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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph F. Turner*

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY AND SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION. By A. Lucas, O.B.E., F.R.I.C. Fourth Edition. Longmans, Green & Co., New York, 1945. Pp. xvi, 340, \$7.00.

This book was first published in 1921 and since that time has held a valuable place in police science literature. The fact that it has gone through three editions and one reprinting prior to the publication of the present work gives some indication of the high regard in which it has been held.

The author was a resident of Cairo and was formerly Director of the Chemical Department of Egypt.¹ Many of his references and citations of cases are concerned with European material, but these in no way diminish the value of the book for an American reader.

The written material is divided into 16 chapters which cover a wide variety of subjects. These include blood stains, clothing, counterfeit coins, documents, and a miscellaneous chapter dealing with the identification of dust, dirt, glass fragments, stains, and marks. Other chapters cover fibers and fabrics, fingerprints, arson investigations, firearms identification, microscopy, poisons, preservation of the body after death, robbery from mail, and tobacco. No chapters have been added to or deleted from the third edition, and the principal changes in the script consist of the inclusion of observations and new material brought to light by the war.

It is obvious that an exhaustive treatise on all of these subjects cannot be encompassed in the space of 340 pages, and it seems clear that Mr. Lucas did not intend this book to be an encyclopedia. For this reason, its value as a ready reference is enhanced. The writing style is clear and to the point; the book is not encumbered with words, phrases, and case histories which do not add to the value of the work. There is considerable material not found in other books. Unfortunately, a few subjects are not mentioned which are important at present, such as the scientific determination of alcoholism.

Wartime restrictions have necessitated the use of paper and binding which suffer in comparison with the previous editions. However, this is a concise, authoritative book and is valuable to the criminal investigator and the forensic chemist.

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¹ Editor's Note: The death of Mr. Lucas since the publication of this edition is noted with regret. His contributions to the development of forensic chemistry through this book and his writings for scientific journals has marked him as one of the pioneers in the field of forensic chemistry and scientific criminal investigation.

COLLECTED ABSTRACTS PUBLISHED IN 1945 ON SPECTROCHEMICAL ANALYSIS. By Edwin S. Hodge. Edwards Bros., Inc., Ann Arbor, Mich., 1946. Pp. 64, \$1.00. Distributed by Ohio Valley Spectrographic Society, Engineers Club Bldg., Dayton, Ohio.

The descriptive information contained in the *Collected Abstracts* is not comprehensive enough to serve as a work sheet for the original and, therefore, does not eliminate further reference to the original paper. The main contribution is the manner in which the abstracts of the papers, taken from the *1945 Chemical Abstracts*, have been grouped under their appropriate headings. The spectrographic field has been divided into twelve sections, and each abstract placed into its proper category. A subject and author index has been included. The collection will save considerable time in making a search of the 1945 literature and serve as a guide to current development during 1945 in the field of spectroscopy. In this respect it should be a worthwhile addition to the library.

It is the opinion of the reviewer that the ideas encompassed in the book, rather than the collection itself, is its most recommendable feature. If this book be continued during the following years as a series, it will become a valuable contribution to the scientific literature.

Other than academic interest, papers abstracted during 1945 contain little of immediate aid to spectrographers in the field of Toxicology and Forensic Medicine with the possible exception of those by Jan Van Calker, C.A., vol. 39, p. 469, "An Attempt to Establish an Absolute Quantitative Spectral Analysis"; J. Cholak and D. M. Hubbard, C.A., vol. 39, p. 880, "Spectrochemical Analysis with the Air-Acetylene Flame"; J. Cholak et. al., C.A., vol. 39, p. 882, "Methods for Determining Lead in Air and Biological Materials" and K. B. Mather, C.A., vol. 39, p. 5134, "A Comparator for Spectrographic Analysis."

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POLICE SERGEANT'S MANUAL. By B. W. Gocke, M.A., Member Berkeley, California, Police Department. Published by O. W. Smith, Law Book Seller and Publisher, 106 South Broadway, Los Angeles 12, California, 1945. Pp. 296. \$3.00.

This volume is an excellent contribution to that neglected but rapidly growing branch of government known as police administration. It has been fully recognized that one of the huge gaps in police literature is in the field encompassed by supervisory control. Through this volume, police administrators will learn what are the qualities that supervisors should possess, and how they may best improve their management of the supervisory staff.

Obviously, no organization, regardless of its character, can rise higher than the quality and competency of its supervisory officials, hence the need for a more thorough understanding on the part of police administrators of the supervisory functions and the methods whereby these may be more successfully attacked. The author not only makes clear to executives what are these important duties, but also illustrates effectively how these may best be performed.

Commanding officers will also profit materially by studying the contents of this work, because they will be better enabled to improve

their relationships with subordinate officers, raise the morale of the organization, and more readily achieve the objectives of the department.

In no other volume can commanding officers find so many suggestions to improve their own leadership qualities or discover more readily how to handle men in their command so as to obtain the very best possible results of their labors.

For the sergeants and the lieutenants this book should prove an invaluable guide. Herein is found not only what they should do but how it should be done, as well as the reasons why it must be done. Tactical and procedural rules outlined will give to them the knowledge necessary to stimulate men to put forward their best efforts; it will aid them in securing that type of co-operation which is indispensable in furnishing to the public the highest type of police service.

The ambitious patrolman who seeks advancement in the department will find invaluable material in the text, and a priceless collection of questions and answers in the appendix. These questions have been critically selected from promotional examinations which have been held in various cities throughout the United States. Moreover, the patrolman will gain a better understanding of the reasons for the actions of his supervisory officers and thus be willing to put his soul into his patrol.

The author is well qualified for the preparation of such a work by his scholarly background, research technique, and practical experience as a police officer.

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LABORATORY MANUAL OF SPOT TESTS. By *Dr. Fritz Feigl*, Laboratorio da Producao Mineral, Ministerio de Agricultura, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Translated from the German manuscript by Dr. Ralph E. Oesper, Professor of Chemistry, University of Cincinnati. Academic Press, Inc., New York, 1943, 46 figures. Pp. xii., 276. \$3.90.

This volume serves as a sequel to the author's previously published work "Qualitative Analysis by Spot Tests" and apparently is intended both as a textbook and a reference handbook of the spot test analytical technique.

The opening chapter (22 pages) considers theoretical principles underlying the technique developed by the author. This is followed by a chapter (41 pages) on the methods of conducting spot tests. For the most part, these permit the detection of extremely small traces (usually less than .001 milligram) of substance in a single drop of solution by the addition of a small amount of the proper chemical testing reagent and noting subsequent color changes or precipitate formation. In each instance the chemical basis for the test, the specificity and selectivity of the reaction, as well as complete data regarding the identification limit of sensitivity and the concentration limit are clearly given.

The third chapter (38 pages) considers the "Surface and Capillary Effects in Spot Reactions". A chapter on "Inorganic Analysis" (69 pages) presents methods for the identification of many inorganic substances, metals and acid ions, while a chapter on "Or-

ganic Analysis" (29 pages) outlines the qualitative recognition of many organic groupings.

Chapters VI and VII deal with the application of the spot testing technique in mineralogy and in the testing of technical materials. A brief chapter on "Spot Reactions in Biological Material" is followed by one on "Spot Colorimetry". This latter chapter is one of the most provocative in the entire book, for it presents a methodology for estimating the *quantity* of a substance present. A seven page appendix of general reagents, standard solutions and suggested laboratory lay-out completes the book.

In the field of criminological investigation this volume will prove clear for it is written in the idiom of the chemists of this country.

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