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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph E. Turner*

POLICE EXAMINATIONS. By *Rollin M. Perkins*. The Foundation Press, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, 1947. Pp. 431. \$4.50.

This book is a valuable adjunct to the author's previous book, "Elements of Police Science". It is a presentation of a series of examinations that lend themselves to police training practices.

A wide range of subject material is presented in test form. Each subject covered is fundamental to the police training program. In this respect alone the book is a distinct service to police agencies engaged in training and to those seeking reference material.

The author traverses the gamut of examinations in this volume. These are the typical true and false questions, multiple choice, problem type, selective examination, yes and no tests, completion tests, definitions, reading comprehension tests, perception recollection tests and others. Each test has been appropriately used with reference to the subject matter presented.

A word of caution is deemed advisable at this point for examiners who may attempt to adapt various subject matter presented in the text to different test forms. Some subjects do not lend themselves to the various forms a test may take. An example is the application of subject matter to the multiple choice form of questions when there may be more than one answer if it is obvious that only one answer is correct and all the others are false. Tests involving judgment are not as readily adaptable to multiple choice forms as tests involving factual material.

It is significant the author does not dwell at length on "essay type" questions. The short written answer type of examination presented in the book is generally accepted as an improvement of the testing technique in the field of police measurements. The short answer type of examination is readily adaptable to police examinations and is generally believed to maintain the interest of the examinee and to keep him keenly alert throughout the tests.

The various forms of test materials presented provides a guide to the training program, and enables the training staff and administrators to improve test construction and selection. It gives impetus to the movement towards standardization of test materials and forms.

The practical problems of reproducing the type of tests presented may prove to be difficult. Certainly the "time" element in reproducing short answer material is a factor to be considered by the average police training program.

This reviewer believes the author might have made some pertinent comments regarding the planning of an examination. Information of this kind would have been helpful to the inexperienced examiner. It might have been informative to show how an examination is built, the objectives being sought, the area of content and its relation to objectives and other practices used in examination construction.

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The author, in writing a book of this type, has made a distinct contribution to the field of police testing. He has provided a comprehensive guide and study reference for every training program and every police officer interested in improving his knowledge of testing technics.

The experienced police examiner will welcome this book, and it is recommended for every police library and for those who are engaged in the field of testing and counseling.

A. F. BRANDSTATTER

Michigan State College

CLEVELAND MURDERS and CHARLESTON MURDERS from the Regional Murder Series. Edited by *Marie F. Rodell*. Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, New York, 1947. Each, \$3.00.

Cleveland Murders and Charleston Murders are two volumes in the Regional Murder Series offered by Duell, Sloan, and Pearce.

Cleveland Murders contains the following cases:

- The Galentine-Jones Affair
- The Case of the Careless Killer
- The Kaber Case
- The Kagy Case
- John Leonard Whitfield
- The Case of William E. Potter
- The Head Hunter of Kingsbury Run

These cases cover a period from 1870 to 1938.

Charleston Murders contains accounts of such cases covering the period between 1788 and 1936 as:

- The Wightman Murder
- The Case of Lavinia Fisher
- The Killing of Captain Dawson
- The Rumpty Rattles Case
- The Afong Case
- The Case of Eugene Pop
- The Warnsley Murder.

Each volume is an anthology of apparently celebrated cases which occurred in the particular community. The individual cases are described by separate authors, many of whom were reporters at the time of the crime, or have had access to original investigation files.

Generally speaking, the style of writing is factual and appealing. It can be described as a restrained newspaper account. No highly colored interpretations of the cases are given from the police, sociological, legal, or fictional viewpoints.

This reviewer had occasion to personally verify some of the facts reported in one of the Cleveland Murders of the 1917 vintage, and was pleasantly surprised to note the great accuracy of the account of the case, as indicated by a comparison of the text with police records. The author of this case study is to be complimented on such attention to details.

While not being in a position to check each case history, the reviewer assumes that the editing of the other stories is equally good.

Law enforcement officers and criminology bibliophiles should be interested in adding the entire Regional Murder Series to their libraries.

RALPH F. TURNER

Michigan State College

THE ART OF DETECTION. By *Jacob Fisher*. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey. 1948. Pp. 245. \$2.75.

Here is a book that should appeal to all investigators, police, private detectives, lawyers, and those in any line of endeavor which requires them to have a sound working knowledge of the techniques of private investigation. A book could and should be written about each chapter, but here we have a condensed version of what every investigator should know: Finding the Witness; The Interview; Shadowing, Observation, Tailing, and Roping; Evidence; Crimes; Science in Investigation; and the Need of Resourcefulness. The author has tried valiantly to crowd into this book a few good lessons, hints, and much good advice of a very practical nature. Seasoned investigators will find it helpful as a refresher course for some of the arts they may have forgotten.

The chapter which includes the art of taking statements from defendants is exceptionally good. The author tells how important it is to know what to omit, what to include, and the pitfalls of failure to include certain matters that make a statement look so genuine on its face.

The Art of Detection is recommended for the beginner and those who need a refresher course.

Chicago Police Department

CAPTAIN JOHN I. HOWE
