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## Police Science Book Reviews

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

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

LIE DETECTION AND CRIMINAL INTERROGATION. By *Fred E. Inbau*. Second Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1948. Pp. XII, 183. \$4.00.

This book is a second edition of a work that was widely acclaimed in the field of criminal law administration, both as a text for use in the training school and as a working manual for the police interrogator. The new edition has retained the excellence of the first printing and includes much that is new. It is a concise though most practical presentation of the developments and perfection of modern techniques of criminal interrogation. The author brings to the reader a rich store of information garnered from the history of criminal interrogation, and to this he has added the fruits of his long experience in the field while with the Northwestern Crime Detection Laboratory and during his association with the Chicago Police Laboratory.

The book is divided into two parts, the first part briefly reviews the early efforts toward the detection of deception that led up to the uses of mechanical recording devices or the so-called "lie detector." The major portion of the first part is devoted to a detailed discussion of the development of the mechanical aids and the techniques of their use. The second part of the book deals with the interrogation of both witnesses and the accused without the assistance of lie detectors.

The author has presented the lie detector techniques impartially and with a clarity that adds to the volume's value as a text. The subjects of the lie detector records, test procedures, deception criteria, practical utility of lie detector tests, and techniques of operation are handled with a minimum of technical terms and with a thoroughness that makes the book instantly appealing as a text. The author has included in this section an unbiased discussion of the legal status of lie detector test results, and also presents the important court decisions relating to the subject. The discussion of lie detection techniques is enhanced by the introduction of many reproductions of test records taken from actual criminal cases.

In the section that deals with criminal interrogation the author leads the reader progressively through such subjects as: Preliminary preparation; attitudes of the interrogator; classification of offenders and suspects; techniques of interrogation; preparation of written confessions; classification and interrogation of witnesses and informants; ethics of criminal interrogation; and the law concerning criminal confessions. Each of the subjects is treated expertly and thoroughly. Here again, as in the first part, the author has drawn upon his own experiences and presents his topics in precise and down to earth fashion. The book is adequately indexed and attractively bound.

This book is enthusiastically recommended to readers of the *Journal* and particularly to prosecutors and police officers who will find the work invaluable to them in criminal investigations.

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CLINICAL LABORATORY METHODS AND DIAGNOSIS. By *R. B. H. Gradwohl, M.D. D. Sc., F.R.S.T.M. & H. (London)*. C. V. Mosby, St. Louis, Mo., 3 Vols. 4th Ed. Pp. 3275, XXV. 1948, \$40.00.

Clinical Laboratory Methods and Diagnosis is essentially a laboratory manual for clinical pathologists, hospital technicians, and those in the medical profession who are performing the laboratory diagnostic aids which have become such an important part of modern medicine.

In addition to being an extremely comprehensive work on clinical diagnosis, the book contains excellent sections on Postmortem Examinations (45 pages), Toxicologic Technic (125 pages) and Detection of Crime by Laboratory Methods (79 pages). The two latter chapters might well constitute a separate book on forensic science technics.

Dr. Gradwohl has been associated with medicolegal problems for many years and has served as Director of the St. Louis Police Department Research Bureau in addition to his past connection with the coroner's office. Thus, the author is well qualified to include comments on forensic science in his book.

The chapter on Postmortem Examinations is intended for pathologists; however, police scientists who have occasion to assist in the investigation of homicide cases will benefit by a study of this section, not to learn the technics of autopsy, but rather to have an appreciation of the problems confronting the surgeon at the time of the examination. Pertinent comments are offered relative to the legal status of the autopsy and suggestions are made on obtaining permission to conduct an autopsy.

Chapter 15 on Toxicologic Technics contains new material which has been assembled by Mr. Sidney Kaye, formerly Toxicologist of the Research Laboratory of St. Louis Police Department and at present Toxicologist, Office of Chief Medical Examiner, Commonwealth of Virginia. Forensic chemists and toxicologists will be interested in this section, for it represents a concise working manual for the police or medical examiner chemist. There is little discussion of the general principles of toxicology, elaborate descriptions of drugs, narcotics, poisons, their manufacturers and use; instead, methods of isolation and detection of the poison or drugs most frequently encountered in medico-legal work are presented. The selection of material which is discussed is extremely practical, and it reflects Mr. Kaye's experience while associated with the Office of the Medical Examiner, New York City. Readers who are not familiar with the procedure followed in this office should find much of interest here.

In addition to some preliminary comments on toxicology, 106 methods of analysis and identification are discussed. We will not attempt to comment on the merits of each method, but will state that whenever possible, several of the more widely accepted and current methods for the detection of each compound are discussed.

The Detection of Crime by Laboratory Methods is an enlargement and revision of what appeared in the earlier edition. By comparison this chapter is not as complete as the one on toxicology; however it undoubtedly will serve its purpose for the medical man who occasionally has to deal with a police case. Criminalists will probably want to consult other more elaborate texts on some of the matters discussed.

Spectrographic analysis and moulage casting methods are discussed briefly.

Dr. Israel Castellanos, Director General of the National Bureau of Identification, Havana, Cuba, has contributed the section on examination and identification of hair. Some laboratory records of hair examinations from the case files of Dr. Castellanos are reproduced. These records may provide investigators with some fresh ideas concerning the study of such evidence.

The technics for the detection and identification of human blood are well described. Preparation of anti-human precipitin sera is described along with the technic for conducting the precipitin test; however, reference to the contributions of Witebsky, Boyd, and Schiff were not noted.

Medico-legal examination of seminal stains is well covered, including methods of staining, examination and identification of the stain.

Other subjects discussed include the polygraph, forensic ballistics, marijuana, document examination and restoration of obliterated numbers on metal.

