving" tactics or how to let the suspect justify his action.

Succeeding chapters of this book deal with "Prompt and Deferred Interrogation," "Where to Interrogate," "Recording the Interrogation," "Precepts for the Interrogator," "Obtaining Admissions—Basic Devices, Methods Based on Friendly Appeal, Admonition and Reproach, and Other Admission-Winning Strategy."

One of the most valuable contributions of the author is his statement in Chapter IV on third degree tactics: "Third degree is the natural result of attempting to use 'hot' interrogation in 'cold' cases. Third degree further indicates one of two grave deficiencies in any department using such methods, namely: (1) policemen lack training in interrogation. (2) They are too lazy to go to the necessary trouble to apply sound interrogation methods, and attempt to force the issue with various forms of torture" (p. 47).

"Hot" interrogation is such as that following a surprise visit by police to the bedroom occupied by a guilty suspect, at which time doors may be broken in, the criminal may be jerked out of bed and questions shot at him in rapid succession: "How much money did you get on that bank job?" "Who was with you?" "Where are they?" It is the only effective technique of questioning the "cop-killer" or "the man who wouldn't talk," because in his state of shock he is now stunned, bewildered, without a ready alibi or defense, and he will talk if pressed. "Cold" cases, in which the suspect has had time to prepare a defense before the investigator catches up with him, demand "cold" interrogation, and here the officer utilizes all the facts about the suspect from the police files, fingerprints, other officers acquainted with the suspect, and personal possessions. Facts about the crime will do more, says the author, to enable the investigator of a cold case to get a confession from the suspect than all the third degree measures known to the police. Third-degree users, he says, stagnate, for they cannot use their tactics on relatively influential citizens. "If you resort to torture, you admit your victim is the better man. When you 'break' a man by torture, he will hate you. If you break him by your intelligence, he will always fear and respect you" (p. 49).

The author stresses the need for the investigator to be alone with the suspect during questioning. And he points out the virtues of being able to record interrogation (to trap the suspect in lies, to implicate his associates, to assist later interrogation, to present the records in court). His attitude toward the use of the lie detector specifically may be summed up in his own statement: "The lie detector has been used in the writer's department for twenty years and with considerable success in many cases. However, its use in the hands of a man who is not already a skilled interrogator is not recommended" (p. 65).

A considerable section of the book deals with explanation of the *practical procedures in interrogation which have been found to work for policemen*. The seasoned officer as well as the beginner in the investigative fields will appreciate the many detailed but simple explanations of how to secure admissions, and these are so well described and illustrated that they can readily be put into practice by the alert reader. The methods based on friendly appeal—the use of sympathy, flattery, "kidding," face-saving, the suggestions of extenuating circumstances (justification), the recognition of the weaknesses of sex offenders, the recognition of special circumstances in statutory rape, and other skillful strategy permissible to the police interrogator—are all based on sound police experience. In addition, the reader will find described techniques for using bluff, plays on shame and embarrassment, plays on love, jealousy, hate, and revenge, appeals to the suspect's self interest, interrogation in the presence of the victim, irrelevant conversation traps, appeals against stubbornness, special tactics with women, children, and those under the influence of liquor, and many other techniques, the description of which not only makes interesting reading but serves as a handbook of maxims for the police interrogator.

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MEDICOLEGAL AND INDUSTRIAL TOXICOLOGY, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES. By *Henry J. Eilmann, Ph.D.* (Director of Physicians' Laboratory

Service of Toledo, Ohio; Lecturer in Bacteriology and Histology, Mary Manse College of Toledo.) Blakiston Co. (Philadelphia, 1940.) Pp. vii, 324. \$3.00.

