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## Police Science Book Reviews

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Joseph W. Harney [Ed.]

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY, by *Henry T. F. Rhodes*, (Dip. Inst. C. (Lyon), Correspondent of the International Academy of Criminology; Honorary Research Assistant in the "Conan Doyle" Laboratory of Chemical Research, Department of Technical Police, Prefecture of the Rhone, France), Chemical Publishing Company, Inc. (New York, 1940), Pp. 214. \$5.00.

In preparing this book, the author's aim has been to provide a textbook on the subject of Forensic Chemistry in which the presentation is strictly confined to formal chemical theory and technique. With most of the operations described, the author has had practical experience and has thus "tried to produce not merely a theoretical treatise but a practical guide for those engaged in Forensic Chemistry and for chemists who are called upon from time to time to undertake work of this character." (page v.)

The author of this work has long been known as a writer of excellent popular books on scientific criminal investigation such as *Some Persons Unknown* (1931), *Clues and Crime* (1933), and *The Craft of Forgery* (1934). This book represents his first venture into the purely scientific field.

The author divides his treatise into two sections: Part I of the book (49 pages) deals with the "Application of Chemical Methods to the Identification of the Person." Part II (143 pages) deals with the "Application of Chemical Methods to the Proof of *Corpus Delicti*."

The section on personal identification through chemical procedures is devoted largely to methods for the development of latent skin impressions and finger prints upon various surfaces, of the identification of occupational dusts which may give clues to the identity of the offender or otherwise connect him with the crime, and to the classification of blood or seminal stains.

Part II gives a brief account of chemical and microscopic methods for the recognition of blood and seminal stains, of gunpowder and gunpowder residues in cases involving gunshot wounds, of chemical tests of bullet compositions, and of the chemical analysis of explosives found in bombs.

The portion of the book dealing with the chemical examination of questioned documents (constituting about one-third of the entire volume) goes into considerable detail in the composition of inks and in the chemical identification of various ink constituents. Original researches of the author on the rate of oxidation of ferrous iron in ink writing has indicated that during the first two weeks, the age of the writing may be estimated with a reasonable degree of accuracy. Pencil writings, both with graphite and indelible pencil, are discussed as well as are methods for the examination of paper. The chemical examination of counterfeit bank notes and coins is briefly treated.

Perhaps the weakest portion of the book is that concerning "The Examination of the Toxic Agents." The condensing into 40 pages of a subject which can hardly be adequately treated within an entire volume indicates the superficiality with which the material has been handled. With the exception of antiquated or inadequate quantitative methods for estimating arsenic, antimony, mercury, chloroform, and carbon monoxide, all procedures are purely qualitative.

There is not a great deal in this volume that is really new or original. Most of the material presented has been gathered from earlier sources such as Locard's texts and manuals, and from papers published in the *Revue Internationale de Criminologie*, and in the *Analyst*. The author shows a remarkable ignorance of forensic chemical research reported outside of French or

British books or journals. The book does not represent as much of an advance over previous books such as the texts of Lucas, of Dennstedt and Voigtländer, and of Baumert, as one would expect in a modern work. It is suggested that the author might better have continued in writing popular accounts of the "Sherlock Holmes" type and refrained from dabbling in laboratory work at which he is obviously still a novice.

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THE SOLDIER AND THE LAW, by *John A. McComsey and Morris O. Edwards*, Military Service Publishing Company, (Harrisburg, Penna., 1941), Pp. xi, 401. \$1.50.

*The Soldier and the Law* is written for the soldier who has recently acquired military status, as well as for the one who wishes to advance his opportunities for achieving successful leadership. In the preface of the book, its authors state as the mission of this work "to prevent military delinquency and to provide practical assistance for those concerned in the efficient administration of military justice." While this volume is not an official publication for the armed forces, every effort has been made to check the correctness of the statements therein by its competent authors.

Part one, Trial Prevention, emphasizes the need for a basic understanding on the part of the soldier of his obligations, duties, liabilities, rights, powers, and limitations. Also brought out is the importance of adequate leadership on the part of the troop leader.

Parts two and three, Procedure and Practical Illustrations, deal with the procedural aspects of military justice. This includes an investigation of court-martial charges, general court-martial, and practical illustrations of these procedures. A review of this material appears in the form of direct questions and answers.

