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Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes

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POLICE SCIENCE TECHNICAL ABSTRACTS AND NOTES

Joseph D. Nicol*

Cannabis—R. J. Bouquet, *UN Bulletin on Narcotics*, 2:14-30 (Oct., 1950). The history, botanical aspects (origin, morphology, and production of inebriating resins) and drugs obtained from Indian Hemp are treated in Bouquet's article. A number of drawings of the microscopic characteristics of cannabis are included.

Skidmarks—J. S. Baker, *Northwestern Traffic Institute Bulletin* 292. J. S. Baker has revised earlier material and prepared a brief manual for traffic investigators on the subject of skidmarks and their interpretation. The differences between treadmarks and skidmarks as well as means of protecting and identifying skidmarks are discussed.

A Comparison Between The Medical Examiner's System and The Coroner's System in The United States—Theo. J. Curphey, *The Medico-Legal Journal* 19:129-133, Part Four (1951). The office of coroner originated in England in the 12th Century, and the office naturally was transposed to the government in the colonies and later to the counties in the United States. During the latter part of the 19th century, the coroners were replaced by medical examiners in Massachusetts and subsequently in New York City. The medical examiner system now exists also in Essex County, New Jersey, in Nassau, and Westchester Counties, New York, and in the states of Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia. The article fails to mention that there are also medical examiners in Maine, Vermont, and Connecticut.

When the officer responsible for investigating sudden or unexpected deaths is an elected official, his chief qualification is his ability to obtain political support. The importance of having a properly qualified pathologist do medicolegal autopsies is stressed, as is the necessity for their being done in proper quarters where there are adequate prearranged facilities.

The activities of a medical examiner are described in some detail. The necessity of investigation by the medical examiner at the scene of the dead body is useful, so that the examiner has his own observations and his own opportunity to examine witnesses at the scene. Under the medical examiner system autopsies are done by pathologists, and the value of certain ancillary studies such as bacteriological cultures and microscopic examination of tissues is appreciated. Dr. Curphey states that he has not been able to convince the district attorney that photographs should be admissible as evidence; in other jurisdictions in the United States they form an important part of the evidence in many cases of homicide.

Concerning the relative cost of the coroner system and the medical examiner system, it is stated that the medical examiner system is slightly more economical, per unit of population, than the coroner system. (Submitted by Frank R. Dutra, M.D., College of Medicine, Univ. of Cincinnati.)

Stopping Suspicious Violators—Lou Smyth, *Traffic Review*, 6:6-8 (Winter 1952). The stopping of a suspicious car by a detective squad is seldom conducted in a reckless manner. However, the questioning of drivers for traffic

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violations is often regarded as devoid of danger. Smyth points out the necessity for traffic policemen to be trained in the proper procedure for halting vehicles and questioning the occupant without danger to the officer and in accord with good public relations.

Whorl Tracing in Fingerprint Classification—*FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 21:13-15, 25 (April, 1952). Further discussion of whorl type patterns is given. See January and February 1952 *Bulletins* for previous material on methods of classifying whorl type patterns.

Traces of Gloves—F. Santamaria Beltran, *International Criminal Police Review*, 7:(No. 56)79-81 (March, 1952). The identification of glove prints where the gloves are made of skins (Chamois, sheep, calf, etc.) is discussed. These prints are left by traces of oil inherent and acquired and can be developed by ordinary means. Fine lines in the leather serve as individual characteristics.

Informers—F. E. Louwage, *International Criminal Police Review*, 7:(No. 56)66-9 (March, 1952). A matter of daily importance in a large police department and one open to many abuses is the subject of this article. Louwage introduces a note of caution about the use of participants of a crime as informers with the consideration of leniency; these should be instructed that they will be dealt with as severely as the rest, if they have engaged with them in the crime they are disclosing. Where a promise of secrecy is given this must be kept, provided the denouncer is not a suspect himself. The paid informer should be examined very carefully, or he will cooperate too well and too often. Louwage is of the opinion that high public officials should not be a party to such activities and that contact with informers should remain at the lower ranks of the department.

Crime Index Reporting—D. N. Cassidy, *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Quarterly*, 17:310-7 (April, 1952). The importance of detailed reporting by the police is stressed since it is upon these particulars that *modus operandi* files are established and searched. Cassidy suggests that it might be wise for training programs to include more study of personal descriptions; all too often individuals are described in broad, general terms. The forms used by the Crime Index Section, R. C. M. P. Headquarters, Ottawa are reproduced and discussed.

Safety Papers—Francis L. Simons in "Safety Papers—A Review of Theory and Practise" (*Tappi*, 34 (10):113-122 (October 1951)) discusses the problems of protection against counterfeiting and against alteration of documents. The article deals principally with a patent survey of safety papers but also contains ample discussion of the principles back of these various patent devices. Under authentication methods water marks, laminated papers, additions to furnish, and test chemicals and fluorescent methods for establishing authenticity are taken up. The discussion of protection against alterations include consideration of document layout and design, ink fixing, fugitive tints or colors, structure, and stain producing chemicals. In addition to a very effective patent bibliography the theory and practical discussion of these problems are of value. (Submitted by Ordway Hilton.)

NOTES FROM PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Academy of Forensic Sciences

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences held its fourth annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, March 6, 7, 8, 1952. Officers elected for the current year are Dr. R. N. Harger, President, Dr. Louis J. Regan, Vice President and President Elect, and Professor Ralph F. Turner, Secretary-Treasurer.

Fifty-five papers were presented with total registration slightly above the 1951 meeting. For the first time the Police Science group held a sectional meeting in addition to the toxicological, psychiatric, and pathology sectional meetings.

A revised and amended Constitution as prepared by the Constitution Committee was presented and unanimously approved.

