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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph F. Turner*

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY. By *John Glaister, M. D.* Ninth Edition. Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, 1950. Pp. 755, Illus. 234 (88 in color).

The first edition of John Glaister's book on medical jurisprudence and toxicology was published nearly a half century ago (1902); now we are privileged to have the wealth of the author's experiences in these fields brought up to date in a new ninth edition. In general format, this volume closely resembles the eighth edition, but much new material has been added. Also, parts of the eighth edition have been omitted from this new one, including the section on war gases (a deletion that it is hoped will not prove to have been premature).

Several chapters are devoted to problems that are more or less peculiar to Britain, such as the legal aspects of the practice of medicine in the United Kingdom, laws relating to workmen's compensation, courtroom procedure, insanity (relation to criminal responsibility; laws on commitment), and statutes relating to sale of narcotics and other potent drugs. This information comprises approximately eight or ten per cent of the book, detracting in no way from the universal value of the remainder.

The section on identification is quite comprehensive, and the inclusion of relevant details from the Ruxton and Dobkin cases serves to crystallize many points of the chapter.

Following a consideration of the signs of death and observations and procedures that are of value in estimating the time of death, there are several chapters devoted to discussion of various types of injuries and medico-legal fatalities. Special procedures of investigation, collection of evidence, and descriptions of lesions associated with each are presented in detail.

The section on toxicology is commendable; the space devoted to each poison is more or less proportional to the frequency with which it is encountered in medicolegal practice. Throughout, the information has been critically selected and is well presented. Analytical procedures have been gathered into an appendix, where they are arranged in alphabetical order, making the reading of the section of toxicology much simpler.

This new edition of Glaister's book is welcome to the rapidly expanding field of legal medicine. Written by a distinguished authority and documented with details of many illustrative cases, it should find wide distribution among lawyers, students, and practitioners who deal with problems of legal medicine. In addition, *Medical Jurisprudence and Toxicology* will continue to serve as a valuable source of information to forensic pathologists and toxicologists in all parts of the world.

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FRANK R. DUTRA, M.D.

INVESTIGATION OF CRIMES AND ACCIDENTS. By *Harold W. Pierce.* Penns Valley Publishers, Inc., State College, Pa. \$4.00.

While the technical competence of the author is not questioned, this book leaves much to be desired. The material is poorly organized and contains

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some inconsistencies. Typographical or spelling errors give evidence of careless proofreading. Faulty sentence structure gives evidence of careless writing and editing. The meaning of some of the sentences is unclear.

The author devotes the first three chapters to a discussion of general principles under such headings as: *res gestae*, *corpus delicti*, *modus operandi*, the scene, the victim, time, place, motive, intent, suspects, witnesses, and so forth. Each of the following nine chapters is devoted to a discussion of the investigation of a specific type of crime, such as crimes of avarice, fraud, theft, robbery, malice, lust, and vice. The author has attempted to organize each chapter under most of the headings discussed in the first three chapters. This has resulted in repetition and has detracted from the presentation.

Examples of inconsistencies follow.

"The elements of a crime are found in the definition of a crime. They also include such things as the motive . . ." (p. 4) "Motive is not an essential element . . ." (p. 29).

"The criminal in many cases may remain at the scene and even be the complainant. Therefore, anyone seen hurrying from the scene should be stopped and questioned." (p. 17).

"Crimes involving intent have been defined and classified under motives as those of malice, avarice, and lust. Negligence is a cause but not a true motive." (p. 29) "The main motivations of criminal action are malice, avarice, lust, and negligence." (p. 129).

Examples of careless composition and editing follow.

