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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Joseph W. Harney (Ed.)

PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE. By *Charles C. Scott*. (Member of the Kansas City, Mo. Bar.) Vernon Law Book Company (Kansas City, Mo., 1942). Pp. 922. \$15.00.

This book is of incalculable value to an attorney who is preparing to try a case involving photographic evidence. It is also an excellent source of information for expert witnesses who desire to prepare themselves for the responsibility of testifying in court regarding evidence of a photographic nature. No other book has yet appeared which offers to lawyers and expert witnesses such an authoritative, comprehensive, and understandable treatment of the subject of photographic evidence.

The author is not only a practicing attorney but also an expert photographer. As regards both law and photography, he knows whereof he speaks.

The first fifteen chapters of the book are devoted to the preparation of photographic evidence; the other twelve pertain to the presentation of such evidence in court.

In the chapters entitled "Elementary but Important" and "Apparatus for General Legal Photography" lawyers and other non-expert readers will find a simplified discussion of all the various technical aspects of photography. The remaining chapters of Part I deal with such subjects as "Traffic Accident Scenes," "Pavement Defects and Obstructions," "Legal Portraits," "Fingerprints," "Shells, Bullets and Firearms," "Disputed Documents," "Medico-legal Pictures," "Processing the Negative," and "Printing and Finishing"—all of which are addressed to both lawyers and photographers. Throughout the discussion of these various topics the author presents many interesting and informative illustrations, particularly upon the subject of fake photography and its detection. No lawyer should attempt to try a case involving photographic evidence without familiarizing himself with the manner in which an opposing witness can distort the true facts of a case by photographic trickery. To the reviewer's knowledge there is no better discussion of this particular phase of the subject that that contained in Mr. Scott's book.

In Part II, concerning the law of photographic evidence as developed in the numerous legal decisions which have been rendered upon the subject, the expert witness will find an understandable discussion regarding the pertinent rules of evidence and the legal principles governing the court room use of photographs. It is to the lawyer, however, that this second part of the book will have its greatest appeal. For in its many chapters dealing with such topics as "Basic Rules," "Effect of Various Photographic Conditions," "Ordinary Photographs of Persons," "Ordinary Photographs of Things," "X-Ray Pictures," "Trial," "Admonitions and Instructions to the Jury," and "Appeal," the author ably presents much information of intensely practical value; and the entire discussion is thoroughly documented so that the book constitutes an excellent source of case citations. In this latter respect the book's fine index is another commendable feature.

In only one respect did this reviewer observe anything about the book of an objectionable nature, and that is its size and weight. Perhaps in an effort to attain the desirable objective of large, readable type the publisher let the book's size and weight fall where it would. Nevertheless, there are

many instances where a reduction in the size of the illustrations and an avoidance of seemingly unnecessary blank spaces could have been accomplished without sacrifice to the book's utility or appearance. Moreover, there are perhaps too many case abstracts in the footnotes. In any event, and regardless of the cause, the book is a bit unwieldy in size and too heavy for comfort in carrying to court or reading without the benefit of a supporting table or stand. Considered in the light of the book's other attributes, however, the objectionable feature of its size and weight is of no consequence.

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THE ELECTRON MICROSCOPE. By *E. F. Burton and W. H. Kohl*. Reinhold Publishing Corporation (New York, 1942). Pp. 233. \$3.85.

The privilege of reviewing this book was approached with trepidation, but all fears were unfounded, for the volume proved to be a lucid description and discussion of optics and electronic phenomena as applied to the electron microscope, which can readily be understood by a person with average intelligence.

The resolving power of a given microscope, or the smallest distance at which two objects can be differentiated, is determined by the wave-length of the light used. Thus, an instrument using visible light will allow distinction of a particle $1/120,000$ of an inch in diameter and magnify it 2,000 times. The electron microscope, using radiation of much shorter wave-length, can distinguish a particle $1/2,000,000$ of an inch in diameter and magnify it 30,000 times. In this connection, the authors do not adequately explain why such great magnification is possible when the numerical aperture and resultant resolving power of the electron microscope are less than that of optical microscopes.

The book starts out with a very elementary description of vision and optical phenomena, such as refraction at liquid surfaces and lens surfaces. This is followed by an analysis of the mechanics of cameras and of the eye, which is carried on to include simple light microscopes. The simplicity of language, drawings, and mathematics of this section allow the reader to follow the thought closely and readily understand the subject. Chapter III gives a resumé of the history of light theories and compares the corpuscular and wave theories with their respective incongruities. In subsequent chapters these two concepts are, to some extent, reconciled by a wave concept of electrons. Toward the middle of the book the subject matter slowly drifts into a description of the electronic motion, where electron optics are compared with visual optics. Each principle and each operation, which when coupled together form an electron microscope, is discussed in detail. Following this, the components are put together in a short history, and the two types of electron microscopes described—the electrostatic type for use in studying cathode material and a magnetic type used in the study of independent objects. Although the former is important in the study of metallic surfaces and coatings, the latter is the more popular and lends itself to a greater variety of subject matter.

