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## Police Science Book Reviews

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

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Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb\*

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is with a regret that we announce the resignation of Ralph F. Turner as Police Science Book Review Editor—an assignment which he has so capably handled since 1947. These last several years have seen a marked increase in the number, variety, and sources of books dealing with the various phases of Police Science. Mr. Turner has not only kept our readers informed of these publications, but has consistently sought reviewers who would properly evaluate them. While Mr. Turner's academic assignments prevent his continuing as Book Review Editor, he will continue as an Associate Editor for Police Science.

Richard L. Holcomb, Ph.D., Institute of Public Affairs, State University of Iowa, has been appointed to fill this important editorial post. We are fortunate in obtaining the services of one whose experience and qualifications in the field of Police Science are as extensive as Dr. Holcomb's.

ARE YOU GUILTY? By *William Dienstein*. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill. 1954. Pp. 184. \$4.50.

Professor Dienstein has remarkable facility in highlighting fundamental factors which enter into the administration of criminal justice today. Without becoming enmeshed in labored and detailed argumentation, he introduces to the public—including some professional men who should, but who have not yet, critically analyzed criminal justice—a matter-of-fact viewpoint.

Too often, we have failed to realize fully that it is *human beings* and not schemes of organization that determine the destinies of human institutions. The dogma that ours is a "government of law and not of men" has given many persons the notion that justice is a purely mechanical process "untouched by human hand." Actually, as this monograph demonstrates, law cannot divorce itself from human behavior. Certainly, it is the law that lays down the framework within which administrators of criminal justice must operate. Yet law-making itself is a result of very human, and sometimes

quite earthy, considerations. Professor Dienstein, however, certainly is not advocating a de-emphasis on law. "The degree to which a democracy is effective can be measured by the degree to which its law enforcement personnel is subject to the law." (p. 55)

After raising the question as to just what is justice, Professor Dienstein dissects out in successive chapters its operation as related to the press, the legislative process, police administration, jail and bail practices, lawyers, judges, juries, probation, imprisonment, and parole. For more completeness in future editions, there might also be included a discussion of radio and television, and perhaps some word on the operation of coroner's and medical examiner's offices as they exist in this country.

In the Foreword, August Vollmer sets out the context of the monograph in terms of "social science lag" as demonstrated in criminal administration. Professor Dienstein elaborates this approach in the Preface, and proceeds to portray the facts as he sees them in excellent style.

Although an introductory text cannot be exhaustive, many will no doubt feel that there has been too much generalization. Since such

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general statements reveal the author's outlook, the reviewer feels that this type of writing is quite valuable though perhaps too elementary for perusal by persons actively engaged in the administration of criminal justice.

Lawyers will be particularly interested in Chapter VII. Again, the total picture painted probably approximates the true state of affairs, though there are numerous statements which are somewhat overdrawn. No one will doubt that advocacy has been submerged in the past quarter century, and "most of the best minds have been drawn from advocacy and converted into highly paid clerks" yet there are indications of a reversal in this trend. Lloyd Paul Stryker's plea for a renaissance of advocacy is not falling on deaf ears. Practitioners are flocking to post-graduate courses, institutes, and seminars. They are joining such organizations as the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and are becoming avid readers of trials. Law students are demanding courses on Trial Technique, The Science of Proof, Advocacy in Criminal Cases, and The Administration of Criminal Justice!

Situations mentioned concerning poor public relations of the bar, low ethical standards, failure of lawyers to assume their full social responsibility, legal aid and public defender inadequacies, and the lack of concern by bar associations as to criminal law standards certainly exist. It must be added, however, that vigorous measures are now being employed in all parts of the country by bar associations and individual lawyers to remedy these defects.

It is to be hoped that before very many years pass Professor Dienstein will be forced to completely re-write the present volume to reflect a vastly improved administration of criminal justice. Widespread readership of this monograph should materially aid such an eventualty.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
FORENSIC SCIENCES, Vol. 2, No. 1, 1952.

Edited by *Kurt M. Dubowski*, Edwards Bros., Ann Arbor, Mich., 1954. Pp. 351. \$5.00.<sup>1</sup>

The Proceedings are a compilation of the scientific and technical communications and discussions presented at the 4th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, held at the Biltmore Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, March 6-8, 1952. The membership of the Academy is composed of the country's leading experts in the various scientific fields that have application to scientific criminal investigation.

No one volume of current scientific literature contains a greater assortment of material pertinent to scientific criminal investigation. Most volumes treat a single specific subject, or, in a few instances, treat the more important phases. The Proceedings cover the entire field, but, because of obvious space and time restrictions, a complete discussion of each phase of the various sciences is impossible. The variety of subjects discussed here is so great that it is impossible to review each of them in any detail. The Pathologist, Psychiatrist, Firearms Expert, Lie Detection Specialist, Microscopist, Toxicologist, Document Examiner, Physicists, Lawyers, Jurists, in fact, every forensic specialization, will find interesting scientific material pertinent to his own professional pursuits. A total of sixty-one persons of outstanding ability in their particular field have contributed or collaborated in the presentation of the subject matter.

The Proceedings are well indexed as to author and subject title, which is rather unusual for proceeding reports. To anyone sincerely interested in the scientific investigation of crime and criminal matters, the Proceedings are highly recommended for both reading and reference purposes.

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<sup>1</sup> The Proceedings are available from The Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. W. J. R. Camp, Univ. of Illinois, College of Medicine, 1853 W. Polk St., Chicago 12, Ill.