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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph F. Turner*

TEXTBOOK OF WOOD TECHNOLOGY—VOLUME I. By *H. P. Brown, A. J. Panshin, and C. C. Forsaith*. McGraw-Hill, New York. 1949. Pp. 652. \$6.00.

This volume is a revision of *Identification of the Commercial Timbers of the United States* by Brown and Panshin. It deals with the formation, structure, identification, figure, defects, and natural durability of wood and describes nearly 100 species of wood as to their general features, minute anatomy, and uses. All subject matter has been brought up to date and some subjects have been added or given greater emphasis.

Although intended primarily as a college textbook for forestry students and abounding in technical terms, it is written in an easily read style. The layman will find the sections on gross structure, figure, defects, and identification without a microscope and the descriptions of the different species of wood particularly interesting and helpful.

This volume is to be followed by Volume II which will deal with the physical, mechanical, and chemical properties of wood.

Los Angeles, Cal.

ARTHUR KOEHLER

HOW TO LOCATE SKIPS AND COLLECT. By *A. M. Tannrath*. John A. Patton, Chicago, 1948. Pp. 260. \$5.00.

This book is designed to pass on to collection and credit men who read it the methods and practices of the author found successful in locating skips and collecting old accounts during his twenty-five years experience. The first chapter is composed of stories from actual experiences. Each story has woven into it some gem of locating or collecting procedure which may be priceless to the reader who uses it.

Two chapters are devoted to installment credit and collections, including the credit application and its verification, canons of commercial ethics of credit men, and the various devices and forms used in the collection process.

Chapter four, on skip tracing, is of especial interest to law enforcement officers. However, some methods found effective in tracing skips will not be useful to trace fugitives. This would apply to the trick letters which depend on the curiosity of the skip or his relatives to be successful in locating him. The methodical procedures using employers, guarantors, newspapers, mail carriers, and labor organizations should be helpful to those officers not already using these methods.

The chapter on bad checks includes an article entitled "Forgers Don't Reform" which is inaccurately written in several respects. It states that depository banks which cash checks bearing forged depositors' signatures are not liable unless proven negligent, which is entirely contrary to the law involved.

The author also has many suggestions on how to collect accounts directly or through attorneys when the skip has been located. Chapter nine consists of a compilation of the commercial laws of the 48 states—

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a quick and useful reference for a credit man, a lawyer, or an instructor of business courses. These include laws on attachments, chattel mortgages, executions, grace on notes, statutes of limitations, interest rates, and personal exemptions.

The book is simply written in large print and profusely illustrated. The hour or two necessary to read it will be well spent if even one suggestion is found adaptable by the reader.

Michigan State College
Former Special Agent, F.B.I.

MILTON B. DICKERSON

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON POLICE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE IN ENGLAND, WALES, AND SCOTLAND. His Majesty's Stationery Office. London. Cmd. 7674.

During the war years in England, Wales, and Scotland, recruiting of regular policemen, and retirement or resignation except on medical grounds, were forbidden, and thousands of policemen were released to serve with the Armed Forces. On the first of 1946 the ban on resignations was lifted and a large proportion of the war-time auxiliaries, who had maintained the police strength during the war years, left the service as well as regular policemen who would have retired sooner if they had been free to leave. Owing to this situation, some 28,000 men in England and Wales and 3,000 in Scotland would have had to be recruited between the first of 1946 and the last of 1948 to bring the forces up to their pre-war complements of 63,000 and 7,000 respectively. In addition, expanded police needs that had developed during the war years were met by authorized increases of 6,000 men in England and Wales and over 400 in Scotland.

In spite of a rate of recruitment that was greatly increased over the pre-war recruitment rate, the end of 1948 found the forces in England and Wales with a deficiency of 17.4% (11,963 men) and in Scotland with a deficiency of 5.0% (364 men). The deficiency was aggravated by a sharply increased rate of resignations from the service of men before retirement, called wastage.

The situation described above led the Home Office and the Scottish Home Department to the conclusion that conditions of police service might no longer be favorable compared to conditions affecting the general public. The conditions of police service as reflected in pay, housing, emoluments, allowances, pensions, and other benefits remained substantially as they had been before the war, whereas the conditions affecting the general public had improved considerably. Increased wages, shorter working hours, free medical and dental service, and the benefits of national insurance now enjoyed by the general public had not been matched by improvements in the conditions of police service. The police had enjoyed free medical and dental service and most of the advantages of national insurance before the war, and their hours of work and pay remained unchanged. And this in the face of increased living costs.

