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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Ralph F. Turner*

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY. By *Harold Ernest Burt*. Prentice-Hall, Inc. New York, 1948. Pp. 821. \$7.35.

One group of readers for whom this book was prepared are laymen who are concerned with "the general scope of applied psychology and possibly with a particular interest in some limited phase of it." Criminal investigators, and particularly those engaged in the fields of lie detection and criminal interrogation, will find much of general interest in this volume, which is written in plain, understandable language. They will also find several chapters of special interest and of great practical value in their work as criminal investigators.

In the chapter on the "Psychology of Testimony," the author, who is a Professor of Psychology at Ohio State University, discusses a number of interesting and helpful facts and explanations which have been ascertained by psychological experiments and studies. He points out, for instance, that a person's estimate of height is less accurate than horizontal distances, because two sets of eye muscles are involved in turning the eye up and down whereas only one set is used in turning the eye sideways.

The inaccuracy of eye witness identification and attempts at voice identification are discussed, and the author also offers some concrete recommendations to the investigator regarding measures to be taken to minimize the risk of suggesting answers and conclusions from witnesses.

The material covered in the chapter on "Psychological Techniques for Crime Detection" the author is well qualified to discuss from his own personal experiences in the field. Professor Burt has conducted lie detector tests in actual criminal cases, and he was engaged in research with respiration criteria of deception as far back as 1918. In this chapter the author deals principally with the subjects of "Association-Reaction Technique," "Breathing as Diagnostic of Deception," "Blood Pressure and Crime Detection," and "Electrodermal Responses."

Other chapters of particular interest and value to criminal investigators generally are two entitled "Psychological Factors in Crime," and "Psychological Factors in Crime Prevention."

Northwestern University School of Law

FRED E. INBAU

HANDWRITING ANALYSIS. By *Ulrich Sonnemann*. Foreword by *Bela Mittelmann*. Grune & Stratton, New York: 1950. 268 pp. \$5.00.

This volume, which purports to embody "the first systematic presentation of theoretical and applied graphology," commands the reader's serious attention, because it deals, in as scientific a manner as possible, with a subject hitherto exploited largely by entertainers and charlatans. Sonnemann, who teaches at the New School for Social Research, believes (and adduces some evidence to show) that anything so peculiarly individualized as a human being's style of handwriting is bound to offer clues to the functioning of personality.

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