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Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes

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POLICE SCIENCE TECHNICAL ABSTRACTS AND NOTES

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Crime Prevention Conference—Crime Prevention Bureau, Chicago, Illinois, held a panel conference October 20 and 21, 1953. Subjects discussed were Crime Prevention, Narcotics, Stolen Autos, and Sex Offenses. Each discussion of a half-day duration was presented by a panel of well qualified speakers. (O. H.)

Lie Detection Course—New York University Graduate School of Public Administration has announced a one semester course in lie detection. The instruction will run during the first semester of the 1953-54 academic year. (O. H.)

Scientific Proof in Criminal Cases—Western Reserve University School of Law in cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office is presenting a one semester course entitled Scientific Proof in Criminal Cases. The program will continue during the first semester of the 1953-54 academic year and will present discussions of various medico-legal and police science problems. Instruction will be of a lecture-discussion type and includes specialists in the various fields. (O. H.)

A Modification of Winnick's Method for the Rapid Determination of Ethyl Alcohol in Biological Fluids—Irving Sunshine and Robert Nenad, *Analytical Chemistry*, 25 (4): 653-55 (April, 1953). A diffusion method of determining alcohol content of blood or other body fluids is described. Conway micro diffusion cells are used with potassium dichromate in the center well and a 0.50 ml. specimen in the outer compartment. Properly sealed the cell is incubated for 20 minutes at 90°C, and the results read by color comparison or in a spectrophotometer. Accuracy within 3% is claimed, and results may be obtained in 25 minutes for a single specimen. Methanol, paraldehyde, formaldehyde, and acetone may interfere. In forensic cases all positive tests should be followed by an acetone determination. (Submitted by John F. Williams, Missouri State Highway Patrol)

Soils and Crime—B. B. Caldwell, *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Quarterly*, 18: (4) 310-17 (April, 1953). B. B. Caldwell describes methods used in soil analysis and comparison in the RCMP Crime Detection Laboratory in Ottawa, Ontario. Included are discussions of soils and their characteristics, microscopic and spectrographic examinations, density comparisons and notes on the collection and submission of soil exhibits. (Submitted by John F. Williams, Missouri State Highway Patrol)

Restoration of the Print of a Mummified Finger—I. J. Liebenberg, *Die Neue Polizei*, 5: (8) 125-6 (August 15, 1951). The tips of the fingers were removed, and the flesh was cut away with a scalpel. A strong sodium sulfite solution was used to soften the tissue. The skin was placed between two pieces of glass and photographed through the underside using oblique forelighting and backlighting.

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Conviction of Perpetrator through the Broken Teeth of Comb—M. Eberhart, *Die Neue Polizei*, 6: 94-5 (1951). The removal of matches from a pocket brought with them broken teeth of a comb also carried in the same pocket. The burnt matches and the broken teeth were discarded at the scene of the burglary. A comb found in the pocket of a suspect was connected to the crime by matching the conoidal fractures on the teeth and comb.

1952 Uses of Chemical Tests for Intoxication—A report of the Committee on Tests for Intoxication of the National Safety Council.

The 22nd General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Commission—*International Criminal Police Review*, No. 70, 203-53 (Aug.-Sept., 1953.) A report of the conference held by the International Criminal Police Commission, June 24-29, 1953, in Oslo, Norway.

Micro Porphyrin Test for Blood—E. Ju-Hwa and T. C. Chu, *Journal of Chemical Education*, 30: 178-9 (1953). A hydrazine reagent is prepared by dissolving one gram of hydrazine dihydrochloride in a solution containing 50 ml. of glacial acetic acid and 50 ml. of 0.1 N HCl. Approximately six drops of the reagent is added to 0.1 ml. of a diluted blood solution (1:5,000 to 1:20,000) and exposed to ultraviolet light. The hemoglobin of the blood is converted into protoporphyrin which fluoresces upon excitation with ultraviolet light. Preliminary checks of the method show the fluorescence as a bright orange-red contrasting markedly with the negative fluorescence of untreated blood. No success was encountered when the reagent was applied directly to a dried stain on paper or fabric. However, a portion of the stain allowed to soak in saline, or when soaked in the reagent itself, had excellent results. A positive test is also given with chlorophyll. (Submitted by Lauren J. Goin, Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Crime Laboratory).