On 12 May 1948 the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Secretary of State for Scotland appointed a committee "to consider in the light of the need for the recruitment and retention of an adequate number of suitable men and women for the police forces of England, Wales, and Scotland, and to report on pay, emoluments, allowances, pen-

sions, promotion, methods of representation, and negotiation, and other conditions of service.”

Lord Oaksey was appointed the chairman of a six man committee, none of the members of which had had professional police experience. The Home Office and the Scottish Home Department each appointed one of their staffs to serve as secretaries to the committee.

The committee submitted their report on 6 April 1949. The committee's principal source of information came from written and oral reports from a selected group of witnesses including two dozen chief constables; Commissioners of Police of the Metropolis and for the City of London; Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District; H. M. Inspectors of Constabulary; and representatives of the following: Home Office and Scottish Home Department; County Council's Association (representing Standing Joint Committees in England and Wales), Association of County Councils in Scotland (representing County police authorities in Scotland), Association of Councils of Counties of Cities in Scotland (representing the police authorities of Dundee, Edinburgh, and Glasgow), Corporation of the City of Aberdeen, Convention of Royal Burghs of Scotland (representing the police authorities of other Scottish Burghs); Metropolitan and City of London Superintendents' Council; Chief Inspectors, Sub-divisional Inspectors, and Station Inspectors in the Metropolitan police force; Scottish Chief Inspectors' Council, Police Federation of England and Wales, Scottish Police Federation and Police Post-War Committee.

In addition to the formal oral hearings, the committee visited a number of police forces and training centers.

After the First World War, the Desborough Committee (on substantially the same mission as the present one) were “satisfied that a policeman has responsibilities and obligations which are peculiar to his calling and distinguish him from other public servants and municipal employees . . . [and are] entitled thereby to special consideration in regard to their rate of pay and pensions.” The Oaksey Committee agrees with these observations and finds that police responsibilities are more exacting now than they were when the Desborough Committee made its report in 1919. It concludes that the police are at present underpaid.

The principal specific recommendations of the Oaksey Committee follow:

1. The scales of pay for all police ranks should be increased, and in keeping with the status of the police as a profession, the police should be paid an annual salary rather than a weekly wage as at present. The scale for men constables should start at £330 (present £273) with £10 yearly increments up to £390 to be followed by three additional increments of £10 annually following the 10th, 15th, and 22nd years' service, making a maximum of £420. Women constables should start at £290 and receive the same increments as the men. Comparable increases were recommended for the higher ranks.

2. The present system of special increments and additional increments for constables which are granted in recognition of zeal and proficiency should be discontinued. The committee found that these increments were being almost universally granted automatically on the basis of years of service without regard to zeal and proficiency and felt that the difficulty of evaluating these qualities made it desirable to grant

instead the increments listed in the paragraph above solely on the basis of years of service.

3. War service prior to appointment should not count toward increments of pay nor toward retirement.

4. Constables and sergeants who are members of the Metropolitan and City of London forces should have a non-pensionable "London allowance" of £10 a year to meet the higher living costs. The committee recommended against any variation in rates of pay among the forces to meet variations in living costs. It recommended that the scales of pay for all ranks in the police should be prescribed by the Secretary of State and local police authorities should not be permitted to deviate from them.

5. Outside detectives should be paid an annual detective duty allowance (for men: constables £30, sergeants £36, inspectors £42; for women: constables £27, sergeants £32, inspectors £36) and for those below the rank of superintendent a detective expenses allowance of 10s. a week. These allowances should not be paid the indoor staff of Criminal Investigation Divisions; instead they should be compensated for overtime on the same basis as members of the uniform branch and should claim separately any items of expenditure that they incur in the course of their duty. Outside detectives should not receive overtime compensation, except (a) they might be granted time off in compensation for duty on special occasions or when exceptionally long hours have been worked and (b) they should be compensated in the same way as members of the uniform branch in the same rank when they lose a rest day or a public holiday because they have been specifically detailed for duty on that day.

