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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph F. Turner*

BANK FRAUDS—THEIR DETECTION AND PREVENTION. By *Lester A. Pratt.*
The Ronald Press Company, New York. 1947. Pp. vi, 248. \$4.00.

This book is directed primarily toward those whose duties and responsibilities include the prevention or the detection of bank frauds. Its objective is to draw attention to the seriousness of the losses from such frauds and to point out methods and procedures which would minimize them and which will aid in their detection after perpetration.

The first chapter reveals the tremendous volume of bank defalcations, estimated to amount to many millions annually, and points out that the losses are not only economic but social as well since formerly useful citizens are lost to society and public confidence in banks is shaken. The author analyzes the basis of fraud—illogical thinking on the part of the employer in believing he can long conceal his fraud and weak bank resistance stemming from a lack of proper policies and procedures within the bank. As noted in the confessions of several guilty bank employees, they believe that they would never have weakened had the bank exercised stricter supervision.

Several chapters are devoted to the analysis and description of bank operations and the accounting and office methods and procedures used. The deficiencies in these methods and procedures, especially in the smaller banks, are detailed.

The author mentions a case which this reviewer investigated several years ago as an example of what often happens in a small, "dominated" bank, where one man has all the responsibility and does many tasks. In this one case a cashier stole \$200,000 over an eight year period. A comprehensive program of internal control is given which bank management would do well to follow as a preventive measure. This program includes enforced vacations, division of duties, rotation of employees within the bank, and directors' examinations and outside audits. It is the directors' responsibility to see that a proper program is maintained. The use of such a program may save them from losses under their personal liability.

Of special interest to law enforcement officers, Federal, state, and local, is the material in Chapter 9 and following chapters. The legal meaning of such terms as larceny, embezzlement, abstraction, forgery, willful misapplication and false entry and the accounting significance and results of such crimes is clearly shown. The author shows on page 69 a tabulation of various positions held by bank employees guilty of criminal acts in National Banks. Of 821 convictions in smaller banks 580 were of management employees and 241 by subordinates. In larger banks the reverse was true, as 548 out of 660 convictions were of subordinate employees.

Twelve chapters are devoted to describing the types of fraud which have occurred in various departments of banks, and the most practicable methods of detecting and preventing them are explained. Each chapter

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covers one department so that an auditor or examiner or investigator can easily refer to the department in which he is interested at the moment. Actual cases are continually cited so that even a layman will find interest in the recital.

One of the most interesting chapters for law enforcement officers as well as for independent accountants is that on the accountant as an expert witness. The author has here given some invaluable advice on all phases of the trial—from the selection of the jury to the heckling questions of the cross-examining attorney. A careful reading will save some anxious moments in the "hot seat" of the witness stand.

This excellent book should be of value to any public accountant, auditor, bank examiner, or law enforcement investigator as well as to all bank officers and directors. Its appendix and index make it a handy reference book to the reader.

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SEXUAL BEHAVIOR IN THE HUMAN MALE. By *Alfred C. Kinsey, Wardell B. Pomeroy and Clyde E. Martin*—W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1948. Pp. 804 plus xv. \$6.50.

Almost everyone who reads this particular review will have read at least one other review of this remarkable book. *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* was written as a scientific report, published by a firmly established company with a long-time experience in scientific materials, and then presented and advertised following the usual procedures for similar reports. In spite of this conservative method, the book has become not only a best seller in the field of science or non-fiction, but in the entire publishing field. This has never occurred before. Why did it occur in this particular case?

The most apparent answer would be that the authors have capitalized on sex, as many pseudo-scientific authors have, and presented a sensational "expose" designed to appeal to the large numbers who have bought so many of the recent historical novels that have forsaken the conventional battlefields for the bedroom. Nothing could be further from the truth. This study is written with the same scientific detachment and in the same unemotional style as though the report dealt with some aspect of the geologic structure adjacent to Mammoth Cave. This does not mean that the book is difficult reading. As a matter of fact, it is far superior to most scientific reports. The vocabulary is well-chosen; the authors do not suppose that all readers will have a firm grasp of all material ever written in any of the sciences. Rather, they realize that if they are to make an accurate presentation of their material, it is essential that their meaning be unobscured by the extreme use of technical phrases that seem so to delight some authors. This type of presentation is difficult, yet is so well done that there is no question as to the standing of the authors as scientists.

This report is based on interviews of many subjects chosen from a wide variety of occupations and age groups geographically scattered, and at the same time covers all phases of the problem. Over 500 questions were actually used, allowing extreme detail. This complete an inter-

view was possible only because of the care used in developing the interview and methods of recording. The resulting data were carefully handled. They not only received sound statistical analysis, but are presented very completely in both tabular and graphic form. The chapter headings will give an idea of the scope of this work: Part I, History and Method, commences with a chapter dealing with an Historical Introduction, and follows this with three chapters which discuss Interviewing, Statistical Problems, and Validity of the Data. The chapters in Part II, Factors Affecting Sexual Outlet, concern: Early Sexual Growth and Activity, Total Sexual Outlet, Age and Sexual Outlet, Marital Status and Sexual Outlet, Age of Adolescence and Sexual Outlet, Social Level and Sexual Outlet, Stability of Sexual Patterns, Rural-Urban Background and Sexual Outlet, and Religious Background and Sexual Outlet. The chapters in Part III, Sources of Sexual Outlet, deal with: Masturbation, Nocturnal Emissions, Heterosexual Petting, Pre-Marital Intercourse, Marital Intercourse, Extra-Marital Intercourse, Intercourse with Prostitutes, Homosexual Outlet, Animal Contacts, and Clinical Tables.

