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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph F. Turner*

PARKING MANUAL. *American Automobile Association*, Washington 6, D. C. 1946, \$0.00 (Available upon request to the American Automobile Association, Washington 6, D. C., or local Motor Clubs affiliated with the American Automobile Association.)

Parking of motor vehicles is a problem of major concern to police departments. It is questionable whether the police should be so involved in this function, but the fact remains that in most cities a major share of police activity is related to parking. Further, there is a considerable petty annoyance associated with the regulation of parking. Police officers will be criticized, and disgruntled citizens will be paying traffic tickets from now until the millenium. The only solution of the traffic problem that would please everyone would be some sort of system that would allow an unlimited number of vehicles to park immediately in front of the stores where the drivers wish to shop. This sort of solution appears extremely unlikely.

However, there are many things that may be done to improve the parking situation, and this manual is an excellent treatment of methods of working towards the solution of the parking problem. It is not only well and authoritatively written, but the largest share of the material given is in a non-technical language, and the book is well-organized and illustrated. Many phases of the parking problem are covered here that are not adequately covered in any other publication. The chapters carry the parking problem through in an order based upon the usual organization of an attack upon this problem. The eight chapters cover The Parking Problem; Causes and Effects of Parking Difficulties; Factual Studies Necessary; Improving Curb Parking Conditions; Off-Street Parking Facilities; Educating the Public; Other Community Activities Affecting Parking. The section on Off-Street Parking Facilities, as related to cost of acquiring and improving such parking, is of particular interest since it is becoming more apparent that off-the-street parking will play the major role in future attempts to solve this problem. Further, from a practical standpoint, one of the first questions asked in any discussions of off-the-street parking is "What will it cost?"

This book will be of invaluable assistance to anyone engaged in the parking problem.

RICHARD L. HOLCOMB

State University of Iowa

PHOTOGRAPHY BY INFRARED, ITS PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATIONS, 2nd Ed., by *Walter Clark*, Ph. D., F.R.P.S., F.R.S.A. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York, N. Y., 1946. Pp. xvii, 472. \$6.00.

In *Photography by Infrared* Dr. Walter Clark has compiled a thorough and comprehensive treatment of the principles and applications of infra-

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red photography. Originally published in 1939, the second edition represents a revision of a large portion of the text and the addition of matter developed during the war years.

Its scope includes both theoretical and practical material, that is, the theory of infrared radiation and its direct application to various types of photography. In a combined discussion of both theory and practice the author presents: The General Practice of Infrared Photography, Photographic Darkroom Practices, Characteristics of Photographic Materials, Photographic Sensitizing for the Infrared, The Herschel Effect and Indirect Methods of Infrared Photography, and Source of Infrared Radiation. Numerous applications in widely diverse fields are evaluated in the chapters: Examination and Differentiation of Materials by Infrared (which includes discussion of documentary photography and other uses in criminal investigation), Medical Infrared Photography, Infrared Photography Applied to Botany and Palaeontology, Infrared Photomicrography, Special Applications of Infrared Photography, and Camouflage Detection by Infrared Photography. Two chapters consider its penetration through the atmosphere, fog, and haze from a theoretical and practical view; while a final chapter deals with the Optical Characteristics of Material in the Infrared. Throughout the author discusses frankly the uses and limitations of infrared with no attempt to glamorize it or to sell it as the photographic cure-all.

Of particular interest to the examiner of questioned documents and the police laboratory technician are the sections on Documentary Photography and Criminology. Both discuss the possible aid which infrared photography may give in connection with problems in these fields. While the illustrations show what are undoubtedly the exceptional results, they serve as a guide to workers who are unfamiliar with the results achieved with infrared photography in some instances.

For anyone actively engaged in photographic work or who is building a technical photographic library *Photography by Infrared* is a must. Here is found a clear, complete discussion of the subject presented in a truly scientific manner.

ORDWAY HILTON

Examiner of Questioned Documents
New York, N. Y.

5,000 CRIMINAL DEFINITIONS. By *Judge Charles W. Fricke*. O. W. Smith, Publisher. Los Angeles, California, 1941. Pp. 86. \$1.65.

As the title suggests, this book is a compilation of definitions of words, phrases, and terms that the police officer will encounter. These definitions are broken into twelve chapters under the headings of Law in General; Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure; Evidence; Particular Crimes; Writs, Process, Warrants; Searches and Seizures; Federal Criminal Laws; Ballistics, Fire Arms; Criminal Terms and Phrases; Criminal-Jargon (slang); and Medico-Legal Terms.

There is no question that much of this material will be of value to police officers, but at the same time, the author has run into the difficulty

that every work of this type encounters; that of giving a concise definition. As a result, some of the definitions given are of little real value, as they may be found in any standard dictionary.

