

1947

Police Science Books Received

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recent years, but he does show that arson is committed much more frequently than is generally realized.

The chapters dealing with Legal Definition of Arson, Slander—Libel, Confessions, Parties to Offenses, and Civil Law on Fire Insurance are based entirely on Canadian laws and customs, but will no doubt be of interest to most persons who handle fire investigations.

The remainder of the chapters in this section contain much interesting and valuable material, although it is largely a compilation of information and suggestions already familiar to the experienced arson investigator. Subjects such as motives for arson, methods employed by the arsonist, as well as juveniles and pyromaniacs, are of real importance to the arson investigator. They could be given much more attention than they receive in this volume. Such subjects as "The Questioning of Witnesses," "The Interrogation of Arson Suspects," "The Use of the Forensic Chemist and Crime Detection Laboratory" are not dealt with in a formal manner.

Section Two of this publication consists of a number of arson cases and an analysis of the manner in which they were handled by the investigators. The material is a distinct contribution to this field of criminology. It should be read by everyone engaged in the business of investigating fires, regardless of training, experience or personal qualifications for such work.

Mr. Rethoret points out the lessons which the investigator can learn from the cases. The errors to be avoided in arson investigations are clearly emphasized and are well worth considering.

Included in the publication are several indexes which enhance its value. The bibliography is valuable, but by no means complete or exhaustive.

It is this reviewer's opinion that *FIRE INVESTIGATIONS* contains a considerable amount of valuable information on the subject and is unquestionably a distinct contribution to this highly specialized field of endeavor.

RICHARD C. STEINMETZ

Chief Investigator, Mill Mutual Fire Prevention Bureau, Chicago, Ill.

BOOKS RECEIVED

- Alyea, Huber N. and Brookes, Vincent J. *POISONS, THEIR CHEMICAL IDENTIFICATION AND EMERGENCY TREATMENTS*. New York: D. Van Nostrand Co., 1946. \$3.00.
- Hess, Erich. *NARCOTICS AND DRUG ADDICTION*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1946. \$3.75.
- Hodge, Edwin S. *COLLECTED ABSTRACTS PUBLISHED DURING 1945 ON SPECTROCHEMICAL ANALYSIS*. Dayton, Ohio: Ohio Valley Spectrographic Society, 1946. \$1.25.
- Holcomb, Richard L. *SELECTION OF POLICE OFFICERS*. Iowa City, Iowa: State University of Iowa, 1946. \$1.00.
- Midlo, Charles and Cummins, Harold. *FINGERPRINTS, PALMS AND SOLES*. Philadelphia: Blakiston Company, 1946. \$4.00.
- Smith, W. H. B. *WALTHER PISTOLS*. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Military Service Publishing Co., 1946. \$2.00.

The review of the volume by Alyea and Brookes appears in this issue of the Journal. Other reviews will appear in forthcoming issues.

