

1947

Police Science Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 37 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 351 (1946-1947)

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph F. Turner*

POISONS, THEIR PROPERTIES, CHEMICAL IDENTIFICATION, SYMPTOMS AND EMERGENCY TREATMENTS. By Vincent J. Brookes and Hubert N. Aleya. D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc. New York. 1946. Pp. 209, \$3.00.

This book on poisons presents a new approach to this subject. It is apparent that its primary purpose is to familiarize law enforcement agencies with the various problems that may come up during a poison investigation. In this respect it does an excellent job. Its style and organization are well worked out. The sections on poison investigation, basic information for the investigator and emergency information for immediate reference are particularly good and the glossary of definition of technical terms will be found most helpful.

In the section on special properties of poisons, the general information is good, but the subdivision describing the tests for identification is disappointing. The tests given are too elementary and far from specific in many cases to justify positive identification. The information in some instances might even be misleading to anyone other than a trained analyst.

It is the reviewer's opinion that judgment on preliminary identity of poison would be more satisfactorily made by symptoms and history of the case in those rare cases where immediate decisions must be made, rather than going through the motions of an analysis that may be inaccurate. This is tricky work even for a trained toxicologist.

Except for the criticism on identification, the reviewer considers this a well-written and easily understood book on the problems encountered in poisoning.

Toxicologist

SIDNEY KAYE.

St. Louis, Missouri Police Department.

ARREST, SEARCH AND SEIZURE. By Hubert E. Dax and Brooke Tibbs. Milwaukee: Hammersmith-Kortmeyer Co., Pp. xiii + 195. \$3.50.

This is an interesting volume on a subject of exceptional importance in the field of law enforcement: the laws relating to arrest, search and seizure.

The volume is a joint undertaking by authors having experience in the practical phases of the subjects covered. Inspector Dax of the Milwaukee Police Department is a former director of the Milwaukee Police Training School, Mr. Tibbs a former Special Assistant District Attorney of Milwaukee County. Such experiences form a valued background to understanding of practical problems involved in arrests, searches and seizures and have aided in preparing a volume of particular interest to police officers and prosecutors.

Fundamentally, the volume is based upon Wisconsin law and the decisions of courts in Wisconsin. But also included are indicative references to other source materials which aid in giving value to the volume for readers in other jurisdictions. A legalistic, rather than philosophic point of view prevails throughout the volume. It has been the intent of the authors in discussing specific phases of the volume's subject matter to state the statute or principle governing thereof, thence to turn attention to decisions interpreting them. In so

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doing the authors have provided a ready reference to principal enactments controlling the process of arrest, search and seizure and the decisions of courts relating thereto.

The volume is comprised of fifteen chapters, titles of which provide a general insight into the materials covered:

1. ARREST GENERALLY
2. ARRESTS WITHOUT WARRANT—FELONIES
3. ARRESTS WITHOUT WARRANT—BREACHES OF THE PEACE;
OTHER MISDEMEANORS
4. ARRESTS UNDER WARRANT
5. USE OF FORCE
6. PLACE OF ARREST; FRESH PURSUIT
7. ENTRY OF LAND AND BUILDINGS IN ARREST
8. SUMMONING AID AND COMMANDEERING PROPERTY
9. ENTRAPMENT
10. PRIVILEGE FROM ARREST
11. TREATMENT OF PRISONERS
12. SEARCH AND SEIZURE GENERALLY
13. SEARCH AND SEIZURE INCIDENT TO ARREST
14. SEARCH WARRANTS
15. SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND

A twenty-one page index constitutes an easy reference to subjects covered in the volume.

Northwestern University
Traffic Institute.

D. G. MONROE.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS. By H. Rethoret. Recording and Statistical Corporation, Ltd., Montreal, Canada, 1945, Pp... \$0.00. (Available upon request to author.)

This is the third book on the subject which has been written by the author, Harry Rethoret, General Manager, Fire Underwriters' Investigation Bureau of Canada, Inc., Montreal. His first publication is titled "*Arson, Fraud & Perjury—Abstract of the Laws & Decisions,*" and was published in 1924. The second publication is titled "*Incendiarism and Accidental Fires.*" It was published in 1941.

The primary purpose of this volume is to furnish the Special Agents of Mr. Rethoret's organization with instruction material. The first nineteen chapters comprise Section One. The subjects dealt with in this section are as follows: Fire Insurance, Prevalence of Arson, Legal Definition of Arson, Motives for Arson, Ignition—Fire—Smoke, Sources of Information, Confessions—Fire Marshals' and Coroners' Inquiries—Protection of the Court, The Fire Investigator, The Investigation, The Investigation Report, Anticipated Fires, Circumstantial Evidence and Alibis, Juveniles and Pyromaniacs, Parties to Offenses, Legal Forms, Preparation of the Case for Court, Slander—Libel—Malicious Prosecution, Hazardous Chemicals—Inflammable Liquids—Dangerous Gases, and Civil Law on Fire Insurance—Court Decisions.

All of this information should be of some value to the arson investigator, although much of it is not new material. The chapter titled "Fire Insurance" consists of three short paragraphs and is rather disappointing, because the arson investigator can never obtain too much information on the subject.

When discussing Prevalence of Arson, the author resorts largely to the use of statistical data covering periods which do not include