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Police Science Book Review

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEW

Edited by

Ralph F. Turner*

SPECIALTY PAPERS, THEIR PROPERTIES AND APPLICATIONS. By *Robert H. Mosher*, Editor. The Remsen Press, Brooklyn, N. Y. 1950. Pp. xvii, 520. \$10.00.

In the Forward to *Specialty Papers* Dr. R. A. Aries calls attention to the fact that this is "the first book on the subject in the English language and marks a milestone in the development of the specialty paper industry." He refers to the industry's need for a reference volume of this kind. What he did not realize is the value of this volume to the police laboratory technician, chemist and microscopist, and the examiner of questioned documents for these workers will also find many applications for the wealth of information gathered together in this book.

Paper, in all its forms and uses, is a commonplace material, in modern life, but when paper is discussed many persons think primarily in terms of writing and printing paper without realizing that many other items are made from this substance. The converted papers industry is responsible for the development and production of these uses. One only has to study the table of contents to realize the diversity of the industry. Its products include: Gift Wraps, Fancy Box, and Packaging Papers; Decorative Papers—Shelf Papers, Table Cloths, Lamp Shade Stock, Paper Drapes, and Wall Papers; Functional and Protective Papers for Food Packaging and Metal-Parts Wrappers; High-Gloss Specialty Papers; Miscellaneous Decorative Papers; Miscellaneous Functional Papers including Coated Chart Papers, Safety Papers, Photosensitive Papers, and others; Cover Papers, Synthetic Leathers, Coated Tag and Boards; Asphalt and Waterproof Papers; Waxed Papers; Gummed and Specialty Tapes and Labels; Carbon and Other Duplicating Papers; Printing Papers; Films; and Metal-Foil Papers. The uses of these papers touch almost every activity of modern life.

R. H. Mosher, assisted by 17 specially qualified writers, has compiled accurate information on the materials which go into the manufacture of these papers, at least as far as trade secrets allow, methods of manufacture and the problems encountered, and the variety of uses for each product. The arrangement of the book with adequate sectional divisions and complete index allows the reader to locate information on a particular kind of paper quickly.

The statement of Dr. Aries that this book has uniquely filled a gap in the technical literature of the paper industry is borne out by a careful reading. All document examiners and police laboratory technicians who have occasion to examine papers of any kind will find this reference work a valuable adjunct to their library.

Examiner of Questioned Documents
New York, N. Y.

ORDWAY HILTON

THE SEXUAL CRIMINAL. A PSYCHOANALYTICAL STUDY. By *J. Paul de River*. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill. 1949. Pp. 260. \$5.50.

If only for the reason that, to the best of this reviewer's knowledge, this is the first complete volume in English to be devoted exclusively to the crim-

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inologic aspects of psychiatry, *The Sexual Criminal* may well command the reader's attention and engage his interest. The author, J. Paul de River, is Criminal Psychiatrist and Sexologist for the Los Angeles Police Department, Consultant Alienist to the Superior Courts of the City and County of Los Angeles, and Founder and Director of the Sex Offence Bureau, City of Los Angeles.

Surely an investigator possessed of such qualifications and such a background ought to have a veritable wealth of information on various types of sexual offences, and ought, therefore, to have been in position to produce a first rate volume on this vital subject, the importance of which seems to be perpetually on the increase from one end of the country to the other. In reality, however, *The Sexual Criminal*, despite its unimpeachable intentions, is a strange mixture of good and bad, and of scientific and unscientific.

In the first place, although the volume has for subtitle *A Psychoanalytical Study*, the author seldom enough manifests anything more than a superficial undersanding of dynamic Freudian concepts. Too often his approach is almost purely descriptive, little taking into account the recent important findings of dynamic psychopathology. Some the author's ideas seem, indeed, to have been derived from the writings of traditional, non-Freudian sexologists like Eulenberg and von Schrenck-Notzing. On the other hand, the book contains some vivid and valuable descriptions of a substantial number of sexual crimes, including algolagnia, rape, bestiality, lust-murder, necrophilia, etc. Yet in not a single one of the cases reported has the author been able to enter profoundly into the particular set of psychodynamics by which the actions of the criminotic (Lindner) might have been motivated. This is indeed a pity.

