

1955

## Current Notes

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Current Notes, 45 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 583 (1954-1955)

This Note is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

---

## CURRENT NOTES

---

V. A. Leonard, Editor

**Morality or Immorality of Works of Art and Literature.**—The attitude of the people, the community, the authorities and the courts about the morality of works of art and literature are often not in keeping with each other because accepted standards are unknown.

A questionnaire has been developed to determine the present standards. Those who reply to this questionnaire will contribute toward the establishment of rules that may guide in the future.

Questionnaire blanks and franks may be obtained from DR. W. G. ELIASBERG, 151 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y.

**Polygraph Examiners Hold Annual Conference.**—The 1954 annual conference of the Academy for Scientific Interrogation was held in Washington, D. C., September 16, 17 and 18, with some one hundred fifty members and visitors present for the occasion. Included among the papers presented, in addition to the Presidential Address by LeMoyn Snyder, M.D., Physician, Attorney, Medico-Legal Expert, and author of the well-known text, *Homicide Investigation*, were *Drugs and Instrumental Interrogation* by Herbert P. Lyle, M.D., Past-President of the Academy, Physician and Coroner of Hamilton County, Ohio; *Use of the Polygraph by the Military Police Corps* by Major General William Henry Maglin, Provost Marshal General, U. S. Army, graduate of the U. S. Military Academy and of the Command and General Staff School; *The Ciucci Trial* by Albert L. Breitzmann, President-elect, A.S.I., member of the Police Department of Evanston, Illinois; *What's Wrong with Us as Scientific Interrogators?* by Willis R. Adams, Personnel and Investigative Consultant, Carlisle, Pennsylvania; *Model Plan for Presentation of Evidence Before a Court of Law* by Arthur W. Drew, Jr., Personnel Consultant, Providence, R. I.; *Information*

*Under Hypnosis* by Hugo G. Beigel, Ph.D., New York City—Fellow and Member of Executive Committee of the Society for Clinical and Experimental Hypnosis; *Utility of Narcoanalysis in Routine Criminal Investigations* by James H. Matthews, M.D., Narcoanalyst, Department of Surgery, Division of Anesthesiology, University of Minnesota Medical School; *Interrogation of Juveniles* by Lt. Clarissa Young, Lansing, Michigan Police Department; *Interesting Experiences of an Instrument Manufacturer* by James F. Inman, Associated Research, Inc., Chicago, Illinois; *The Polygraph in State Police Investigations* by William L. Nevin, Detective Sergeant, Pennsylvania State Police; *The Polygraph-General Considerations* by Fabian L. Rouke, Ph.D., of Lie Detector Consultants, Inc., and Manhattan College, New York City; *Special Problems of Interrogation in the Investigation of Sex Crimes* by Donal E. J. MacNamara, Chairman, Law Enforcement Institutes, Graduate School of Public Administration, New York University; *Polygraph Examination With the Aid of an Interpreter* by A. M. Josephson, Criminal Investigator, Sheriff's Office, La Crosse, Wisconsin; formerly with Far East Criminal Investigation Laboratory, U. S. Army, Tokyo, Japan; *Selection of Active Electrode Areas for Measurement of the Galvanic Skin Response* by J. J. Heger, President, C. H. Stoelting Company, instrument makers, Chicago, Illinois; *The Scientific Interrogator vs. the Lie Detector* by Alex L. Gregory, Personnel Consultant, Detroit, Michigan; *Use of the Polygraph in a Correctional Institution* by John W. Buck, Director of Education, Indiana State Prison, Michigan City, Indiana; *The Appraisal of Witnesses* by Henry A. Davidson, M.D.; Clinical Director, Essex County Hospital, Cedar Grove, N. J.; Chairman, Psychiatric Section, American Academy of Forensic Sciences; author of "Forensic Psychiatry;"

