

1954

Police Science Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 44 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 694 (1953-1954)

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Ralph F. Turner*

PRACTICAL BLOOD GROUPING METHODS, A Manual of Immunohematology.
By *Robert L. Wall, M. D.* Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield,
Ill. 1952. Pp. 175. \$5.00

The author takes only 13 pages to briefly introduce the history of the various blood groups to the reader then goes directly into the laboratory procedures used. Pages 14 to 29 deal with the materials and methods used, pages 30 to 57 with the ABO blood group system, pages 58 to 98 with the Rh blood group system, and pages 99 to 104 with the MN(S) and P blood group system. Continuing, we find the book includes 8 pages devoted to other blood group systems, followed by techniques on cross-matching tests for transfusion purposes, and differential agglutination tests on transfused patients. Concluding are the recent advances and trends in immunohematology followed by a 17 page Appendix dealing with the methods of preparation of the typing and reacting sera. The book contains a 145 reference bibliography and an index.

The reviewer is delighted to find a book written for laboratory personnel by an author who so obviously is a laboratory man and has either conducted all of the listed procedures himself to his own satisfaction or has consulted with laboratory workers who are thoroughly familiar with the techniques. The material presented is all very concise and to the point, easily read, and sufficiently simplified so that it is easily understood. There are no specific methods given for the typing of dried blood stains in which the forensic laboratory man is particularly interested. However, the usual technique is given under the general heading "Method of Measuring Group Specific Substances" in which the author gives a technique using saliva in place of the stain extract that would normally be used by the police scientist. The methods given are set up in a step-wise procedure with letters and numbers. The format is as follows: a. Theory and use of test. b. Materials. c. Technique. d. Interpretation. e. Sources of error. Under each of the letter groups the steps are numbered so that there will be a minimum of confusion and a maximum of ease afforded the laboratory worker. In addition, the author gives more than one technique where these are available and lists the advantages and disadvantages of each over the other.

It will be of particular interest to the forensic scientist to note the "Preparation of Anti-Human-Globulin Rabbit Serum" according to the method of Proom. This is an excellent method for the production of anti-human precipitin serum so useful for the detection of human blood. The reviewer has used this method of production for the last three years and finds it very satisfactory.

Again the reviewer wishes to compliment the author on writing a book for the laboratory worker and recommends the book as an excellent addition to the library of all those who are connected with blood work.

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