In the preface of this book the author states that in order to save litigants the great effort which is ordinarily required "to gain a thorough understanding of the scientific aspects pertaining to their cases" he has "undertaken to incorporate in a single volume those subjects which may be encountered frequently by the coroner, industrial physician, lawyer, insurance adjuster, toxicologist, laboratory expert, and others." As evidence of his qualification in this field, the author points out that since 1920 he has "rendered expert testimony on numerous occasions as bacteriologist, serologist, toxicologist and haematologist" and is "therefore well acquainted with court procedures." And so we find within the space of 322 pages a discussion of Poisons and Drugs, Criminal Investigations, Medicolegal Examinations of Miscellaneous Nature, Industrial Poisoning and Occupational Diseases—a truly remarkable compendium. Furthermore, the author assures us (p. vi) that "each subject is condensed but nevertheless is complete in every detail" and that he has "personally performed every test mentioned."

Three-fourths of the book is devoted to toxicology, both general and industrial. The remaining quarter of the book deals with miscellaneous medicolegal tests such as the examination of blood and blood stains, seminal stains and hairs; and also with death by strangulation, choking, drowning and a consideration of occupational diseases. Nowhere in the book does the author deign to inform his reader as to the sources of the information which he has gathered, merely referring to "the painstaking search through the scattered literature required to obtain the necessary information" (p. v.).

The book is characterized throughout by its utter incompetence in every phase: toxicology, which is both loose and antiquated, erroneous chemistry, questionable physiology, and even inaccurate arithmetic and grammar. With few exceptions, more up-to-date information on these subjects is to be found in books

published a decade ago. In fact, the very wording of many of the tests reported here bears a striking resemblance to that given twelve years ago in Warren's English translation of Autenrieth's "Detection of Poisons" (6th Edition, Blakiston Co., 1928).

As evidence of loose toxicology, one might cite the fact that as an antidote for cyanide poisoning, the author recommends methylene blue, although for the past five years toxicologists have abandoned this drug in favor of the far more active nitrites and thiosulphates. Likewise, in discussing lead poisoning, no mention is made of the "dithizone" method for determining small quantities of lead in urine and body tissues, although this procedure has been adopted by toxicologists as standard for the past several years. According to the author, the only bismuth compound of toxicologic importance is bismuth subnitrate. He neglects to mention the toxic hazards resulting from plating metals with chromium or cadmium. In his own experiments on guinea pigs which had recovered from gassing with carbon monoxide, the author was able to detect this gas in the blood of the animals for as long as 31 days after removal to fresh air. Likewise in these same animal experiments, he measured the extent of carbon monoxide saturation in the blood, but in this book we are given no suggestion as to how this important factor can be evaluated; only qualitative tests are detailed. In view of the fact that normal persons usually have small amounts of poison in their bodies (e.g., carbon monoxide from smoking tobacco products, and lead arsenic or fluorine from insecticide residues on foods), the determination of the *amount* of poison present becomes even more important than its mere *qualitative* identification. Few quantitative methods are given here and those which are listed are for the most part woefully inadequate or antiquated.

The author's chemistry is as dubious as his toxicology. For instance, he classifies oxalic acid as an alkali (p. 4), and he states that carbon disulphide (boiling point = 46° C.) distills very slowly with steam (p. 12). The chemical constitution

of poisons such as metol and sulphanylamide is incorrectly given, and the author's method for determining the composition of mixtures of ethyl and methyl alcohol by refractometric analysis (p. 289) is in error.

It is remarkable to note (p. 182) that venous blood is of a brighter red color than arterial blood! In speaking of Teichmann's hematin crystals we are informed (p. 187) that "the demonstration of these crystals is of the greatest importance in determining the nature of blood, whether of human or animal origin"—a truly astounding discovery. Many investigators who, for years, have had to rely upon the more involved and laborious precipitin test will welcome this news. It is a tragic omission on the part of the author that the exact technique involved in this differentiation is not given. The author has also discovered (p. 199) that "we can definitely state whether the hairs have come from a newborn infant, a child, or an adult, but beyond that it is impossible to give the exact age." Again we are left uninformed as to just how one can differentiate precisely the hairs of a child from those of an adult.

