

1941

## 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, 32 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 383 (1941-1942)

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.

## Expert Testimony—Plaster Cast of Shoe Print—Identification of Fatal Shell

In the recent case of *Commonwealth v. Ferrel*, 14 S.E. (2d) 293 (Va., 1941), an expert was permitted to testify as to the similarity between a plaster cast of a rubber heel-print found at the scene of a homicide and a heel of one of the defendant's shoes. The expert pointed out to the jury eight or nine points of similarity between the two exhibits. Upon appeal, the trial court's ruling with regard to the admissibility of such evidence was affirmed.

In this same case another expert testified that shotgun shell found at the scene

of the crime contained a sufficient number of firing pin characteristics in common with test shells fired from the defendant's shotgun to indicate that the defendant's gun was the weapon used in firing the fatal shot. Defense counsel objected to the admissibility of this evidence on the ground that the expert's examination and tests had not been made in the presence of the jury. The appellate court held, however, that it was not necessary to require an expert to transport all his paraphernalia, such as cameras, microscopes, etc., from his office to make his examination and tests before the jury.

---

**POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS**

*Edited by*  
**Paul V. Trovillo**

**PLANNING FOR POLICE EMERGENCY AND DISASTER MOBILIZATION AND A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF NATIONAL DEFENSE PROBLEMS AFFECTING POLICE.** International Association of Chiefs of Police, (918 F St., NW Washington, D. C.). Pp. 78.

This book of 78 pages is a report of a meeting, sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, to consider problems of national defense affecting police and the mobilization of police power and resources to meet any emergency or disaster. The meeting was held at the Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., Nov. 5 and 6, 1940, and was attended by representatives of most of the government agencies directly interested and many well known State and City police officials. This record of the proceedings is divided into three sections: Part I.—The Federal Agencies and National Defense. Part II —State and Municipal Police Mobilization. Part III—Discussion of Police Defense Problems.

A discussion on the Exemption of Police Personnel from Selective Service was led by Chief M. F. Morrissey of Indianapolis. A general discussion followed on Federal Aid for Adequate Police and Fire Personnel and Equipment. A Committee

Report by Bruce Smith was made on An Eleven-Point Program for Civil Defense. Major Ernest A. Brown, President of the I. A. C. P., made a report on Police Cooperation with the War Department. Captain Donald S. Leonard of the Michigan State Police made a report on Industrial Guards, Protection to Industries, and Other Proposed Federal and State Legislation Pertaining to National Defense. A discussion followed on Protection to Lines of Communication, led by Superintendent W. W. Williams of the Illinois State Highway Maintenance Police.

In this meeting it was forcefully pointed out that any plans for the mobilization of police and civilian resources to meet anticipated emergencies and disasters must measure up to standards and procedures laid down by the law enforcement officials with long years of experience. The objects of this conference were stated by Major Brown to be as follows.

"(1) To make available to police executives authentic information on the best methods and procedures, as defined by representative law enforcement officials. We will do this by drafting here a model structure about which to build a plan for local, regional, or state wide mobilization

of law enforcement resources for adequately coping with any type of emergency or disaster."

"(2) We want to insure that such plans will tie in with, and not conflict in any way with, the objectives and activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for handling all matters dealing with espionage, sabotage, and subversive activities."

"(3) We want to make clear the police position with respect to employment of civilians or deputizing of civilians in defense work."

"(4) We want to come to the front with a definite plan which will supersede and forestall any plans advanced by civilians or non-law-enforcement groups which utilize any unofficial or improperly trained persons or groups on this work."

This booklet of the International Association of Chiefs of Police is the voice of good police administration throughout the United States doing a splendid job on some most important and difficult problems.

JOHN I. HOWE.

Captain, Chicago Police Department.

COPPER. By *Lieut. Tom McGrath* (Chicago Police Dept., Retired). Bruce Humphries, Inc. (Boston, 1941). Pp 317. \$2.50.

The Foreword to this book reads: "It had to be written, and it demands to be read." It should read: "This is a lot of sentimental slush that contributes nothing to the police profession and would be better left unread."

In police work police officers are not called "coppers" and do not refer to their stars as "pie plates." The only sentence in this entire tirade that the reviewer agrees with is where it is stated: "Chicago is a grand city and Illinois a mighty

state." After this statement McGrath goes on to demonstrate, as only McGrath can, that citizens, politicians, and police alike combine in a gigantic conspiracy, a conspiracy which, if it existed, would make them too low to crawl under a snake's tummy. Whether this be fact or fiction it is the greatest mess of "hooley" it has ever been my misfortune to have read. Were the police at all like they are depicted by McGrath they would be a contemptible lot.

This story, if it can be called such, is supposed to depict the trials and tribulations of an "on the square" police officer. If the story had been a satire it might have been a sensation. The "rookie" starts out and has a big shooting spree the first day on the job and is immediately called down to see the Chief, who pins a Sergeant's "pie plate" on him! From that time on, his experiences would make those of Dick Tracy pall into insignificance. The politicians, the rookie's own superiors, and the courts are kept busy putting obstacles in the way of his solving *all* the crimes of the city, and so on throughout 317 pages.

The author, a retired Lieutenant of the Chicago Police Department, has lost sight of the fact that the police profession has advanced considerably in the past decade. He saw nothing of what he implies happened while he was a Lieutenant, and the situations of which he dreams are a conglomeration of inane nonsense. For police officers and those interested in criminology, the "reading-time" of this book is two minutes, and its value is nil. It calls for an enlightened and indignant public; but it fails to enlighten the public on anything and will only tend to make indignant those who know the situation as it really is and was.

JOHN I. HOWE.