

1948

## Police Science Book Reviews

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### Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 38 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 442 (1947-1948)

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

*Edited by*  
**Ralph F. Turner\***

POLICE MANUAL OF ARRESTS AND SEARCHES, by *Leonard J. Hobbs*. The Carswell Company, Limited, Toronto, Canada. 1946. Pp. 118. \$1.50.

An English King of old once said "The difference between the lawyer and a layman was not found in either one's knowledge of the law but in the truth that the lawyer knows how and where to find the law."

Our author in his present work plays the role of a lawyer. He attacks each chapter in a logical and detailed order, and does not fail to cite references to illustrate the various points.

The booklet of 118 pages is an abstract of the Canadian laws governing the rules of arrests and searches. Wherever emphasis is necessary, the author wisely uses case references both in American and Canadian law. Any police officer reading this fine booklet should not fail to look up the suggested references.

One point which struck this reviewer with much force is the author's discussion of "Arrests made on information received via telegram".

Mr. Hobbs points out that not infrequently requests of telegraphic or other means of communication (telephone, police gazettes, letters, and circulars) are made by one police unit to another for the arrest of a named person for some specific offense. The justification for such an arrest can only be upon the grounds that the police officers making the arrest has reasonable and probable grounds for believing that an offense has been committed for which the accused can be arrested without warrant. He points out that the power of such arrest is confined to those offenses covered by Sections 646 and 647 of the Canadian Criminal Code. It therefore follows that if any police agency within the United States makes telegraphic requests to police departments in the Dominion of Canada, that they refer to Sections 646 and 647 to ascertain if the offense for which the arrest is to be made is covered by either section.

In introduction Mr. Hobbs has included a brief history of modern police which had its inception very early in English history. He also points out that law enforcement officers are servants of the Crown (here in the United States it would be the City, State, or other form of government). Far too many police officers fail to remember this truth.

The booklet is well written, printed in small booklet fashion, making for easy carrying and is complete to the point of containing many case references which, if closely studied, would lead to a fuller and more complete knowledge of the laws of arrests and searches.

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HOW TO BECOME A POLICEMAN by *John C. Chiotis* and *Joseph C. Pell*, New York. Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1946. Pp. x, 262, \$2.50.

I can see only one reason for reviewing this book. Since it has been advertised widely, I believe that prospective purchasers should be informed as to its actual contents and character. The current advertisement for this book states ". . . Here are six hundred questions and answers covering everything prospective policemen must know . . ." And, further ". . . The book covers every subject on which a candidate might be questioned . . ." These statements are not true, even when the usual advertising overstatements are taken into consideration.

This book lists a number of questions and answers that may be in use by the New York Police Department and certain other departments in the country, but it definitely fails to include many questions of real value in determining the suitability of a candidate for police work. I might add parenthetically that if the New York Police Department is using these questions for selecting men, it is not using the best possible methods. For example, many of the questions concern legal problems. Modern practice does not hold that an applicant should know the answers to all these questions prior to employment, but rather, that a selection program should determine whether or not a candidate is able to learn this material following employment. The answers to legal questions follow the New York law which is at variance with the law in many other sections of the country, so that in many cases the answers would be entirely misleading.

Further, considerable space is devoted to certain definitions peculiar to the New York City Police Department. There are twenty-one abbreviations used by that Department that have little or no meaning to other departments. For instance, one of the questions asks you to identify the initials "M. T. M. D." To an informed New York Police Officer, the book states that these initials would mean "Motor Transportation Maintenance Division."

Quite a number of the questions deal with the applicant's vocabulary and his ability to use proper grammar. It is my belief that the standards set on the vocabulary test are far too high. For example, certain of the questions ask the candidate to select a synonym from a list of five choices for such words as "oppugnant," "purient," "psychophant," "sanguine," and "epitome." While it is realized that extremely difficult questions should be asked to test even men in the upper limits, I believe that the vocabulary questions are well outside the range necessary for police officers.

Part Seven is entitled "General Information." It presents a conglomeration of material that is both poorly organized and incomplete. For example, the entire section covering the Benzidine Test is as follows:

- "1. Test at the scene to determine if a stain is blood.
  - (a) Impress a damp blotter on stain.
  - (b) If resulting blue-green spot—this shows presence of blood."

I was further intrigued by the fact that the "oustiti" appears in this section. According to the definition given, this is "a small instrument to lock a door from the outside leaving the key inside." It may be that this small instrument is in relatively common use in New York, but I

have never heard it mentioned by a police officer and have seen no other reference to it except in "Modern Criminal Investigation" by Soderman and O'Connell.

Part Eight covers physical exercises. I can see no real harm in these exercises. As a matter of fact, I am in favor of candidates for the police profession being in good physical condition, and I believe that the exercises illustrated accompanied by certain other approved methods of physical conditioning would be of value.

A very brief bibliography is presented. This bibliography is remarkable for the fact that it is unusually incomplete.

I believe that this book is of no value to men presently in police service except that it might suggest questions that could be used in preparing a promotional examination suitable for men who had spent some time in the police service. It might have some value to a candidate for a very limited number of police departments, but aside from this, there is nothing in it worthy of recommendation.

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