Police Use TV, Trap Thieves in Los Angeles—*The Marion Star*, Marion, Ohio, (August 13, 1953) (AP). The RCA Company employed two television cameras at strategic points and two receivers in nearby rooms to discover how radio tubes were being taken. The thefts were observed and the perpetrators apprehended.

The Houston Police Identification Bureau—E. J. Moellering, *Identification News*, 3: (8) 5-7 (August, 1953). A brief description of the facilities for laboratory and identification work contained in Houston's Police Administration and Courts Building.

A Systematic Approach to the Identification of Toxic Organic Compounds Isolated from Tissues and Fluids, II, III, IV—C. J. Umberger and A. Stolman, *Annals of Western Medicine and Surgery*, 5: 1022-4 (Dec., 1951), 171-4 (March, 1952), 232-5 (April, 1952). Further subdivisions of the acid-base divisions (*Journal*, 42: 838 (1952)) are made with tetranitromethane and azo coupling tests, aquo-ferrate and stannic chloride tests, and specific group tests, hydroxamic acid, indamine, chloranil tests.

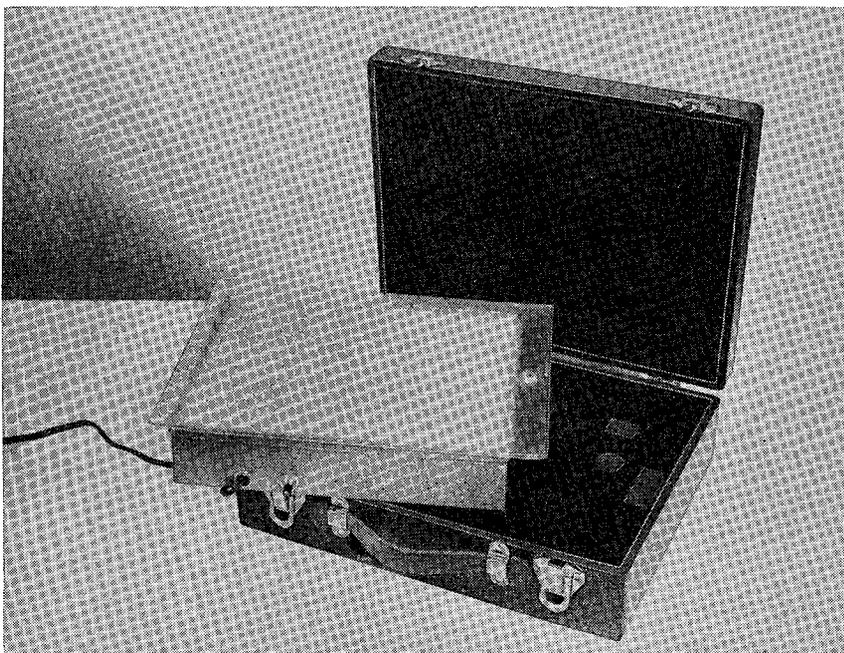
A New Camera Stand for Document Examiners—E. H. Fearon, *American Bar Association Journal*, 39: 291, 305 (April, 1953). A camera stand possess-

ing an object board that can be rotated about two axes, moved horizontally and vertically and forward and back from a position behind the ground glass has been designed and described in this article. Such movements greatly facilitate the examination and photography of erasures, indented writing, sequences of strokes, etc.

New Products

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is the purpose of this additional service to the readers of the Journal to call their attention to new products deemed helpful in police fields. Data presented will be abstracts of the manufacturer's literature or reports of demonstrations. Only those products considered most suitable to police science will be included. The mention of any product in this Journal, however, is not to be construed as an endorsement by the Journal.

Contoura Portable Photo-copiers—A new line of carrying cases has been adopted by F. G. Ludwig Associates, Deep River, Conn., to increase the portability of its Contoura Portable Photo-Copiers. The Contoura fits in a brief case and copies curved text near the binding of heavy volumes. The dimensions of the case used for carrying the Research Model, which copies anything written, printed or drawn up to 8" x 10", are 13" x 10" x 4" and its weight



is three pounds. The case for the Legal Model which copies anything written, printed or drawn up to 8½" x 14", weighs four pounds and measures 17½" x 11¼" x 4". Both are made of sturdy plywood covered with black leatherette and fitted with brass hardware. Flat materials like letters, diagrams or charts can be copied without removing the Contoura from the case. However, it must be removed to copy pages or portions of pages from books or magazines.