

Winter 1940

Police Science Book Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 31 *Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology* 526 (1940-1941)

This Criminology is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Paul V. Trovillo

HANDBOOK OF PHOTOGRAPHY. Edited by Keith Henney and Beverly Dudley (Editors of Photo Technique). Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. (New York, N. Y., 1939). Pp. 871. \$7.50.

The *Handbook of Photography* constitutes an excellent reference source for all police laboratory photographers and officers using photography in their work. Editors Henney and Dudley are to be congratulated for the thorough editing and preparation of this volume. They have organized the writings of twenty-three photographic specialists into a complete unit which covers the entire field of general photography together with a number of its more specialized phases.

So that the reader of this review might better appreciate the scope of this book, the table of contents are herewith reproduced: Outline of Photography; Optics of Photographic Lenses; The Photographic Objective; Cameras; Shutters; Photographic Materials; Photographic Sensitometry; Exposure and Exposure Meters; Light Sources; Light Filters; Developers and Theory of Development; Technique of Development; Washing, Fixing, and Drying; Printing Processes; Toning; Special Printing Processes; Defects in Negatives; Intensification and Reduction; Darkrooms and Darkroom Practices; Stereoscopic Photography; Infrared and Ultraviolet Photography; Color Photography; Motion Picture Photography; Aerial Photography; Astronomic Photography; High-Speed Photography; Photomicrography; Geologic Field Photography; Spectroscopic Photography; Radiography. Each chapter consists of a discussion of the major problems falling under the particular heading and is supplemented with a brief bibliog-

raphy of publications pertinent to the subject.

In preparing this book the authors did not write for the beginner but rather for the professional photographer and serious amateur. Portions of the chapters of necessity become highly technical, and a knowledge of chemistry, physics, and mathematics will be of value to the reader in his study of them. However, in all chapters there is a great fund of information available for those who have little or no knowledge of these sciences but who have the desire to read and learn.

Although certain special fields of photography are treated in this handbook, neither police photography nor police laboratory photography is extensively discussed as a unit. Except for mention of the applications of the infrared and ultraviolet photography to scientific crime detection, no attempt is made to describe the numerous applications of photography to police work. Nevertheless, this lack of specific treatment does not lessen the value of the book for either the police laboratory photographer or the officer detailed to photographing crime scenes or prisoners. Each will undoubtedly find, both in the general and in some of the specified chapters, information useful in his particular work.

All photographers who have the need for a ready reference book will find that the *Handbook of Photography* has been well prepared to fulfill such requirements. The accuracy of statements and the concise manner of presentation, together with the careful arrangement, all contribute to its value.

ORDWAY HILTON.

Chicago Police
Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION MANUAL, Edited and published by *The Northwestern University Traffic Institute*, (Evanston, Illinois, 1940). Pp. 231. \$1.50.

For many years progressive police administrators and safety organizations have been stressing the importance of traffic accident investigation by the police as one of the basic principles of highway safety. Major emphasis, however, has been placed on the need for this activity with only an incidental regard for the methods to be used. This book, which is a compilation of the experience of a number of persons, is the first organized treatment of the techniques with which the present day traffic officer should be familiar in order to do an effective job in accident investigation.

The development and use of scientific aids in traffic accident investigation is predicated upon the same basic principles as those long used in criminal work. This manual will prove valuable to the police by providing an organized body of knowledge in an area where only fragmentary units have existed before.

In the specific area of traffic policing this book should serve as a basic guide for the officer who is already doing accident investigational work. It should also serve as a motivation for every police department in the development of a balanced traffic control program.

Beginning with the premise that practically every accident has a cause or combination of causes, the authors specifically emphasize the need for determining these causes as the best means of preventing future accidents. "Before accidents can be prevented, facts about them must be known. That's where the police must come into the picture." The first chapter also includes a discussion of the general background of the traffic problem; of the problem as a police duty; and of the meaning of selective enforcement and the proper use of facts, gathered through accident investigation, in education, engineering and enforcement activities.

The next two chapters are devoted to those matters which a competent investigator should know about criminal law and the law of evidence as they are related to traffic accidents. Stress is given to the of-

ficer's knowledge of local and state statutes concerning traffic; the differences between civil and criminal responsibility; types of offenses; the law of arrest and the proper procedure to use in arresting a violator. In the chapter on "Criminal Law" the author has done an excellent job of applying general legal principles to certain specific traffic situations.

