

1950

Police Science Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 40 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 821 (1949-1950)

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph F. Turner*

FORENSIC SCIENCE AND LABORATORY TECHNIQS, by *Ralph F. Turner*. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois. 1949. Pp. xxv, 240. \$6.50.

The title clearly indicates the material and scope covered. This book can well serve as a reference text to both the operating police laboratory as well as a laboratory guide in the instructing and training of students in the science and technics peculiar to a police laboratory.

The type and size of print and especially the organization of the material was easy to follow. The author did not make the mistake of lengthy detailed discussions but freely referred to original references which were listed at the end of each chapter. Illustrations were liberally distributed to help understanding of the subject discussed.

Material was broken down into thirteen chapters, the first chapter dealing with photography and its various applications. Photography is referred to throughout the book and further developed and illustrated under various subjects such as firearms, fibers, hair, fingerprints, collection and presentation of evidence, examination of minute pieces of evidence, documents, etc. These above subjects were discussed adequately in some detail under individual chapter headings.

It was pleasantly noted that special formulae required in special technics were occasionally missing (purposely, I believe) since reference was made to obtain these from instructor or other authorized individuals.

The chapter on chemistry was more than adequate and fully discussed the common poisons and other technics that has made chemistry so valuable to a law enforcement agency.

The section on serology was very well done and clear to understand. Special precautions, preparation of sera, and controls were fully discussed.

For completeness, the chapter or document was advisedly included and specifically written by Mr. Ordway Hilton, a recognized authority in the field.

In general this book was well written and organized, easy to follow and understand and would well prove an asset to anyone having the responsibility of scientifically evaluating evidence.

Medical Examiner's Office
Richmond, Va.

SIDNEY KAYE.

ELEMENTS OF INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUE, by *James S. Eiseman*. McKnight and McKnight, Publisher, Bloomington, Ill. 1949. Pp. 182. \$5.00.

This volume opens the door to a specialized field of investigation—personnel security—brought into new prominence and significance during World War II. Dealing with the principles and techniques of personnel investigation, it will assist the criminal investigator whose duties cover a wider area of operation (geographically) and a narrower field

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of specialization (personnel investigation) than the municipal detective bureau. It will also interest the official in business and industry whose duties require the evaluation of employees as to trustworthiness and employability and who may have occasion to investigate incidents and determine responsibility.

Based upon the premise that the investigator is an information specialist, the volume outlines the various sources of information indicating the character, background, and general employability of persons as well as ascertaining their credit rating. Methods of interviewing and reporting are thoroughly covered, and many sample forms of report entries are included.

A unique feature of the book is the appendices, one giving a directory of the major commercial investigative agencies with the location and type of office, another containing an index of the cities and communities for which directories are available, a third listing the cities where geographical telephone directories are published, and yet a fourth covering parole information.

This volume is not a general discussion of investigative techniques as the term is customarily used in conjunction with criminal investigation but is, rather, an exploration of the specialized field of personnel investigation. As such, the book will be of particular interest to public and private agencies concerned with personnel inquiries and investigations.

Police Administration Dept.
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ROBERT H. SCOTT.

CENTERFIRE METRIC PISTOL AND REVOLVER CARTRIDGES (VOLUME 1). By H. P. White and B. D. Munhall, Infantry Journal Press, 1948. Pp. xi, 96. \$7.50.

Centerfire Metric Pistol and Revolver Cartridges is the first volume of a four volume series on Cartridge Identification by White and Munhall. This book represents the fruition of several years of work during which time data was collected on thousands of cartridge specimens and assembled into a very useful reference book.

Firearms technicians and cartridge collectors will be especially pleased to find descriptions of many obscure cartridges, particularly since some of them undoubtedly have been brought into this country by returning servicemen. Since this volume deals with metric cartridges, most of those described have a European origin, starting with the diminutive 2 mm. Kolibri and ending with the 15.2 mm. Gendarmerie Pistol.

Each cartridge is described under its most common name with cross reference to all other known designations. Various dimensions, such as diameter of case neck, head, and rim as well as powder charge, muzzle velocity, and arm for which it was intended, are given with a scale drawing accompanying each cartridge. Thus, it would be possible for a comparison to be made with an actual cartridge.

Although this book will not eliminate the necessity for the maintenance of cartridge collections, it will serve as a valuable reference to augment such collections. The printing and binding do credit to the extensive effort put into the preparation of the text.

Chicago Police Scientific
Crime Detection Laboratory

J. D. NICOL