

1951

## Police Science Book Reviews

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

*Edited by*

Ralph F. Turner\*

12 AGAINST CRIME. By *Edward D. Radin*. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. 1950. Pp. 242. \$3.00.

Too long have the headlines been denied to the unobtrusive scientific experts whose unbiased fact-finding helps convict the guilty and aids in the acquittal of the innocent. In *12 Against Crime* a veteran police reporter, Edward D. Radin, has ventured behind-the-scenes to publicize the work of twelve non-police specialists, little-known technical experts whose modern detection methods aid the law enforcement agencies of the country.

The *dramatis personae* is the heart of Mr. Radin's book. Here is septuagenarian Dr. Thomas A. Gonzales, chief medical examiner of New York City, who personally has performed over 7,000 autopsies. The slightest doubt as to the cause of death enables the scalpel sleuth to bring into full play the scientific skills of Dr. Alexander O. Gettler, an outstanding authority on poisons, or the painstaking wizardry of Dr. Alexander S. Wiener, the serologist whose research into blood groups has made him a veritable test-tube detective. There's tough, taciturn A. Bruce Bielaski, whose Arson Bureau of the National Board of Fire Underwriters smokes out annually about eight hundred fire-bugs. Radin recounts the exploits of suave Dr. J. Paul de River, pioneer in the study of the modern sex criminal; silver-haired John F. Tyrrell, dean of the document examiners; hardboiled George Chenkin, private investigator; plodding Arthur Koehler, wood technologist, whose testimony cut the props from under the Hauptmann defense. Specialists in fingerprints, laundry markings, missing persons, warring against corrupt public officials, each have their own chapters in the book. Indeed, after watching these nemeses of crime at work, one wonders why men still choose to flaunt deliberately the law.

After examining individually the work of these real-life heroes against crime, Mr. Radin concludes by noting how easy it is literally "to get away with murder." He places the blame squarely upon the inept coroner system generally prevalent in so many of our communities, whereby elective officials, frequently without professional training or scientific equipment, are called upon to investigate violent, accidental, suspicious, or sudden deaths. Mr. Radin eloquently pleads for civic house cleanings and the substitution of nonpolitical medical examiners for the out-of-date local coroners.

The Ohio State University

HAROLD M. HELFMAN

A POLICE GUIDE TO THE LAW OF EVIDENCE. By *R. Wolfe*. Published by the author, 6 College Chambers, Dunlaoghaire, Co., Dublin, Ireland. Price 5/9 (approximately 85 cents). 80 pp. (Publication date not listed.)

The author of this little book—a pocket size (8¼" x 5¼"), cloth bound publication—is a former Chief Superintendent of the Dublin Metropolitan Division of the Irish Police Force (*Garda Síochána*). His objective was to make available to the police of Ireland and to the police of the British Isles a simplified discussion of the fundamentals of the law of evidence insofar as that subject has a practical application to the problems of the police profession.

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