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Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes

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POLICE SCIENCE TECHNICAL ABSTRACTS AND NOTES

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The Design of Typewriter Type—Jean Gayet, *Revue internationale de criminologie et de police technique*, 8 (1): 37-46 (January-March, 1954). Gayet has prepared a series of group classifications for various capital and lower case letters and for numerals and other symbols that appear on typewriters. The purpose of these design classifications is to establish an easy and rapid means of sorting through large groups of typewriter specimens to eliminate all those which were written on typewriters with different designs of type than the suspected document. The original article would be extremely instructive for apprentices in the field of typewriting identification, and the method of elimination could be easily taught to laboratory assistants in larger police laboratories. (Ordway Hilton)

Fire Fundamentals—D. K. Ruck, *News Letter*, International Association of Arson Investigators, 4: 53-61 (January, 1954). A discussion of the requirements of fire; heat, fuel, air or oxygen, and the part played by each in guiding the investigation of suspected arsons. It is pointed out that much can be determined if an inventory is taken of the contents of a fire area and then ascertain the ignition point of each material. If natural temperatures are not sufficient for fire a supplementary source must have been available. Several examples of spontaneous ignition are listed.

Post Mortem Cooling and Its Relation to the Time of Death—F. Schwarz and H. Heidenwolf, *International Criminal Police Review*, Number 73, 339-44 (December, 1953). A discussion of the rate of cooling of body temperature after death. Twenty five bodies were studied ranging in weight from 220 lbs. to a

very emaciated specimen. The studies, conducted over a period of thirty-six hours, brought out the fact that if weight is ignored, errors of as much as ten hours in thirty-six are likely to occur. The rate of cooling is dependent upon the cooling surface per unit weight, the surrounding temperature and clothing on the body. Since the cooling curve is a non-linear function, the classical rate of 1 to 1½ degrees per hour is a rough approximation. Schwarz and Heidenwolf suggest a method for correcting case results to fit the conditions of their experiment.

The Economic Plight of the Policeman—A Survey of Salaries by the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association of the City of New York. This is an interesting and unique study of the police salary problem and his relative position economically compared to other workers. Rather than taking the usual standard of police salaries in other communities, this study has compared the decline in the relative financial position of the patrolman and higher ranking police officers with employees in such fields as utilities, building trades, newspaper, and milk industries. Comparisons were made of the 1939 position and current position. (O. H.)

Scientific Seminar—*Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gazette*, 16 (5): 9 (May 15, 1954). Two Seminars held by staff members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Crime Detection Laboratories are reported. The first in May, 1953, and the second in March, 1954. Titles of the discussion material for the 1953 meeting are reported, but no details as to content. (O. H.)

The Forensic Society of Canada—*Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gazette*, 16 (5): 9 (May 15, 1954). A notice of the formation of the Forensic Society of Canada is reported.

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The first meeting was held at Ottawa on October 16, 1953. A second meeting is planned for June to be held at Montreal. The purposes of the Society include the promotion of the use of scientific methods in law enforcement, the improvement of professional qualifications of workers, the fostering of research, and the dissemination of information among members in this field. Dr. B. B. Coldwell of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Crime Laboratory, Ottawa, is Secretary-Treasurer. (O. H.)

Conference on Modern Methods in Law Enforcement—New York University Graduate School of Public Administration and Social Service is holding its Second Annual Conference on Modern Methods in Law Enforcement the week of August 2-6, 1954. This conference will discuss problems in police, crime detection, and criminal administration.

Investigation of Homicide Seminar for Police Officers—The University of Cincinnati has announced its annual seminar on homicide investigation which will be held October 4-8, 1954. This seminar is planned in cooperation with the Coroner's Office, Hamilton County, and the Cincinnati Police Department, and its faculty include an outstanding group of medico-legal experts and law enforcement officers. Police officers interested in information concerning the course should write directly to Frank P. Cleveland, M.D., Kettering Laboratory, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Are Policemen Safe Drivers—A news release of the International Association of Chiefs of Police states that policemen are safe drivers. The 84 police fleets competing in the National Police Fleet Safety Contest had a combined average frequency rate of 1.32 reportable accidents per 100,000 miles as compared to 1.86 for 1,349 commercial vehicle fleets. State police fleets averaged .72 reportable accidents as compared to .95 for 232 passenger car fleets. Fleets may enter the 1954-55 contest anytime before January 15, 1955.

Post Licensing Control and Driver Improvement—Two weeks of college-level training for driver improvement personnel will be offered this fall at four universities in the West, East, South, and Midwest by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. The courses will be held at the University of California, from September 13 to 24; at Northeastern University, from October 4 to 15; at the University of Alabama, from November 1 to 12; and at Northwestern University, from November 29 to December 10. Subjects to be emphasized in this course include the following: Organization and management of driver improvement programs, factors of highway transportation, enforcement of suspension and revocation, interviews and hearings, handling of mental and physical cases, and records, reports and summaries. The courses will be conducted for the AAMVA under the direction of Glenn V. Carmichael, Assistant Director of Training of the Traffic Institute.