6. Compensation should not be provided for time spent by uniformed men in preparation for the tour of duty, but they should be compensated for each completed unit of 15 minutes beyond the normal eight hours. Wherever possible, compensation should be by time off, each completed period of 45 minutes (3 units) in any pay week to receive one hour's time off. Payment should be made only for completed hours of overtime (i.e. 4 units) in the course of a week, at a stipulated hourly rate for constables and sergeants which was slightly less for women in the same ranks. Inspectors should not be entitled to payment in compensation for overtime but should be compensated by time off wherever possible. A constable, sergeant, or inspector who is required to do duty on a public holiday or on his regular weekly rest day should be compensated wherever possible by time off. The time off should be one and one-half times as long as the period spent on duty, and if it cannot be provided within three months, payment should be made instead at an equivalent rate.

7. The present 30 minute refreshment period should be increased to 45 minutes. The present rent allowances are considered satisfactory. Subsistence allowances for periods over 12 hours and not exceeding 24 hours and lodging allowances should be increased. The detachment duty allowances paid in England and Wales to a man temporarily assigned to another force should be discontinued. The qualifying period for the allowance paid when a member performs the duties of an officer of higher rank than his own should be reduced from two weeks to one.

8. No major alteration should be made at present in the structure of the pensions scheme. The length of maximum service should remain

at 30 years. Credit should be given in the pension scales for completed half years after 25 years of service for ordinary pensions and after 20 years for ill-health pensions. Pensions should be based on the average annual pay received during the last three years of service. Service below the age of 20 should count toward a pension. Optional retirement of constables on proportionate pension after a minimum of 20 years of service should be considered after the manpower situation becomes easier. Offenses which are serious enough to incur dismissal (in contrast to required resignation) should result in forfeiture of pension with return of the man's contributions to himself or dependents. The widows' pensions and children's allowances should be increased.

Univ. of California

O. W. WILSON

SCOTLAND YARD. By *Richard Harrison*. Ziff-Davis, Chicago, 1949. Pp. 269. \$2.75.

SCOTLAND YARD—THE INSIDE STORY. By *Stanley Firmin*. Hutchinson and Company Ltd., London, 1948. Pp. 186. \$3.15.

"Scotland Yard! It would be difficult to find two simple words more grimly significant, more vitally suggestive of the world of crime and criminals . . . an army of clever imaginative writers through the years have used the magic of these two words to capture and hold the avid attention of countless millions . . . the myriad Scotland Yards of fiction, and the fictional officers who people them, are often strange and wonderful . . ."

Magic indeed must be the name of Scotland Yard—few police organizations have received the attention of so many students; none is the subject of so many published studies. In the past twenty years at least four major interpretations have come from the presses: George Dilnot's *The Story of Scotland Yard*, Hargrave Lee Adam's *C.I.D.—Behind the Scenes at Scotland Yard*, Margaret Prothero's *The History of the Criminal Investigation Division of Scotland Yard from Earliest Times Until Today*, and John Fitzgerald Moylan's *Scotland Yard and the Metropolitan Police*. Nor has the Yard been neglected by those writers who have presented a broader picture of the British police set-up: Eric Glover's *The English Police* and Charles Reith's *A Short History of the British Police* make the London Metropolitan Police a far more meaningful law enforcement unit than do the works of many writers who have traded on the "magic" of the Yard's name. Chief Constable C. C. M. Moriarty's standard *Police Procedure and Administration* is of course basic to an understanding of police operations in any part of England.

Richard Harrison and Stanley Firmin, two English journalists, have contributed well-written, interesting, but none-too-scholarly surveys of the Yard, its personnel, operations, and methods. Messrs. Harrison and Firmin present their volumes as serious contributions to the literature of police science and administration, and it is as serious studies that this reviewer evaluates them; and as serious studies he finds them lacking in important aspects. Neither volume is foot-noted, neither contains bibliography or index, neither provides an organizational chart—both are studded with personal anecdotes, apocryphal stories, and over-simplified accounts of actual criminal investigations.