The author has a rather disconcerting habit of using decimal points in place of commas in writing large numbers, so that when it is stated, for example (p. 182), that the normal red blood cell count is "4 to 5.000.000 per c.mm." the reader might be grossly misinformed.

The literary style of the author is often-times quite involved and puzzling, largely due to his use of German word order and sentence structure. Far more significant than the problem of lucid English expression is the book's superficiality and its out-of-date science. In a lawsuit in which Dr. Eilmann was to give testimony as a "bacteriologist, serologist, toxicologist and haematologist," opposing counsel could ask for no better weapon than a copy of this book.

In a recent review of another manual of toxicology, Professor H. C. Wood aptly remarked [Amer. Jour. Pharmacy 3:419 (1939)] that we are apparently suffering from an "epidemic of 'toxicologitis'." Dr. Eilman's book might be classed as an acute symptom of that disease. Of the four books on the subject published in the

United States during the past year, this one is probably the least creditable.

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ELEMENTARY CRYPTANALYSIS. By *Helen Fouche Gaines*. (Lake Village, Arkansas.) American Photographic Publishing Company (Boston, 1939). Pp. 230. \$3.50.

The author modestly presents her work as an elemental treatise on Cryptanalysis, but to the reviewer it is a textbook much more comprehensive than is usually encountered in elemental presentations. There are evidences that the factual materials have been gathered from many sources and carefully compiled in a brilliant and scholarly manner.

Helen Gaines' many years of experience in the solution of Cryptograms has particularly equipped her to present this difficult subject in an interesting manner, free of ambiguity and instantly appealing to the student. The author has been interested in ciphers over a period of approximately thirty years, and while employed in El Paso, Texas, she undertook and completed the translation of several foreign publications on the subject of Cryptography. These were the works of Givierge, Zanotti, and Sacco. In 1934 the author, who had been writing for a puzzle magazine known as "The Master Puzzler," edited by C. A. Castle of Waterloo, Iowa, became associated with American Cryptogram Association and wrote a series of articles which were published through the *Cryptogram*, the official publication of the above association. These articles were on the subject of military ciphers. She was also closely associated with what was known as the Friendly Group in the American Cryptogram Association, who formed this group as a study project, promoting the exchange of methods and techniques. The book is primarily intended as a text for the serious student, although it is sufficiently entertaining to be appreciated by the reader who may be only mildly interested in Cryptography.

The subject of Cryptanalysis is briefly introduced without much comment on the

history of Cryptography; however, in the preface the author refers to several works which are excellent references for the student who desires to examine the historical background. The book begins with descriptions and methods of encipherment and decipherment of the simpler forms of secret writing, then follows progressively through more complex examples and concludes with a section devoted to tables and other valuable decipherment data, including a bibliography of the more important publications on the subject.

Elementary Cryptanalysis has a number of interesting features which are not common to other publications on the same subject. First, the author presents a study of all of the basic types of cipher, amplified with many variants of each, yet each variant is so carefully identified with its parent type that the reader is impressed with the fundamental characteristics; this procedure tends to minimize the confusion that commonly confronts a novice when examining a cipher of unknown class. Second, about 170 unsolved crypts are distributed through the text, thus providing the student with a practical test of his knowledge as he proceeds from one chapter to the next. This feature is particularly appreciated by the novice who needs practical demonstration to check his progress. The third, and no doubt the most important feature, is the painstaking attention to detail evidenced in the explanations of techniques of encipherment and decipherment. Through such care the author is able to make clear a subject usually bewildering to the beginner. Finally, the work presents many techniques and aids that, though new to the present literature on the subject, are devices that have withstood the acid test of practicability in the hands of many persons who have followed this interesting study over a period of years, either as a hobby or by reason of more serious concern.

The book can be enthusiastically recommended as a valuable text on a very technical but highly entertaining subject.

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