In the reviewer's opinion, the volume rather loses than gains through the incorporation of a curious introduction by Eugene D. Williams, who lists his formidable titles as follows: Former Chief Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County; Former Prosecutor, International War Trial Tribunal (Japan), and Special Assistant Attorney General, State of California. It is quite beyond the reviewer's powers to fathom precisely how all this (impressive as it may be for its own sake) places Mr. Williams in a position to write an appropriate or perceptive foreword for a study which at least purports to enter into questions of criminal psychopathology from a *psychoanalytical*(!) point of view. One might as well ask Walter Winchell to write an introduction for one of Professor Einstein's more technical works.

In his final chapter, the author wanders off blindly into a labyrinth of nebulous metaphysical speculations having to do with abstractions like free will; and naturally these speculations smack far more of theology than of psychopathology.

But in spite of its recurrent confusion, the vagueness of its whole approach, and the excruciating English in which the study is sometimes written and by which it is nearly vitiated, *The Sexual Criminal* is still a book which is worth serious attention, if only (as pointed out already) because it seems to be the first volume written in this language exclusively on the subject of criminal psychiatry. Let us hope that there will be a better one in the not too remote future.

There are a number of interesting illustrations, to say nothing of a glossary and a rather exhaustive index.

Norfolk, Virginia

NATHANIEL THORNTON

NATIONAL POLICE AUTOMOBILE DIRECTORY. By *William O'Brien*, 337 Flower St., Costa Mesa, California. 1948. Pp. 376.

The automobile is so closely connected with crime that it is essential every police officer be able to readily identify the various makes and models of the numerous vehicles on the road. This is not a simple accomplishment. An officer must continually study automobiles in order to be able to make the identifications as rapidly as he must in the police service.

This publication, *The National Police Automobile Directory*, is intended to assist officers in developing their ability to identify motor cars. This volume is largely composed of a number of photographs of automobiles. The photographs alone are shown of representative models of the major makes of automobiles and many of the less well-known makes from 1930 until 1935 or 1936. From 1936 on, a written description of the automobile is added along with technical data. The technical data covers certain major features and gives the location of serial and motor numbers. In most cases, the automobiles illustrated are four door sedans. While this does give you a good idea of the general appearance of other models of the same make and year, it certainly is not complete. In addition there is a separate section on convertibles and another on station wagons. A rather incomplete series of front views and rear views of automobiles is included. From a police standpoint, it would be very desirable to have a more complete series on front and rear views, since that is very often the only picture that a law enforcement officer gets of the vehicle.

One very interesting section in this publication is a series of pictures of instrument panels. This is with the point in view of possible identification by victims of criminal acts who may have been transported in the vehicle. This section also is not complete.

There are certain serious criticisms of the publication. Many of the pictures reproduced are not clear. The process used in printing does not bring out all of the detail in some of the vehicles. In addition, there is a criticism that the volume is not complete, since the sedan is usually the only model reproduced. While unquestionably it would be very difficult and would add greatly to the size of the volume to reproduce many body types, this still is a shortcoming of the volume.

The author presents a system of identification based on "long lines" and "short lines." The officers are urged to remember certain characteristic "lines" to identify a car. Specific points of identification are also recommended. (For example, grill design, front fenders, and truck structure.) However, experience in aircraft identification in the last war developed the system of identifying an aircraft by looking at the plane as a whole rather than attempting to identify it by seeing specific points. Where very rapid identification is to be made, superiority of this system of identification was very readily recognized. Possibly the same sort of identification could be applied to automobiles. While this system would not identify the exact year of manufacture, the details could then be observed to get the exact year of manufacture.

There is a question as to the value of this publication in the law enforcement field. To be most effective it would naturally be essential to keep it up to date every year. To do this properly the publication should be in a loose-leaf form. A police department interested in developing a good training program in automobile identification would do well to accumulate, clip, and systematically file the advertising leaflets supplied by the various manufacturers. While this publication would be of some value to a police department