*The Offender as the Psychiatrist Sees Him* by William H. Kelly, M.D.; Psychiatrist; Director, Memorial Guidance Clinic, Richmond, Va.; *Lie Detector Course at Camp Gordon* by Captain Charles N. Joseph, Military Police Corps, U. S. Army; Instructor, Lie Detector Section, The Provost Marshal General's School, Camp Gordon, Georgia; *Lie Detector Operations in Europe* by Chief Warrant Officer Mervin Cumpson, Military Police Corps, U. S. Army; Instructor, Lie Detector Section, The Provost Marshal General's School, Camp Gordon, Georgia; *Getting Acquainted and Understanding* by Carleton R. Cobb, Arson Investigator, Office of State Fire Marshal, Charleston, W. Va.; *Indicated Research in the Field of Deception Detection* by V. A. Leonard, Ph.D.; Chairman, Department of Police Science and Administration, College of Sciences and Arts, State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington; *The Scientific Interrogation of Juveniles* by Bernard R. Higley, Psychologist, The Alfred L. Wilson Children's Center, Columbus, Ohio; *Techniques of Personnel Counseling as Related to Scientific Interrogation* by Robert D. Steel, Special Agent, Office of Naval Intelligence, USN, San Diego, California; *Modification in the Polygraph Techniques as Applied at the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory* by Charles M. Wilson, Superintendent, Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory, and Joseph C. Wilimovsky, Staff Associate, Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory: to be read in the absence of the authors.

Colonel Calvin H. Goddard, ordnance and ballistics expert of Washington, D. C., and a major pioneer in the polygraph field was the banquet speaker.—EDITOR

**New Journal Appears.**—Vol. 1, No. 1, for October 1954, of *The Journal of Social Therapy* signaled a new contribution to correctional literature. This issue marks an historic point in the evolution of this publication. What has been the News Letter of the Medical Correctional Association now becomes the Journal of Social Therapy. Increased in size and elaborated in form and content, it symbolizes the Association's growth, in membership and in collective professional devotion.

*The Journal of Social Therapy* is conceived as a broad-gauge, flexible implementation of the Association's basic aim: "to band together all those especially concerned with or interested in the medical aspects of crime." This declaration connotes a wide range of initiative and endeavor; to help marshal this enterprise by recording its course and indicating its projection, the Journal proposes:

To provide a forum for the dissemination of ideas, suggestions and the fruits of experience in this and related fields;

To guide and clarify the variety of effort involved in the long-range purposes of social therapy;

To correlate current events and social trends in the zones of criminology, forensic medicine and therapies with specific interests and objectives;

To review with informed objectivity the cumulative literature bearing or impinging upon professional responsibilities in this field; and

To chronicle the activities of the Association and its members.

The progress represented in this first issue of the Journal has been made possible by the loyal support and cooperation of the Association's members and its interested patrons.

In their current stage the Association's endeavors emphasize the hope of bringing more scientific enlightenment into the treatment of social offenders. Lingering remnants of retributive justice impose upon prison-bound therapy a task virtually equivalent to the introduction of surgery in a morgue. As the handicap of that archaic principle is progressively eliminated, it is hoped to devote more attention to the constructive, forward-looking objective of expanding and elaborating the multiple techniques of rehabilitative therapy.

Ralph S. Banay, M.D., is Editor of the new Journal, and associated with him on the Editorial Board are Francis J. Braceland, M.D., James V. Bennett, LL.D., Walter Bromberg, M.D., John Donnelly, M.D., Kenneth G. Gray, Q.C., M.D., William H. Haines, M.D., Nathan K. Rickles, M.D., Paul L. Schroeder, M.D., Lowell S. Selling, M.D. and

Crerar Harris, Editorial Associate.—Note to the Editor.

**Prison Journalism.**—Since publication of "Prison Journalism" by Dr. Walter A. Lunden and William Nelson in *THE PRISON WORLD* for September–October, 1950 (see *Current Notes*, Vol. 42, No. 6, p. 782, of this JOURNAL), considerable interest has arisen in prison publications throughout the country. Warden B. R. Reeves, Draper Prison (Speigner) and Director J. M. McCullough, Jr., of the department of corrections and institutions of Alabama, in cooperation with the department of technical journalism of Iowa State College, published a *Handbook for Penal Press Editors* in 1952 which has been distributed free by the college to all inmate editors throughout the country. Within the last two years, the department of technical journalism of Iowa State College has made an individual analysis (critique) of approximately 50 separate prison publications and given suggestions to inmate editors relative to their magazines.

The new survey covers the same prison publications as reported in *The Prison World* in 1950, with four exceptions. *The Cactus Blossom* (Arizona) and the *Rahway Dome* (New Jersey) are no longer printed. *The Forum* (Nebraska) and *The Student* (Missouri) failed to supply current issues for examination. Since the first study appeared, recent developments have made more detailed examination and ratings possible. Instead of using the original Flesch formula, as in the 1950 study, the current analysis used the revised Flesch formula because of the greater accuracy in measuring readability and human interest content. In addition, the newer method is easier to apply and to interpret. The analysis of the 1953 publications centers around two areas—readability and human interest—in prison publications.

