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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph F. Turner*

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PHOTOGRAPHIC THEORY by *T. H. James and G. C. Higgins*, Research Laboratories, Eastman Kodak Company. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York. 1949. Pp. 280. \$3.50.

As its title implies this book is a treatise on photographic theory and includes no discussion of the practice of photography. The reader is supposed to have a good foundation in physics and physical chemistry. Unless he does have such a foundation the book will be of little value, because he cannot comprehend the statements and reasoning contained therein.

This is the best and most authoritative treatise on the theory of the photographic process yet written. It deals, in order, with the preparation of the light sensitive layer, the action of light on the active materials in this layer, the method of transforming the light impression into a useful visible image, and the various physical and chemical changes involved. The fourteen chapters are as follows:

- 1 Outline of the Photographic Process. Terminology
- 2 The Photographic Emulsion
- 3 Formation of the Latent Image
- 4 Reciprocity Law Failure and Other Exposure Effects
- 5 The Mechanism of Development
- 6 Composition and Reactions of the Developer
- 7 General Kinetics of Development
- 8 Fixing and Washing
- 9 Sensitometry I, Exposure and Development
- 10 Sensitometry II, Density and Its Measurement
- 11 Sensitometry III, Interpretation of Sensitometric Data
- 12 The Theory of Tone Reproduction
- 13 The Structure of the Developed Photographic Image
- 14 Sensitizing and Desensitizing

To those who have the necessary foundation in physics and physical chemistry to read this book understandingly it will be a most valuable treatise, to the average police photographer it will be of little if any value.

Univ. of Wisconsin

J. H. MATHEWS

FIGHTING CRIME by *Capt. Burr W. Leyson*. E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York. 1948. \$2.50.

Fighting Crime, is an interesting description of the New York City Police Department. Written for the layman and the potential police recruit, it should stimulate public interest in police service throughout the country and inform possible police candidates of the nature and attractiveness of police service.

The author presents, in a manner that holds reader attention, a surprisingly complete description of the organization of the New York Department and the operation of its divisions, bureaus, districts, and

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precincts. Particular mention is made of detective crime investigation, vice control, the police crime laboratory, and the crime prevention activities of the department. Traffic control, police emergency squads, the harbor police, and the communication system of the department are also described.

Special emphasis is placed on the advantages of police service as a career. An account of the selection of recruits and the training they are given at the police academy is offered to show that police service in New York City is rapidly approaching the standards of a true profession. The police career of former Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine is traced as an example of what the service has to offer the recruit who is ambitious, honest, and sincerely interested in his work.

The author unfortunately permitted some technical errors to mar his otherwise excellent work. These may not detract from lay-reader interest, but they will impair its merit in the eyes of the police. The following quotations are given as examples:

"Now . . . cars taken . . . by finance companies . . . are classified as 'Larcenies' even though investigation proves the case to be one of legal repossession." p. 33.

". . . the detectives recovered a quantity of hair that they had every reason to suppose came from the tenant's head. This had been sent to the Laboratory for analysis. To a layman the report would have seemed fantastic, but we know from an earlier chapter the amazingly detailed story a single human hair can be made to tell. In this case the Laboratory determined that the tenant was five feet ten inches tall, weighed about one hundred and fifty-five pounds, was . . . approximately forty-five years old." pp. 69-70.

"When the number is stamped into the metal . . . there is a very considerable force exerted. This . . . results in a molecular change in the metal. The atoms are driven together, become more compact." p. 72.

"Where the loops have their downward direction from the thumb to the little finger they are classified as ulnar (from their U shape)." p. 78.

Univ. of California

O. W. WILSON