The possible application for the book are varied. For practical use this book may be valuable as a library reference to the soldier and the law, as it contains an excellent, full index. In dealing with problems of military law, it is clear and understandable and may be used for elementary discussion by newly initiated into military status. Furthermore, it is interesting reading for the civilian who is given an insight into the legal aspects of a service man's life—a little known or not well understood part of military life.

Aid and assistance to those administering military law may be obtained from a reading of this volume, in that troublesome and complicated problems are discussed and solved. This book carries out its purpose carefully and with competence.

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CRIME, CROOKS AND COPS. By *August Vollmer and Alfred E. Parker*. Funk & Wagnalls Co. (New York, 1937), Pp. 260. \$2.50.

In the sixteen chapters of *Crime, Crooks and Cops* are the intimate histories of numerous famous cases. Each chapter contains at least one detective story—well told—about an actual case. This reviewer had already read the book prior to being asked to review it but found it just as interesting on the second reading as he had previously. The reader, in addition to getting the best of detective stories, gets a lesson in nearly all phases of criminal inves-

tigation. Those interested in detective fiction will find this book a real bargain, although it is not written as such.

In depicting crime detection as an art the authors state that although the police can make many mistakes, the criminal can make only one. Page by page unfolds the proof that now is a new era in the investigation of crimes and that science is a detective to be reckoned with.

This reviewer especially liked the following statement on page 182: "The police officer is in this situation, he has to decide instantly whether the law has been violated or not. In one famous case a policeman decides a case in a few seconds, and it took the Supreme Court three months to determine whether the limb of the law was right or wrong. Even then the Supreme Court was almost evenly divided. This is the hard task we ask a policeman to do, not once in three months but often many times daily. It is natural that once in a while an officer will make a mistake." Likewise, on page 217: "Once we change our attitude toward police (and there are indications that many people are becoming more sympathetic toward our officers) we will begin to find more capable men applying for admission to the service." It is made very clear to the reader throughout this book that there is a lack of officers who are intelligent, possess initiative, and have the qualities of leadership and the tact to handle police problems. We are told, as we have so often been told before: "It is up to the police executive to select as carefully as modern methods will permit the man who is to be the police officer of tomorrow."

The authors suggest it is high time that the press "play up" the police and "play down" the criminals. Let us have, the authors plead, less glorification of crime and criminals, fewer headlines making "big shots" of those who are depraved. Their idea is to make the breaking of the law an unpopular sport.

This excellent book gives one several lectures on criminology—of the most practical sort, as well as real detective lore. There are many pertinent recommendations for the betterment of our police and prison systems—all of these and a few lessons in psychology, and some examples from life of plain *horse sense* detective work. The reviewer finds one fault with the book: *finis* comes all too soon. He wanted more of the same.

JOHN I. HOWE

Captain  
Chicago Police Department

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SUGGESTIONS FOR ARSON INVESTIGATIONS, (The National Board of Fire Underwriters, 85 John Street, New York). Pp. 57.

Prepared primarily for the use of Arson investigators employed by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, this Manual contains suggestions which should prove most helpful to individuals interested in or conducting arson investigations. While certain sections of this pamphlet are directed to National Board employees, out of a total of 57 pages, only 16 have this limited applicability.

The authors of this Manual are to be commended for the logical and orderly presentation of their suggestions for investigating incendiary fires. Among the topics discussed are the "Fire," its "Origin," the "Motive," and "Proof of Guilt." Under these captions emphasis is placed upon the necessity for showing the specific time of the fire's occurrence; that the location of the fire places it within the jurisdiction of the court; that it was of incendiary origin, and that motive must generally be shown, even though not legally essential.

The subject matter of the section entitled "Proof of Guilt" is concise and

in effect furnishes the investigator with a blue print of suggested procedure in the handling of this difficult type of assignment.

In the development of these and related points the text is supported by citations from a representative group of decisions. Such citations should prove most helpful, particularly when they touch on controversial points.

A portion of this pamphlet is devoted to a discussion of Arson statutes; the proper preparation of an Arson case for trial; inflammable gases and liquids; and a convenient table giving the flash point of oils and volatile liquids. An index provides easy access to any points covered in the manual.