Reading ease was measured by length of sentences and length of words. A high score means easy reading. In order to obtain some basis of comparison, the readability and human interest of the April issue, 1953, of the *Reader's Digest* was used. The results of the scores show

that 11 of the 13 prison publications were more difficult and 2 easier to read than the *Reader's Digest*. In terms of human interest, three prison publications ranked higher than the *Reader's Digest* and 10 below. Of the 13 publications, *The Clock* (85.44) ranked first in readability and the *Menard Times* the lowest (56.38). The *Digest* score was 80.77 points. Six of the 13 publications fell below the 70 score which placed them in the "standard," "difficult" or "very difficult" to read, and seven were above 70 points in the "fairly easy," "easy" and "very easy" group.

In the last three years, certain publications have moved up or down the rating scale. In 1950, *The Clock* ranked 5th, but placed 1st in the current rating. *The Spokesman*, which was 6th in 1950, ranked 2nd in 1953 and *The Presidio*, which placed 11th in 1950, moved up to 3rd place in 1953. In contrast to these, *The Monthly Record*, which ranked 1st in 1950 dropped to 12th place in 1953. *The Prison Mirror*, which rated 2nd place in 1950, declined to 6th position in 1953. *The Hours*, rated 3rd place in 1950, fell to 7th position.

The human interest score has been obtained by counting names, personal pronouns and sentences referring to one or more readers. The higher the score the more interesting and readable a publication. The human interest ratings did not always agree with the readability scores. The *San Quentin News* (52.64) ranked 1st in human interest, and the *Lake Shore Outlook* (29.34) the lowest. *The Presidio*, which placed 3rd in easy reading, made 2nd place in human interest. *The Spectator*, which ranked 3rd in human interest, rated 10th in readability. *The Raiford Record*, which ranked 5th in readability, fell into 12th place in human interest. *The Hours* made 7th place in both ratings. The readability score for the *Reader's Digest* (80.77) was almost double the human interest score (44.74).

Although the readability and human interest ratings of the 13 publications do not cover all the prison magazines (about 70) published in the United States, the scoring does give a general idea of what makes a good publication and what does not. In comparing the ratings

of the prison publications with the *Reader's Digest*, it should be kept in mind that inmate publishers, while they do a good job do not have the staff or the equipment comparable to the *Digest*. *The Reader's Digest* can employ the better writers and editors in the nation and use the best presses available. In contrast to this, inmate staffs, with very few exceptions, are not paid for their work. Apart from this, there are no promotions or advancements in prison editorial positions. In many prisons, the staff turnover is very rapid because of expiration of sentence or parole. In addition, the printing equipment in most state prisons is antiquated and very often outmoded. As an exception, one large metropolitan daily newspaper on the west coast donated a linotype machine to a prison.—THE PRISON WORLD, July-August, 1954.

**Change in the Interpersonal Neighborhood Structure. A Criterion for the Evaluation of Agency Effectiveness.**—One criterion for evaluating the effectiveness of a New York City Youth Board Center was the increase in reciprocal relationships in the interpersonal neighborhood structure. As a juvenile delinquency preventive agency, it seemed important that an impact be made on the social environment affecting children in the area. The policy of the Youth Board is that any child of any race, color or creed living in a specific neighborhood is eligible to participate in the activities of a Youth Board Center. The problem in this particular case was how to go about setting up a new Center where none had previously existed. It was finally decided to set an opening date and then spread the word around the neighborhood that children who were interested in participating come to the Center and register on that date.

The registration forms requested information which formed the basis of studying aspects of the interpersonal structure of the neighborhood. The children were asked to indicate not only the activities in which they wished to participate but also to designate the names of children in the neighborhood with whom they would wish to participate in a specific activity.

The registration data were then analyzed by (1) diagramming the social atom<sup>1</sup> of each child, (2) spotting children by residence on a neighborhood map and indicating with whom each child had a reciprocal relationship. The latter provided a picture of the interpersonal neighborhood structure so far as agency membership was concerned. This interpersonal neighborhood structure was based on various functions which were indicated by the choice of activity and companions for such activity at the specific moment of registration.

This same procedure was carried out at two additional time points during the year, namely December and May. An examination of the three structures derived from these data readily reveals the spread of influence of the Youth Board Center in the neighborhood. For example, Structure I which was based on July data, showed a concentration only in the immediate block in which the Center was located. This indicated the close tie which existed among children living in the same block. Only four children who lived beyond this immediate block were tied into the interpersonal structure by reciprocal bonds. In Structure III based on April data, fifty-six children beyond the Center block show reciprocal bonds in the interpersonal structure.

