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## Police Science Book Reviews

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Joseph W. Harney [Ed.]

LIE DETECTION AND CRIMINAL INTERROGATION by *Fred E. Inbau*. The Williams & Wilkins Company. (Baltimore, Md., 1942). Pp. vii, 142. \$3.00.

There is a dearth of pertinent, reliable, and useful information about the so-called lie detector. The extremes of either the Sunday supplement at one end, or the learned scientific journals at the other, can hardly be expected to be of any use to busy investigators who would like a straightforward, clear-cut discussion of the instrument, and definite answers to such questions as: "What is the lie detector?" "How does it work?" "How much confidence may I have in it?" and "How may it be used in criminal investigations?" The author answers these questions and many more in Part I of "Lie Detection and Criminal Interrogation." This part, alone, is well worth the price of the book as it does away with the smoke screen of misinformation which surrounds the lie detector. The examiner, the instrument itself, the records, and the tests are considered. The legal as well as the psychological aspects of the tests are discussed and adequately documented. The scientist, the lawyer, and the investigator will find in these pages a wealth of useful and interesting data which will be a yardstick to measure lie detector examiners, tests, and the general usefulness of the instrument itself.

Under the heading "Criminal Interrogation," the author in Part II ventilates a phase of criminal investigation which, for all its importance, as far as the written word is concerned, has remained in a haze of obscurity. Those who have the opportunity to put the suggestions and techniques into practical application in their work, such as police officers, investigators, and lawyers, will find in these chapters an invaluable reservoir of interrogation principles, methods, and procedures. The ideas put forth are not those of an armchair criminologist, but have been successfully applied by the author on many occasions in actual investigations. The entire conduct of an interrogation is reviewed, including the ideal surroundings for interrogation, the attitudes of the interrogator, the necessity of mastering facts, and an extensive discussion of tactics and techniques for interrogation of known offenders whose guilt is reasonably certain, as well as doubtful suspects, witnesses, and other informants.

There is no claim made that the application of any one of the techniques suggested will result in full confessions, but a familiarity with the material covered will undoubtedly aid any person whose business it is to talk to suspects.

Since a criminal interrogator must not only strive to obtain a confession from a guilty suspect, but also to obtain one which meets all the necessary legal requirements, the author has reviewed the principles of the law of evidence governing the admissibility of a confession and has included a complete list of case citations bearing on the types of force that will nullify a confession, what constitutes a threat within the meaning of the confession rule, and many other legal pitfalls that may beset the interrogator.

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