This book does not pretend to solve every conceivable situation developing from an arson inquiry. As a matter of fact, its most desirable feature is its very brevity. A copy of this manual should be in the possession of every law enforcement officer interested in the successful investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for incendiary fires.

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HUMAN WOLVES. By *Lear B. Reed*. Brown-White-Lowell Press. (Kansas City, Mo., 1941), Pp. 419. \$3.00.

The publishers inform the reader that this is the most sensational book published in years, and the reviewer is in complete agreement with this statement. The list of chapters on the outside cover is a new high in publicity technique. As a sample, some of the twenty-five chapters listed are: "The Wolves Show Their Teeth," "A Snake Travels with Me," "More About Crooked Police," "Some Officers Are Just Dumb," etc.

This reviewer is uncertain just why Mr. Reed wrote this book. It does tell considerable about Mr. Reed himself and how he worked, as a crusader, as a criminologist, and as a tireless worker who thought nothing of working eighteen hours daily, although he aged and lost weight in his one-man battle against the "Human Wolves." But beyond this the purpose seems vague.

The author in various chapters tells of the methods, new and old, which he introduced to improve the Kansas City Police Department; how he improved the recruiting by setting up competent standards, doing away with a decrepit and crooked record system, and set up an ideal record bureau in its place. He decreased crime. He installed a scientific crime detection laboratory with a competent staff. He "dressed up" a slovenly personnel by requiring frequent inspections of both men and machines. The improvements he put in are those found only in our most up-to-date departments. He installed a systematic method of patrol to take the place of a haphazard one prevailing before he took over. All this is covered in the numerous chapters of the book.

At times, however, the tale is so disconnected one cannot tell who is being condemned—the thieves, the police, the politicians, or any of the other classes mentioned. But condemning as the author is at every turn, one gets the impression he is writing a book about "G" men. He tells us how necessary it is for the police to maintain the respect of the public, and then goes on in no uncertain terms to belittle all police officers in general. He relates such incidents as these, for example (page 54): "In a nearby city I entered a huge gambling establishment by squeezing between two police captains who stood in the door picking their teeth." However, on the very next page he says: "Every time some publication screams 'police brutality,' or 'police inefficiency,' or 'police bungle,' without knowing all the facts and without being absolutely correct, it is tearing down something valuable." By statements such as these Mr. Reed certainly has not done anything in his book to instill in the reading public any respect for the police.

Everyone is inclined to think that Mr. Reed did a good job of reorganizing the Kansas City Police Department. That Mr. Reed is honest to the core, all must agree. That Mr. Reed could write a fairly good police manual on police reorganization, this reviewer again agrees. However, that he should write such a book as this must be answered in the negative. Every chapter sounds like a speech set up for a Chautauqua Circuit. To the police and those interested in crime and criminology, its reading value is doubtful. The solution of the crime problem in Kansas City, or anywhere for that matter, does not lie in name-calling, but in a constructive program aimed at building and maintaining morale, selective recruiting, better police training, and most important of all—adequate salaries. A book of this type hardly brings the public to a sympathetic appreciation of our police.

JOHN I. HOWE

Captain  
Chicago Police Department

**PUBLICATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE**

(The following pamphlets which have been issued by the Office of Civilian Defense are some of the publications which have been prepared to date by this office. Except where noted, these publications can be obtained without cost from the Office of Civilian Defense, Washington, D. C.)

**STAFF MANUAL OF THE UNITED STATES CITIZENS' DEFENSE CORPS. Pp. 7.**

This Manual gives some definitions with which by this time most of us are familiar, such as Total War, Active Defense, Passive Defense, etc. There is an excellent discussion of the Staff group with details of duties, etc., and also a discussion of the Incident Officer. In Appendix A, the Warden Service is considered, while in Appendix B, Publications of the Office of Civilian Defense are listed. There is also a chart giving a bird's eye view of Civilian Protection Organization for a Municipality.

**TRAINING COURSES FOR CIVILIAN PROTECTION. Pp. 34.**

This manual takes up (1) Organization of Schools for the Training of Workers in Civilian Defense, (2) Requirements for Federal Recognition, (3) Outline of Courses—Basic Subjects, (4) Detail Discussion of Basic Courses, (5) Special Duty Courses for "First Class" Rating, (6) Summary of Training Requirements, (7) Combined Training, (8) Graduations and Awards, (9) How to Purchase Defense Insignia, and (10) Records of Training.