The last chapter, which lists some accomplishments of the electron microscope, may cause the reader to pause and ponder. These include the study of dust, smoke, photographic emulsions, large molecules, numerous medicinal subjects, bacteria, and others. The book is not recommended to the specialist in electronics but is extremely interesting and useful to scientists and in-

investigators in other fields and even to the general public with a scientific bent. Some of the drawings appear to be rather crude but are accurate in detail and the half-tones are well chosen and satisfactorily reproduced. The bibliography does not give the titles of papers but includes all that has been written on the subject, including popular articles. The authors are to be commended upon writing an interesting and informative book on a difficult subject, which is very readable and easily understood, though accurate in every way.

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GET TOUGH. By *Captain W. E. Fairbairn*. D. Appleton-Century Co. (New York, N. Y., 1942). Pp. ix + 140. Fig. 140. \$1.00.

Get Tough by Capt. W. E. Fairbairn is a book of one hundred and twenty pages profusely illustrated with techniques designed to help a person win in hand to hand fighting. The book is primarily written to aid men in the Armed Services, for whom it is admirably suited as a source of vital, pertinent, and practical information. While it is written in a general vein, it is not practical for all purposes. My reaction as a Police Officer to *Get Tough* is both favorable and unfavorable. It is favorable in the sense that the practices outlined therein should prove helpful, if applied with discretion, and unfavorable in the sense that the same practices might prove troublesome, if not applied with discretion.

As a Police Officer I know that the law prescribes certain limits to which I may go in order to effect my purpose. The law is very clear with respect to the point that I may use only such force as is reasonably necessary to accomplish my purpose, whether it be to effect an arrest, to retain a person in custody, to retrieve an escapee, or otherwise. If the techniques enumerated in *Get Tough* were to be applied without sound discretion, it is very apparent that this legal restriction would be violated, and might subject me to the possibility of disciplinary action, or the possibility of a civil suit for damages, or both. It is my opinion that a book which advocates the doctrine of brutality, might very easily cause gross and unnecessary trouble for the Police Officer, who does not exercise discretion and who might not master its teachings so as to keep him within his legal rights.

Another objection to *Get Tough*, from a Police Officer's viewpoint, is the fact that it is being circulated quite generally, and therefore made accessible to the public at large. This being so, it stands to reason that the offender with whom the Police Officer deals, is apt to be as well equipped to use the techniques as the Officer himself, and therefore may use the lessons in the Book to as much advantage as the Officer, if not more.

My thought is that the book is most advantageous to men in the Armed Services, who may go to the point of killing, if necessary, but is not entirely advisable for the Police Officer who is very limited and restricted in his right to use force.

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POLICE RECORDS: THEIR INSTALLATION AND USE. By *O. W. Wilson*. The Public Administration Service (Chicago, Ill. 1942). Pp. 336. \$6.00.

There has long been a need for a general and definitive treatise in the field of police records and record-keeping. This manual is designed to meet that need. It purports to guide the police executive and his staff in the installation, operation, and use of a comprehensive system of records covering all of the incidents and activities of police work. It should serve the dual function, first, of aiding the operating personnel in using records in the performance of individual police tasks and, second, of guiding the command group in the administrative use of statistical data. It belongs on every police executive's desk and in every police records bureau.

The author of the manual—an experienced police administrator and a recognized authority on police problems—has applied the test of practical use to the principles and procedures which he describes. His declared purpose is “to present these principles and procedures so that they may serve as a basis of development for police records systems in departments having a single headquarters with no precinct and division stations and ranging in size from two or three men to departments having as many as three or four hundred men.” While admitting that local conditions may require minor adaptations, the author declares that the system which he describes is generally applicable to all cities, regardless of size. This reviewer is inclined to agree with the author and to recommend this manual without qualification to all municipal police departments which are interested in increasing their efficiency and effectiveness.

The manual is divided into ten comprehensive chapters. The titles of these chapters are the need for police records, organization and installation of a police records system, recording daily police activities, records relating to persons arrested, personal identification records, records work in the operating divisions, internal business management, procedures within the records division, summarizing and analyzing police records, and the use of records in planning operations. The chapters are illustrated by the inclusion of fifty-seven recommended forms. Valuable appendices at the end of the text deal with such topics as uniform classification of cases, suggested correspondence index, and monthly report tables.

Indeed, the manual describes the principles and procedures of a police records system which, if applied, would furnish the data necessary for analyzing police problems and developing plans for their solution. The effective interpretation of these data determine in large measure the quality of police service which a community receives, for, as the author points out, “there is a direct relationship between the efficiency of the police department and the quality of its records and records procedures. . . . Much of the information necessary to arrive at sound decisions may be gleaned from administrative records or reports which give a picture of present conditions and problems faced by the department, of the work of individual employees, and of the activities of whole units in dealing with these problems.”

In brief, this is a “must” book for every police executive and for every police records bureau.

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