The fifth annual meeting is scheduled for February 26, 27, 28, 1953 at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, Illinois.

Professional Notice

Police Chief Vacancy—The Burbank, California, Police Department is seeking a Chief of Police. Men with administrative police experience are urged to apply. The salary is \$646.00 per month. Full information may be obtained from the Personnel Board, Burbank City Hall, Burbank, California.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PERIODICALS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF POLICE SCIENCE*

Compiled by

KURT SCHWERIN**

Algemeen politieblad van het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden. The Hague. 100th year, nos. 24-26, Dec. 1-29, 1951. 101st year, Special centennial issue (Jan. 1, 1952); nos. 1-2, Jan. 12-26, 1952.

Gerechtelijke laboratoria voor natuurwetenschappelijk en geneeskundig onderzoek te's Gravenhage (Legal laboratories for scientific and medical examinations. The Hague.) Opened November 17. The opening speech by Mr. H. Mulderije, Minister of Justice. (no. 24, p. 443-446).—W. Froentjes, *Gerechtelijk scheikundig en spektrografisch onderzoek* (Legal chemical and spectographic examinations) (no. 25, p. 459-463). *Herdenkingsnummer* (Anniversary issue); January 1, 1852-January 1, 1952: The richly illustrated centennial issue includes messages of government officials, articles on the history of the journal, on the history and organization of the Dutch police, its crime detection laboratories, and its cooperation with legal medicine. G. A. Waldkötter, *Het politieonderzoek inzake zelfmoorden* (The police investigation of suicides) (no. 2, 1952, p. 19-24). H. Visscher, *Camera en vergelijkingsmicroscop in dienst van het technisch sporenonderzoek* (Camera and microscope in the service of the technical examination of traces) (no. 4, p. 51-57). W. Froentjes, *Onderzoek van sporen bij aanrijdingen* (Examination of traces in collisions) (no. 5, p. 75-79).

*All periodicals listed are available in the Elbert H. Gary Library, Northwestern University School of Law, 357 East Chicago Ave., Chicago.

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La Giustizia penale. Rome. 56th year, no. 12, Dec. 1951; 57th year, nos. 2-4, Feb.-April, 1952.

L. Meschieri, *L'antisocialità nell' individuo normale* (Antisociality of the normal individual) (no. 12, pt. I, col. 385-408).—A. Pozzato, *Aborto criminoso con morte della gestante o morte di donna gestante per manovre abortive* (Criminal abortion or attempted abortion with resulting death) (no. 2, pt. I, col. 53-56).—Anselmo Sacerdote, *Il dilettantesimo psicoanalitico ed i suoi pericoli in campo giudiziario* (Psychoanalytical dilettantism and its danger in the judicial field) (no. 4, I, col. 97-98).—Pietro Lancia, *Reato politico e natura morbosa del delitto* (Political crime and the morbid nature of the delict) (no. 4, I, col. 113-122).

International criminal police review. Paris. 6th year, no. 53, Dec. 1951; 7th year, nos. 54-56, Jan.-March, 1952. (English edition.)

F. E. Louwage, *Guilty or innocent* (no. 53, p. 342-345).—Werner Kurzmeyer, *Uncontrovertible evidence* (p. 348-351).—Ph. Schneider, *Murders and attempted murders . . . by means of thallium* (p. 352-356).—T. D. Leontaritis, *Tell-tale varnish* (An expert examination made by the Police laboratory of Athens) (p. 357-361).—A. Pédoussant, *Identification in air accidents* (no. 54, p. 3-9).—Max Bobst, *Natural sciences in criminal police enquiries* (p. 10-11).—J. A. de Castroverde y Cabrera, *Forensic odontology and the identostomogram* (p. 14-20).—M. Sicot, *Guarding prisoners in hospitals* (no. 55, p. 34-36).—*The recovery of bodies in drowning accidents*, by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (p. 37-42). Reprinted from Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gazette.—Kay Brögger Möller, *The classification of palm prints in Denmark* (p. 43-50).—Riza Azmi Yumak, *The reorganization of the Turkish police* (p. 53).—F. E. Louwage, *Informers* (no. 56, p. 66-69).—M. Sicot, *The Republican security companies in France* (p. 70-73).—W. J. Hutchinson, *Prevention of crime* (p. 74-78).—Florentin Santamaria Beltran, *Traces of gloves* (p. 79-81).—*Installations and technical processes of the Argentine police: The service and reports on localities and sites* (p. 82-87).

Revue de droit pénal et de criminologie. Brussels. 32d year, 1951/52. nos. 2-7, Nov. 1951-April, 1952.

Maurice de Laet, *L'empoisonnement criminel hier, aujourd'hui et peut-être demain* (Criminal poisoning, yesterday, today, and perhaps tomorrow) (no. 2, p. 134-137).—A. Simonard, *Dangers actuels d'empoisonnement* (Actual dangers of poisoning) (p. 138-140).—F. Thomas & W. Van Hecke, *Le diagnostic médico-légal de l'ivresse dans les accidents de roulage* (Medico-legal diagnosis of drunkenness in traffic accidents) (no. 4, p. 366-372).—L. Tumelaire, *La première Conférence internationale de Stockholm sur l'alcool et la circulation routière* (The first international Conference on alcohol and road traffic in Stockholm) (p. 372-391).—Jacques Hoeffler, *Éléments de procédure pénale anglo-saxonne* (Elements of Anglo-Saxon criminal procedure) (no. 5, p. 433-483).—Paul Foriers, *Les délits dits d'omission* (The delicts of omission) (p. 484-504).—Raymond, Screevens, *L'étude de personnalité et le jugement* (The study of the personality and the sentence) (p. 505-516).—Aug. Ley & Sev. Versele, *L'aveu* (The confession) (no. 7, p. 740-755).