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## Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes

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## POLICE SCIENCE TECHNICAL ABSTRACTS AND NOTES

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Edited by

Joseph D. Nicol\*

**Narcoanalysis, Principles, Practice and Jurisprudence**—I. Boon, *International Criminal Police Review*, No. 76: 78-83 (March, 1954), No. 77: 104-6 (April, 1954). A review of narcoanalysis and narcodiagnosis. The author considers this technique to be uncertain of valid results and believes that it should not be used in courts. (JDN)

**Determination of the Blood Groups A, B, AB, and O in the Finger and Toe Nails**—K. Thoma, *International Criminal Police Review*, No. 77: 107-15 (April, 1954). Because fingernails and toenails do not putrefy rapidly, this method has possibilities for grouping blood of cadavers. Nails treated in a physiological saline solution to ultra sonic vibrations can be typed by absorption method. The length of vibration treatment should be limited to thirty minutes or non-specific absorption occurs. (JDN)

**The Examination of Tires in Cases of Collision**—W. F. Hesselink, *International Criminal Police Review*, No. 79: 171-8 (June-July, 1954). Validity of accidents caused by blow-outs can be determined if the tire and inner-tube are carefully examined. When the tire is removed, its relation to the tube should be noted. Tears in the inner-tube should be examined for areas of abrasions or pinches. These may then be related to breaks in the tire wall. (JDN)

**National Firearms Act Amended**—Anon., *The American Rifleman*, 102: 20, 80 (September, 1954). The revision of the National Firearms Act exempts weapons incapable of firing fixed cartridge ammunition. Pistols and revolvers not equipped with shoulder stocks are also

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exempt. The new law contains the usual restrictions on automatic weapons and shot guns and rifles with barrels less than 18 inches (16 inches for .22 caliber). (JDN)

**Use of Wire-Recorder in Criminal Investigation**—A. Haslund, *International Criminal Police Review*, No. 79: 168-70 (June-July, 1954). In order to spare young victims of sex offenses from repeated interrogations and public recitation in court, the C.I.D. of Copenhagen has employed wire recorders to take down their original statements. By using a special acoustically treated room maximum clarity is possible. The most common failure encountered is too much talking on the part of the interrogator. Only questions designed to keep the subject from straying too far afield or to elicit supplementary information should be used. This method of presenting evidence has been used successfully in jury trials. (JDN)

### 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. The mention of any product in this Journal, however, is not to be construed as a recommendation by the Journal.

**Density Gradient Analysis Set**—A unit consisting of eleven density gradient liquids (1.00-3.00, 0.20 intervals), a bottle rack, twenty-eight gradient tubes, tube stand, densitometer, and a delivery and suction head has been assembled for distribution by the Microchemical Specialties Co., 1834 University Ave., Berkeley 3, California. With this set comparative analyses of glass, soils, safe insulation, and the like, as outlined by Kirk, are readily accomplished.

**Underwater Search Magnet**—The Eriez Manufacturing Company has announced the development of two permanent magnets suitable for retrieving ferrous items from water. Both are made with Alnico V elements. The latest, a rake type, has a span of 24" and exposes four sides to possible use in holding objects. It is designed to reduce the problem of snagging on weeds and rocks as it is dragged along. A smaller unit, 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ " high by 6" in diameter, weighing 8 lbs., is suitable for dipping operations. All exposed surfaces are covered with 16 gauge stainless steel.

**Southern Police Institute Mid-Winter Seminars**—Southern Police Institute, University of Louisville, announces four seminars of two weeks duration each. They are Police Administration, January 3-14, 1955; The

Policeman and the Law, January 17-28; Human Relations and Human Behavior, February 7-18; and Scientific Crime Investigation, February 28-March 11. In addition to the Institute staff, these seminars will be conducted by an outstanding group of specialists in the various fields. Registration is limited to thirty law enforcement officers per seminar, and further information can be obtained from the Director of the Institute.

**American Academy of Forensic Sciences**—The 1955 annual meeting of the Academy of Forensic Sciences will be held in Los Angeles, California, on February 17, 18, and 19. Details of the program may be obtained from the Academy's Secretary, Dr. Walter Camp, 1853 W. Polk Street, Chicago 12, Illinois.