As a matter of fact, some of the definitions relating to fire arms have been so condensed as to be entirely inaccurate. For example, the breech is defined as "the rear extremity of the rifle." Further, the bore is defined as "the diameter of the gun barrel." Actually, the bore would be more correctly defined as the internal diameter of the gun barrel. Here again a careful definition would consider whether the measurement were made from groove to groove or from land to land. In the same connection, caliber is defined as "diameter of bore measured in hundredths of an inch." This is only approximately correct. I believe that this particular section would have been improved if more space had been devoted to giving exact definitions, at the expense of many definitions relating to fire arms that a police officer would not encounter. For example, definitions are given of "Dag, an early name for a short pistol, especially a wheel lock;" "Flintlock, a type of fire arm that has not been generally used in this country in the past one hundred years;" "Serpentine, a part of the Matchlock, an antique fire arm;" and "Wheel Lock, a fire arm historically between the Matchlock and the Flintlock."

Some of the definitions given under "Medico-Legal Terms" suffer from the same incompleteness. For instance, a "Cetimeter" is defined as "1/100 of a meter; 2/5 of an inch." Very little additional space would have been required to give the exact equivalent of a centimeter by defining an inch as being equal to 2.540 centimeters.

"Color Blindness" is defined as "Loss of perception of colors, usually one or two, of red, green or blue. This condition is due to a defect in the rods and cones in the retina." Actually, it is questionable whether or not any color-blind individual is color-blind to only one color. For example, a person color-blind to red will be also color-blind to green, seeing both as gray. A person color-blind to blue will be also color-blind to yellow. It is true that one of the theories of color blindness holds that it is due to a defect in the rods and cones of the retina, but this is only one of the theories, and no theory of color blindness has ever been satisfactorily proven.

Further, the term "Vaccinate" is defined as "to introduce into the skin the virus of cow-pox, for the purpose of immunizing the patient against smallpox. The right to require vaccination is based upon the police power of the state." Actually, vaccination includes the introduction of many more substances than the virus of cow-pox, and it would appear that this definition and many others are rather outdated.

Chapter Eleven is devoted to "Criminal-Jargon" or "slang." While material of this sort is always of interest to read, its value is questionable in that many of the terms defined are definitely outdated, or their use is restricted to certain sections of the country. As a matter of fact, some of the items included as slang are not properly slang. For example, "Bertillion" is defined as the "Name of system of criminal identification by measurement of the body." This is the correct definition and is in no sense slang. The term "jimmy" is defined as "a bar with a crook in it so as to produce leverage," is so defined in the ordinary dictionary, and is not considered slang.

This publication would be of value to a police officer as a general reference. However, because of the discrepancies noted above, extreme caution should be taken in using this publication, as it cannot be regarded as authoritative.

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HANDWRITING, THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL LIVING, 2nd Ed. By *Herry O. Teltcher*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1946. Pp. xi, 301. \$3.00.

Handwriting, The Key to Successful Living, deals with the graphological or "psychographological" interpretations of writing and their application to the individual, child guidance, marriage, personal and business problems, and medical diagnosis.

Every application of graphology proposed by the author must stand or fall on the basic accuracy of graphology and its interpretation of personality from an individual's handwriting. Toward this end Teltcher handles his basic material in an unscientific or illogical manner. He defines elements of writing and their indication of character traits at one point. Subsequently, when it best serves his purpose, he disregards, contradicts, or neglects these basic definitions. Interpretation of large and small handwriting, for example, is varied to suit the character under consideration. Close reading further reveals that the author's knowledge of handwriting as taught and practiced in this country appears extremely weak, a situation which leads him to points of defective reasoning. Thus, lack of technical knowledge and a deficiency in scientific temperament—both basic essentials to accurate scientific investigation—are augmented by a willingness to reject consistency which should be necessary even in graphology. How then can the applied psychography of the author give the degree of accuracy of which he infers it is capable?

The chapter "An Aid to Criminology" might reasonably attract the attention of the criminal investigator or police laboratory technician, but there is virtually nothing of the slightest practical assistance in these pages.

In the course of the chapter on aid to criminology the author is concerned with the fact that American courts have "not yet availed themselves of the services of the psychographologist to investigate the character of the criminal from his handwriting." If this book is representative of the present day development of the subject and typical of the methods used by workers in the field, the courts should be commended for their attitude of watchful waiting.

For the police laboratory technician or the criminal investigator *Handwriting, The Key to Successful Living*, offers nothing of value. In fact even for the general reader the reviewer can see little to recommend this book.

ORDWAY HILTON

Examiner of Questioned Documents
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