

1953

Police Science Book Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 44 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 133 (1953-1954)

This Criminology is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph F. Turner*

THE NEW YORK POLICE SURVEY. By *Bruce Smith*. Institute of Public Administration, New York, 1952. Pp. 70.

Bruce Smith's highly controversial reorganization survey of New York City's police force is a primary source for students of police administration, and indeed for all harried police administrators with organizational and management problems of their own. The New York police number 20,000; the annual operating budget for the coming year exceeds \$13,000,000.00; and the complexity of its organizational set-up is only equalled by the complex crime, traffic, and social problems with which it must cope.

Smith has not found the force in good order: in the past two years it has been condemned as corrupt by a grand jury; had its reports of crime rejected by the F.B.I. as not complete; charged with brutality by civil liberties groups; and with inefficiency by businessmen, residents of crime-ridden areas as the upper Central Park district, and crime prevention groups. Smith's survey would seem to bolster many of these charges: he finds discipline weak or non-existent ("a gun homicide, by a patrolman who was off duty and intoxicated, drew the amazing penalty of a five day fine"); personnel selection intolerably careless (Communists, psychopaths, felons, sex offenders, alcoholics, and cop-fighters appointed to the force); training inadequate; annual average of 14.7 sick/injury days per man compared with 4.8 in Detroit; poorly distributed patrol force; too many precincts; a clearance level 50% below the national average for crimes against property (robberies, burglaries, auto thefts, and other larcenies) which total nearly 70,000 per annum in the city.

He suggests major organizational changes: reduction in the number of higher ranks (abolish deputy chief inspectors and deputy inspectors—and reduce number of captains); redrawing of divisional and precinct boundaries; dropping of certain non-police functions or surrendering them to more appropriate agencies; and many more. With most of his findings and recommendations students of the New York Police department will be in agreement (although members and especially officers of that department have reacted violently in opposition to the report).

Specifically I would question Mr. Smith's views on the Transit Police (I favor their incorporation into the city police); his advocacy of a police cadet corps is unrealistic; and his opposition to improved salary conditions for the police in the face of the peculiar post-war living-cost inflation which has caused real hardship among the newer appointees does little to induce acceptance among the rank-and-file of the many excellent recommendations he has made to improve the efficiency of the "Finest."

New York University

DONAL E. J. MAC NAMARA

YOUR BIG GAME RIFLE, By *Dr. Henry M. Stebbin*. Combat Forces Press, Publisher, Washington, D. C. 1952. Pp. 232. \$5.00.

Over a period of years Doctor Stebbin has obviously gained a great deal of knowledge of rifles and their operation. The book is well written and easy to read. Doctor Stebbin is very frank in his comments on the good and bad points

*Assoc. Prof. of Police Administration, Michigan State College, E. Lansing.

of the various game rifles and is obviously very fair in his appraisal of the sporting rifles regardless of the manufacturer. This book would be very helpful to the novice or of interest to the big game sportsman.

From the standpoint of the police technician it has little value. Of course the Doctor wrote it from the viewpoint of the sportsman and not from that of the firearms examiner. Perhaps the technician would find the short chapter "Obsolete, 'Wildcat' and Foreign Cartridges" the most valuable part of the book.

Missouri State Highway Patrol

EDMUND I. HOCKADAY

LA POLICE METROPOLITAIN ET D'OUTRE-MER. By *Marcel Le Clere*. Charles LaVauzelle & Cie, Paris. 1951. Pp. 204. 325-francs.

Dr. Marcel Le Clere is police commissioner of the city of Paris and professor of criminology in the University of Paris School of Law. He has written extensively on police subjects and in a recent issue of the *Journal* (vol. 42, no. 6 page 788-91) I had occasion to review his *Histoire De La Police*. His present volume is a significant contribution to the literature of comparative police administration.

La Police Metropolitaine et D'Outre-Mer is directed to the police themselves so that they may better understand their own organization and its interrelationships with other police units, with the administrative departments, and with the judicial branch; but also to lawyers, criminologists, and political scientists so that the development and present role of the police, both in continental France and in the colonies, could be clarified.

Dr. Le Clere has used a simple expository style and has increased the value of his presentation by providing excellent organization charts, manning tables, and, best of all, the texts of laws and decrees affecting police organization from 1791 to the present. The author modestly suggests in his "avant-propos" that this edition does not pretend to perfection and welcomes suggestions for its improvement. Having worked for several years with the various French Police units both in North Africa and in France it appears to me that Dr. Le Clere has given us a complete and valuable, if not perfect, monograph.

New York University

DONAL E. J. MAC NAMARA

BOOKS RECEIVED

THE DETECTION OF MURDER. By *William F. Kessler, M.D. and Paul B. Weston*. Greenberg Publisher, New York. 1953. Pp. 239. \$3.50.

MEN OF THE UNDERWORLD. By *Charles Hamilton*. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1952. Pp. 336. \$4.50.

THE PSYCHOPATHIC DELINQUENT AND CRIMINAL. By *George N. Thompson, M.D.* Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois. 1953. Pp. 157.

HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF EVIDENCE. By *Tracy*. Prentice Hall.

CRIME INVESTIGATION. By *Paul Kirk*. Interscience Publishers, New York, 1953. Pp. 784. \$10.00.

WINCHESTER, THE GUN THAT WON THE WEST. By *Harold Williamson*. Combat Forces Press.

THE PSYCHOPATHIC DELINQUENT AND CRIMINAL. By *George N. Thompson, M.D.* Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Illinois. 1953. Pp. 161. \$4.50.

FINGERPRINTS SCOTLAND YARD AND HENRY FAULDS. By *George Wilton Wilton*. W. Green & Son Limited, Edinburgh. 1951. Pp. 29. 7/6 net.