"Panic, anger, or other ill-will may develop which may destroy physical evidence or prevent cooperation of the witnesses." (p. 17). "Witnesses in a case of theft include the victim, any person who can describe the scene of the stolen property or who knows that the missing property was at the scene, eye witnesses, anyone who observed circumstantial evidence, working, playing, or living near the scene at the time of the theft may be witness." (p. 35). "In this case the *modus operandi* method of investigation should be used to try and learn a similarity in the method to a criminal who has used this method before." (p. 41). "Probably most of their actions are lawful, not harmful and beneficial." (p. 128). "Enforcement . . . is to make the guilty pay or repair for injury and suffer punishment." (p. 147). "There is a difference if the case is conspiracy or one where others are repeated crimes such as prostitution, burglary, bootlegging, gambling, and so forth, when investigation and arrest will put a stop to activities." (p. 149).

Some definitions might be improved. Examples follow.

"Responsibility means answerable for his actions." (p. 30). "For some the educational is doing something considered necessary or proper." (p. 135).

The author's inclination to be somewhat "preachy" is apparent in the following examples.

"A crime prevention program then must be constantly striving to progress on the road to spiritual perfection." (p. 146) "Official acts of law enforcement should be made in the spirit of love and not with malice, avarice, lust or negligence." (p. 147).

The following are other examples of questionable statements or statements of unclear meaning:

"The *modus operandi* may become known early in the investigation or it may take an exhaustive investigation. At any rate a knowledge of the

methods should reveal evidence of the intent, planning, and the actions involved in an overt act; that is, an act that begins or completes the actual commission of a crime. Study of methods may aid in establishing a theory as to how a particular crime was committed" (p. 28). "Establishing the corpus delicti in cases of theft establishes a method of investigation different from methods used in other crimes" (p. 36). "Larceny lends itself readily to the phase of investigation called *Modus Operandi* . . ." (p. 36). "The case is not ready to be presented in court until there is sufficient evidence of methods used." (p. 37). "The corpus delicti being established usually establishes the identity and responsibility of the guilty party." (p. 41). "In many cases, however, there are no methods to establish trust used directly by the thief and trust is merely implied by the victim during the transactions." (p. 41). "The modus operandi method of investigation may be employed when the evidence seems to point to a 'rapist'." (p. 75). "Apparently most people when faced with situations that are irritating or unattractive tend to think maliciously, avariciously, or lustfully, the opposite of peaceful." (p. 130). "Even though the criminal may escape man-made laws and enforcement, injuries may result from inaugurating the dangerous conditions involved in a crime such as those developing from failure to obey natural laws resulting in remorse, the fear of discovery and punishment, loss of morale and reputation with attendant economic and physical losses, injuries and death." (p. 145). "Perhaps it is best that any delinquency program should be for all, good or bad, with some effort to bring the suspect or prospective delinquent under its influence." (p. 147).

In spite of these criticisms, *Investigation of Crimes and Accidents* may be recommended to police officers for study. The chapter on suspects gives evidence of the ability of the author to write well. It is hoped that he will revise the book, giving particular attention to the reorganization of some of the material and to its editing.

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AN OUTLINE OF SCIENTIFIC CRIMINOLOGY. By *Nigel Morland*. Philosophical Library, New York, 1950. Pp. 284. \$4.75.

The publisher's "blurb" asserts that crime fiction writer Nigel Morland's *An Outline of Scientific Criminology* "is exactly what the title claims it to be." This reviewer does not agree. Morland's work is not an outline; neither is it scientific; and only the overly charitable or the uninformed would accept it seriously as criminology. It might better have been entitled *Random Thoughts on Criminalistics for Mystery Story Fans*. The author claims that much of his material has been obtained directly from J. Edgar Hoover, Harry Battley, Edmond Locard, and other eminent law enforcement leaders and that he has condensed the material from "nearly a thousand books" into his less-than-300 page opus. Frankly there is little evidence in the text of any such intensive effort; the general bibliography of forty-seven titles contains only one volume published since 1940 and only fourteen published in the past twenty years—and the bibliographies which follow the specific subject treatments are similarly outdated and list a plethora of German, Scandinavian, and other non-English titles quite out-of-place in so elementary a volume. Elmer Graper (1921) is cited as the only source on American police administration, ignoring August Vollmer and Bruce Smith, and C. C. H. Moriarty's standard work on English police procedure goes unmentioned.