A great deal of time is spent in explaining the method used in this study. This is excellent. It was necessary to gather the material used through interview. It is common knowledge that an interview is not the most reliable method of research and, of course, some very casual observers have attacked this method. The answer to any such criticism is very simple. First, the interview is the only method available to make such a study, and, second, it is questionable if any other research project has ever achieved an interview technique so well-developed and administered. The authors have taken the best means available and used it in the soundest scientific manner, recognizing at the same time the limits of their method. Even a casual reading will tell you that the authors are not the type to be taken in by the pitfalls common to many interviews.

The authors have presented here a monumental piece of work. The data cover interviews with 12,000 persons. If they never publish again, their reputation will stand and their book will be quoted in future centuries. In spite of this, the present report is only the first in a series that is planned to include one hundred thousand interviews covering a variety of related subjects. The importance of the entire study cannot be estimated. Even though the sex drive is one of the most powerful and basic in all human endeavor, we know very little about its true nature since it has been surrounded by a system of social pressures that is unequalled. However, law enforcement officers learned long ago that the failure to discuss sex openly does not mean that it is not a part of everyday life. As a matter of fact, law enforcement personnel will be far less surprised by the findings of this report than will most scientists. Peace officers know from their experience that sexual activity, including the various sexual acts that are unlawful, is very much a part of everyday life and that the occurrence of many of these patterns of sexual behavior is not as infrequent as the appearance in court of these cases would indicate.

What will this book accomplish? A final answer is impossible, and even conjecture is difficult. The impact has already been considerable. Psychiatrists have hailed it as presenting material of unusual value;

persons conducting courses in marriage problems recognize it as giving them answers that have only been guessed at; sociologists believe that it presents data that will aid in many phases of their field. There is no question that it will have many uses in the various branches of science concerned with human welfare. However, I believe that it will make an even greater contribution as a result of its wide popular interest. I believe that it will be a definite aid in bringing the problem of sexual behavior out into the open where it may be discussed and evaluated, free from the restrictions that have kept it surrounded by mystical taboos for centuries. There is no question that sex does create many problems, and there is no question that these problems cannot be solved unless they are freely and openly considered.

More specifically, what will this book accomplish in the field of law enforcement? Here we can be certain of only one thing; any improvements made in our laws as related to the control of sexual behavior will be made slowly and only after impassioned speeches by many persons in many legislative bodies. But we must honestly face the facts. In spite of the universal existence of laws forbidding prostitution, few arrests are made, and when arrests are made, it is usually only the girl who is arrested; laws forbidding fornication, adultery, and many other sexual practices appear in some form in every legal code, yet arrests are rare even though the act is frequent. As a matter of actual fact, very few arrests are ever made except following the complaint of a citizen or if there is a wide disparity in the ages of the parties, or unless some sort of force or compulsion is used, provided, of course, that the persons involved conduct themselves quietly and do not keep the neighbors awake.

The above paragraph should not be taken to mean that I am advocating what reformers usually refer to as "license," nor am I in any way excusing the vicious criminals who combine sex with their criminal acts, but I do advocate that whenever any section of our laws is so far from actual practice as this study shows and as law enforcement officers know from experience, some sort of revision is necessary. Just what direction this revision should take, I hesitate to say. Perhaps no one, with the present knowledge available, could rewrite our present laws and revise our present procedures so that they would be in a final form. However, this report is leading the way. It presents a body of knowledge that should be familiar to every law enforcement officer and everyone concerned with the structure or enforcement of our criminal laws.

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DISPUTED PATERNITY PROCEEDINGS. By *Sidney B. Schatkin*. Second Edition. Matthew Bender, New York, 1947. Pp. 614. \$10.00.

The second edition of *Disputed Paternity Proceedings* by Schatkin probably contains more passages of interest to the forensic serologist than did the first edition. Mr. Schatkin appraises the advances made in forensic serology as follows:

"During the years 1944-46 blood tests developed at an accelerated pace. Whereas in 1943 an incorrectly accused man had one chance in three to obtain exclusion, he now has better than an even chance; in

fact, the chances are now as high as 55 per cent. This added opportunity is due to the Rh blood factor, the discovery of which was announced by Landsteiner and Wiener in 1940, and, after the death of Landsteiner in 1943, was developed by Wiener, Levine, and others to a point where as high as 55 per cent of the incorrectly accused men could be exonerated. The development of Rh has raised to 360 the total number of blood type combinations that can be separately distinguished. The importance, therefore, of the blood factor Rh (the test is properly called the Rh-Hr test) cannot be overrated."

Numerous case histories are cited to show the increased use of blood tests in disputed paternity cases and recent advances made in the clarification of the Law of Affiliation are discussed.

Developments in the application of Rh and Hr type as concerning the laws of inheritance are presented. Some interesting comments on the introduction of anthropological studies in paternity cases are found in this edition along with a discussion of the problems arising from the relatively unique legal questions posed in the matter involving artificial insemination.

While this book has been prepared by a lawyer, and probably chiefly for the benefit of members of the legal profession, the increasing interest in interpreting scientific blood tests for the benefit of the court should make this second edition of great interest to the serologist who performs such examinations.

The author is to be complimented on this revised work, for only by such continued effort and recording in the literature of both defects and advances in our present judiciary system can one hope to realize the goal of relatively uniform and just interpretation of the law, particularly in such a problem which has seen many unfortunate miscarriages of justice.

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