

1951

Police Science Publications Received

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of a crime the police frequently seize only the obvious incriminating evidence pertaining to the crime or criminal, then conclude that the suspect is guilty and anticipate that the court and jury should likewise be convinced. The conclusions reached by the police may be morally sound, since they are based on intimate knowledge of the details, and close observation of the facts and circumstances as disclosed by the investigation. The court and jury do not have the opportunity for these intimate observations but must depend on the police investigators to produce the evidence necessary to sustain a conviction. Therefore, if minute details which tend to completely describe the evidential facts as witnessed by the police are omitted, or if the police fail to realize the importance of some seemingly insignificant inference of guilt or conduct on the part of the criminal indicating consciousness of guilt, the result is that an incomplete premise has been established and the court and jury are not enlightened to appreciate all the factors which originally convinced the police. Thereby a certainty is reduced to a conjecture."

The author also recognizes one of the weaknesses of any text designed as a presentation of the rules of evidence in all parts of the country when he states, "It is possible that in some instances, there may be a divergence of opinion and a few courts not in full agreement, however, the majority of state courts recognize a common practice and application of the rules as outlined in this volume." While there are certain statutory differences in the rules of evidence from state to state, these are usually minor in nature. However, any police officer who is making serious study of this matter should learn the rules of evidence that are peculiar to his own state.

This book is divided into 35 chapters covering such subjects, as Evidence, Circumstantial Evidence, Reasonable Doubt, Corpus Delicti, Presumptions, Burden of Proof, Judicial Notice, Grand Jury, Variance, Primary Evidence, Visual Evidence, Identifying Evidence, Exhibits, and Accused as a Witness. The final chapter is devoted to a list of definitions that will be of assistance to the officer.

This publication does not contain an index. Due to the style of writing, this is not a serious defect. Since the table of contents breaks the publications down to 35 divisions, it is not too difficult to find a specific point by turning to the chapter. Further, this book is not intended as a reference that will cover all questions that arise, but rather as a useful guide for the police officer.

I think that this publication very well accomplishes what it sets out to do. It is a valuable aid in any training program or to any police officer who is seeking to further his own knowledge.

University of Iowa

RICHARD HOLCOMB

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

- MANUAL FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF AUTOMOBILE FIRES. By *National Automobile Bureau*, Chicago, Illinois. 1950. Pp. 86. Distributed free.
- SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS. By *Herbert J. Cooper*. The Chemical Publishing Company, Brooklyn, New York. 1949. Pp. 306, \$6.00.
- TARGET SHOOTING TODAY. By *Captain Paul B. Weston*. Greenburg Publisher, New York. 1950. Pp. 81, \$2.00.
- POLICE ADMINISTRATION. By *O. W. Wilson*, McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. 1950. Pp. 540, \$6.00.
- PHOTOGRAPHY IN CRIME DETECTION. By *J. A. Radley*, Chapin and Hall, Ltd., London, 1948. Pp. 186, 21 shillings.