The law of evidence determines what evidence is admissible and what is not admissible in court. This is discussed at length in the chapter on this subject. A distinction between the "weight" of evidence and the "admissibility" is clearly drawn. The hearsay rule and its important exceptions are explained in a practical manner. The best evidence rule; the rule barring conclusions; corpus delicti; character evidence; rules of proof and venue are discussed in their relation to accident work.

A much clearer understanding is needed today among police officers, court officials and the general public, of the part played by physical laws in automobile collisions. Traffic accident investigation requires a knowledge of the basic physical laws governing speed and energy and how these laws may be applied in gathering facts to support a case. The measurement of skid marks, as an example, can be used effectively to determine the speed of the car before the accident. Calculating speeds from skid marks, information on reaction time, stopping distances, friction, centrifugal force and other physical laws are explained in the chapter on "Speed and Skid Marks."

The camera has long been recognized as a scientific aid in criminal work. In the chapter on "Photography in Accident Cases" the use of the camera in accident investigations, and the legal requirements concerning photographs, are developed in a practical manner for the police officer.

Most of the material in the first five chapters is basic information for use in an actual investigation. Chapter six, "Investigating the Accident," sets forth a series of fourteen steps to be taken during the investigation from the time the accident call is received, what to do at the scene, and following through with the complete report of the

accident. Special treatment is given to hit-and-run procedures.

Every law-enforcement officer, traffic court judge and safety official would profit from a thorough study of this book. It should be particularly helpful in the training of traffic investigators by serving both as a textbook and as an instructional guide. As the authors state, however, "the Manual is offered as a supplement to, not as a substitute for a formal training course in the subject."

J. L. LINGO.

Director, Public Safety Institute,
Purdue University.

CASES AND MATERIALS ON THE LAW OF EVIDENCE. By *Charles T. McCormick* (Dean and Professor of Law, University of Texas). West Publishing Co. (St. Paul, Minn., 1940.) Pp. xxi, 1035. \$6.50.

Inquiries are often received from laboratory technicians and police officers for recommendations of a book which will explain to them some of the fundamentals of the various rules and principles of evidence governing the trial of a law suit, with particular reference to criminal prosecutions. An inquiry to this effect is not an easy one to answer. Unless the technician or police officer already has had legal training, it is inadvisable to refer him to a voluminous treatise on evidence. On the other hand, however, his problem would not be solved by reading a so-called "hornbook" upon the subject—that is, a publication devoted to a generalized discussion of the rules and principles of evidence. A book somewhere in between the two extremes would go a long way toward fulfilling the needs of such persons who lack legal training but yet who are desirous of learning enough of the law of evidence to meet their particular needs.

For much the same reason that instruction in the art of criminal investigation and general police work can be carried on most

effectively by consideration of case situations and illustrations, the best way for a police officer or laboratory technician to obtain an insight into the law of evidence is to consider the actual court cases in which the various rules and principles are applied. This is what may be accomplished by a careful and studious reading of Professor McCormick's casebook. In it Professor McCormick has assembled a collection of appellate court decisions which present a revealing picture of the application of the law of evidence to actual case situations. Of particular interest and concern to the technician and police officer would be the collection of cases under such topics as "Privilege Against the Use of Confessions Secured by Undue Influence," "The Privilege Against the Use of Evidence Obtained by Unconstitutional Means," "The Privilege of an Accused Not To Be a Witness and the Privilege of a Witness Not to Testify to Incriminating Facts," "Communications Between Attorney and Client," "Evidence of Experiments," "Evidence Based on Scientific Techniques," and "The Hearsay Rule and Its Exceptions."

At various places throughout this collection of cases Professor McCormick has inserted some very helpful comments which either amplify the rules and principles developed in the cases or else pave the reader's way for a proper understanding of the cases themselves.

This book—intended primarily for instruction to law students—is no easy morsel for the technician or police officer to digest, not even those parts with which he is most directly concerned. It must be remembered, however, that there is no easy way. Nevertheless, for those persons who are sufficiently interested to make the required effort, Professor McCormick's casebook will prove to be a most valuable source of information upon this subject.

FRED E. INBAU.

Director, Chicago Police
Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.