Richard Harrison, journalist, detective story writer, and amateur criminologist, has produced the smoother volume. First published in

England in 1948 as *Whitehall 1212* (the telephone number at the Yard), it has been but slightly altered in its American edition. In his opening chapters, Harrison attempts to depict investigative techniques in a variety of felony cases, presents a none-too-convincing illustration of an English murder trial, and gives a longish and somewhat irrelevant account of the Crippen murder case of 1910—an account seemingly based on newspaper stories of the time rather than on official files. Two items of value are buried in this section: 1) the Judges' Rules governing the interrogation of suspects are reproduced on pp. 39-40; and 2) an accurate and interesting account of the Hulten murder investigation appears on pages 90-100. The Hulten case will interest former American servicemen for it involved an American soldier who with a girl accomplice viciously murdered an English taxicab driver. The investigation was conducted jointly by English detectives and the U. S. Army Criminal Investigation Division; but the United States waived its rights under the Visiting Forces Act of 1942, and Hulten was tried, convicted, and hanged by the British. This reviewer once had occasion to examine the Hulten files and can vouch for the accuracy of Mr. Harrison's treatment. In the second half of his book Harrison somewhat atones for the inadequacies of his earlier chapters. In short, clearly written essays, he introduces the Special Branch, the "Flying Squad," the Railway Police, the London Passenger Transport Police, the Thames Division (which as the Marine Police antedated Robert Peel's Metropolitan Police by over thirty years), the Port of London Authority Police, the City of London Police who cling tenaciously to their independent law enforcement jurisdiction over the historic square mile on the banks of the Thames—and describes the crime laboratory, police training, criminal investigation, and public relations. Included somewhat unnecessarily is a very sketchy account of the English prison system and an even more sketchy explanation of the Great Scandal of 1877 which has been so well recorded by George Dilnot in his *Trial of the Detectives*.

Stanley Firmin, crime reporter for the London *Daily Telegraph* and wartime author of an espionage survey, *They Came to Spy* presents far more details of organization and personnel. He informs us that Sir Harold Scott, the commissioner, is an alumnus of the administrative civil service rather than of the military service from which the chief executive of the Yard has been selected traditionally—and we learn that Scott's salary is £3500 per annum (nearly \$15,000 at current exchange rates)—and that "he broke all Yard precedents by giving a Press conference." Throughout the book Mr. Firmin gives equally important and interesting facts on detective salaries and working hours, the pay of policewomen (much lower than that of their male associates), and most interesting, the average annual incomes of some felons: £6000 for a shop-breaker, £5000 for a confidence man, £1500 for an "average" jewel thief, £8 a week for a forger ("poorest paid of the lot"), and £5000 a year for the receiver of stolen goods. Unfortunately Firmin does not make clear the source of his data. Of more than passing interest to those Americans who have been conditioned by fiction purveyors to believe Scotland Yard to be 100% efficient is the following quote: "In 1946 London thieves managed to get away with property valued at £4,360,000. Of this £777,000 worth recovered." Firmin covers each

of the divisions, bureaus, branches, and activities of the Yard somewhat less sensationally and far more completely than does Harrison.

Both Harrison and Firmin provide more than the usual number of good illustrations—those chosen by Firmin being perhaps of more interest and value to the police officer and criminologist. Firmin also provides a photostatic map of the Metropolitan Police Force jurisdiction—showing the four districts, twenty-three police divisions, and 173 police stations from which the 20,000 men of the Force administer law-and-order in the 700 square miles radiating fifteen miles from a center at Charing Cross.

Harrison and Firmin do not always agree. For example, Harrison indicates (p. vii) that some 650 detectives are concentrated inside the Yard while Firmin (p. 22) puts the strength at "400-odd"; Harrison (p. 228) says "married women are eligible" for the Women Police while Firmin (pp. 80-81) states definitely that ". . . only unmarried applicants are considered, although sometimes, if other qualifications are high, young widows are enrolled into the ranks"; Harrison states (p. 221) that "there are now in the Yard's main fingerprint collection 10,000,000 prints . . ." while *contrariwise* Firmin declares (p. 32) that ". . . today more than a million sets of classified finger-prints are filed at Scotland Yards . . ."

Students of the English police system and advocates of a transplanted Scotland Yard type organization in American metropolitan areas would do well to read both Harrison and Firmin somewhat critically—at least as cautiously as they would approach a study of any American police organization written by an American newspaperman.

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DONAL E. J. MACNAMARA