Printing and binding of the book is good but some of the photomicrographic reproductions suffer from lack of detail.

While the police laboratory is not intended to function as a diagnostic center for clinical pathologists, Clinical Laboratory Methods and Diagnosis deserves a place in the reference library of every forensic science laboratory.

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PERICIAS CALIGRAFICAS. By *Hernán A. Wallace*. Editorial Tres Emes, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1946. Pp. 252. \$7.50.

This book is a little too forensic, that is to say, it is a book of information on matters of examination of questioned documents primarily for lawyers. It contains many valuable historical details, but its scientific thoroughness is questionable.

The greatest mistake of the author has been to envelop his ideas in a very dense phraseology which tends to create confusion and imprecision. The organization of the book responds to a satisfactory plan of exposition. Nevertheless the greatest preoccupation of the author is not with the science and the practices of the investigation of documents but rather on the problem of proof from a judicial standpoint. He quotes a good deal of jurisprudence from Latin-American countries, Spain, France, and the United States.

The illustrations are frankly bad. The printing of them is poor, and the quality of the material presented is of little originality and value.

I should say a further serious mistake in the book concerns Graphometry which Mr. Wallace praises in a part of the book only to criticize it in another. This creates confusion besides reviving a matter that is now widely recognized as being finished for good. The American method is criticized for being very simple. The simplicity is justified in Mr. Wallace's idea for the use of jurors instead of Magistrates as in the Latin courts. This argument is, of course, very unsatisfactory.

The book is not without valuable contributions. The greatest problem is, though, that most of the ideas are just stated and not sufficiently

developed. The book is most interesting for the lawyer and for the expert but not for those wishing to acquire a foundation of knowledge of questioned document examination. It is definitely not designed for the layman.

The author includes a bibliography, but he does not comment on the books or recommend any special one.

RAFAEL FERNANDEZ RUENES

Examiner of Questioned Documents  
Havana, Cuba

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A PERICIA DE DOCUMENTOS. By *José del Picchia Filho*. Edicao Da Livraria Elo., Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1942. Pp. 254.

This book, written in Portuguese, represents an honest effort of investigation and research. The plan of the book is perhaps a little defective. It has not been ordered organically. Instead, the author has grouped the different matters alphabetically. This tends to create confusion. In a way, this responds to the desire of the author. It seems that in Brazil there are a number of experts, and each one employs a personal terminology. Del Picchia has endeavored to fix a number of terms so as to create a more scientific vocabulary and place it in general use.

The illustrations of the book are not very good. They do not seem original. In a particular one, a photograph taken under ultraviolet light, the effect has been unduly emphasized and thus made false and misleading.

The author names and comments briefly a great number of books and authors in his bibliography. He states also that it is far from complete. Many good books are listed among many third-rate ones. Del Picchia seems well versed in the latest publications in English, French, Spanish, and Italian.

My opinion is that he is acquainted with the books of Mr. A. S. Osborn, but not very thoroughly. He does not seem very up-to-date. The photographs of the original cases in the book are not especially interesting. Nevertheless, I believe that the book is useful and that it serves its purpose, which is not very ambitious as the author himself informs us in the prologue. He calls his work an essay and as an essay, it can be taken as a valuable aid for Latin experts for it gives general information of the latest contributions to the profession and reviews the historical background concisely and unpretentiously.

RAFAEL FERNANDEZ RUENES

Examiner of Questioned Documents  
Havana, Cuba

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POLICE PATROL. By *Richard L. Holcomb*, Bureau of Public Affairs, State Univ. of Iowa, Ia. City, 1948. Pp. 34. \$0.50.

The Manual on "Police Patrol" by Richard L. Holcomb, Associate Professor of Public Affairs, State University of Iowa, is so filled, from beginning to end, with valuable information and suggestions to police officers on patrol duty that it is very difficult to select any part of it as being of more interest and importance than any other part. It is obvious that much of the material presented in this work was drawn from the experience of practical police officers in various sections of the country. No one but the practical police officer could possibly know all of the

various angles in police patrol which are covered so thoroughly in this Manual.

Most police officers know—and those who do not ought to be reminded—of the many ways in which they can go about improving their knowledge of police work and resourcefulness in practical application of the basic and fundamental police practices. The Manual by Professor Holcomb is particularly suited for that purpose. No police officer who is conscientious and serious-minded can fail to derive a great deal of valuable information from a simple reading of the Manual. He can improve his efficiency a hundred per cent by an intensive study of it. There is little about basic principles of police patrol which Professor Holcomb has not touched upon in his Manual, and with respect to most phases of police patrol he has given important suggestions and information set forth in a clear, non-technical manner so that they can be understood by every police officer in the country.

A single reading of the Manual will convince progressive officials that it is a valuable work; one that no police officer can study without deriving a great deal of benefit from it.

Especially noteworthy is the material presented on the subject of Public Relations. The importance of this subject has probably been under-estimated by many police departments, and it is refreshing to know that the author of the Manual under discussion gave it the prominence which it deserves. No police department can be self-sufficient—all must depend upon public co-operation and support for success. Drawing attention to the importance of this subject in Professor Holcomb's Manual is timely and valuable. Proper recognition of the importance of this phase of police operation will probably do more in advancing the effectiveness of police operation through public co-operation, good will, and support than any improvement which can be suggested in other phases of police technique and procedure.

The graphic illustrations which abound in the Manual do much to maintain reader interest and to underscore important features of the work. Altogether, it is a commendable achievement and a highly worthwhile contribution to police literature, and especially so since the reader can make immediate, practical application of the information and suggestions found in it.

HUBERT E. DAX

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