**SUGGESTED REGULATIONS FOR LARGE APARTMENT HOUSES IN BLACKOUTS AND AIR RAIDS. Pp. 19. Illustrated.**

This timely and well put together manual considers the organization in large apartments, the duties of wardens and tenants, and the responsibility of management for blackout and air-raid protection. The blackout is defined and protection of apartments is analyzed under such headings as Equipment, Safety Zones, and First Aid. In the Special Precautions section, training and practice of wardens, fire-watchers, first-aid workers, and others are considered. A sample questionnaire for tenants is included as well as illustrated lessons on the working of the magnesium bomb, controlling with sand the danger of a magnesium bomb, and controlling with water the danger of a magnesium bomb. Construction of a gas-tight room is considered as well as blackout signs, fire extinguishers, and a chart showing the story of "Army Flash! How an Air-Raid Warning Comes."

**PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL PLANTS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS. Pp. 7.**

This pamphlet presents an organization chart for industrial plant and building protection. Under the four general headings of Fire Services, Police Services, Health Services, and Maintenance Services are presented

the duties and responsibility of everyone concerned in this all important task of plant and building protection. The Appendix lists the equipment needed by the fire-watcher squad and the utility control squad.

**PROTECTION AGAINST GAS.** Pp. 75, 40 Figures and 2 Tables, plus a chart of Chemical Warfare Agents for Reference and Training. (Prepared under the direction of the Chief of the Chemical Warfare Service, U. S. Army, with suggestions of the National Technological Civil Protection Committee.)

This manual of five chapters has done an excellent job of making available highly pertinent and technical information for the majority of us who have had a little formal training in chemical warfare. By means of the excellent text and superb illustrations it makes clear just what to do and how to do it.

Chapter 1 is a general introduction to the topic.

Chapter 2, War Gases, considers classification, typical examples, and the effect of weather and surroundings on gas.

Chapter 3, Individual Protection, includes classification of protective measures, gas masks, protective clothing, identification of gases, and first-aid treatment of gas casualties.

Chapter 4, Collective Protection, deals with scope, gas alarms, gas-proof shelters, decontamination, and protection of food and water.

Chapter 5 considers protection of animals.

#### STANDARD SCHOOL LECTURES—CIVILIAN PROTECTION

These lecture notes, taken at the Civilian Defense School at Edgewood Arsenal, Md., are offered for the guidance of instructors in local schools. They are fairly complete transcriptions of the lectures as given, except that restricted or confidential matter has been eliminated, and the lectures have been somewhat shortened.

For the convenience of instructors, they are presented in series so that all pertinent material may be assembled in one place, together with any notes the instructor wishes to prepare himself.

Attention is called to Lecture on Organization and Conduct of Local Schools, in Series I. This lecture deals especially with expedients and methods of dramatizing instruction. It is included here, not as the material for a lecture to be given by instructors, but for their reference in planning courses.

**SERIES I. GENERAL SUBJECTS.** Pp. iv, 74, plus a chart on Civilian Protection Organization for a Municipality.

This set of lectures has as its contents the following items: A. Remarks by Mayor La Guardia to the First Class, Civilian Defense School; B. Aerial Attack on Cities; C. Active Defense and Passive Defense, by Lt. Col. George J. B. Fisher, C. W. S.; D. Organization and Conduct of Local Schools; E. London Under Attack, by Chief Deasy and Chief Officer Invall; F. Organization and Duties of Rescue Squads; and G. Organization Chart of Civilian Protection for a Municipality.

**SERIES II. FIRE DEFENSE.** Pp. iv, 81, plus a chart showing a Typical Kilo Magnesium (Electron) Incendiary Bomb.

This set of lectures has as its contents the following items: A. National Defense Activities in Fire Departments, by Percy Bugbee; B. Fire Apparatus and Equipment, and Emergency Water Supplies, by James W. Just; C. Role of Fire Service in National Defense, by Fred Shepperd; D. Handling Incendiaries; and E. Chart of German Incendiary Bomb.

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