For purposes of illustration, five cases have been selected from the first group of children who registered in July. These five were chosen because none of them had any reciprocal relationships with any other child who registered. Three of the subjects are boys identified as numbers 9, 11, and 13. Subjects 35 and 59 are girls. By obtaining the role score<sup>2</sup> of these children the growth in social relationships may be seen and the strategic position which the individual holds in the networks of the interpersonal structure. The change in role scores between July and May are shown in Table I.

The increase in role scores indicates that these children during this period from July to

<sup>1</sup>L. M. KERSTETTER, *A Sociometric Study of the Classroom Roles of a Group of Highly Gifted Children*. Unpublished Doctor's Dissertation, School of Education, New York University, 1952. p. 13.

<sup>2</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 14.

TABLE I  
COMPARATIVE ROLE SCORES OF FIVE SELECTED  
CASES IN A NEW YORK CITY YOUTH  
BOARD CENTER

Child	Role Score July	Role Score May
9	0	10.00
11	0	13.50
13	0	30.65
35	0	54.75
59	0	24.70

May established satisfying relationships with other children to such an extent that reciprocal bonds have developed in the structure. This reciprocity indicates a more favorable social environment for each one of these children in the neighborhood. If the activities of these children and those with whom they have established close bonds can continue to be guided into worthwhile directions it may act as a deterrent to acts of delinquency.—Contributed by Leona M. Kerstetter of Hunter College, New York City.

**Report on Foreign Probation.**—There is no scientific formula for deciding which adult criminals should be granted probation, but the relatively new theory of probation has become a recognized remedial method. These findings were included in a report published in United Nations, N. Y., on a study made by Dr. Max Grunhut, reader in criminology at Oxford University, in co-operation with the Department of Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

The study was concerned with the systems of adult probation in Britain, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands and the United States. The findings of Dr. Grunhut indicate that probation—which they say is too often considered by the public a “soft” treatment—is generally successful with 70 to 80 per cent of those placed on it. The report concluded by pointing to the financial aspects of probation. There is not only the direct savings on prison expenses, but indirect help to the economy as “it offers an opportunity, albeit within a regulated framework, to the proba-

tioner to undertake his share of economic responsibilities on an equal basis with other members of the community”.—MICHIGAN POLICE JOURNAL, October, 1954.

**Illinois Youth Commission.**—A new program for handling juvenile delinquents and criminals went into effect in Illinois on January 1. Under the new system, the recently created Illinois Youth Commission took over supervision of the State Training Schools, including the boys’ reformatory and two state training schools for girls and boys, respectively.

Important features of the program provide that: (1) judges will impose maximum sentences on youthful felons and sentence them to the commission’s custody; (2) discretion as to when youthful prisoners shall be paroled, short of the maximum term, will lie strictly with the commission; (3) at the commission’s discretion, juvenile male prisoners may be shifted between the training school and the reformatory. Under the law the commission must review the status of each juvenile in its custody every year. Two advisory boards—the Communities Service Advisory Board and the Correctional Services Advisory Board—have been appointed by the Governor to assist the commission in its program.—STATE GOVERNMENT, April, 1954.

**Alabama Parole Officers Meet.**—The Alabama Probation and Parole Association held its annual meeting on the campus of the University of Alabama on October 12–14. Dr. George G. Killinger, U. S. Parole Board, and Dr. Edward L. Fleming, Jr., Child Guidance Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida, were discussion leaders. Approximately 125 people attended.

The Alabama Correctional Research Association, an organization composed of state and federal correctional service workers, U. S. Air Force representatives and University faculty and students, began its fourth year with a meeting at the University on October 5. Mr. L. B. Stephens, Executive Director, Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles, reviewed problems in the estimation of crime trends.—FROM DOLORES COOK, Secretary, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Alabama.

**Middle Atlantic Conference.**—The Middle Atlantic States Conference of Correction will hold its Annual Meeting at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on March 23, 24, and 25, 1955.

The sessions will convene on Wednesday afternoon, March 23, 1955, with an address by Mr. Frank Flynn of the University of Chicago. The Wednesday night meeting will be a discussion of the use of psychotherapy in correction. Thursday will be devoted to workshops—the morning session to a discussion of "Probation,

Institution and Parole Rules—Why?"; and the afternoon meeting will be devoted to a discussion of the treatment process in correction.

The annual banquet will be held on Thursday night. On Friday morning, there will be a discussion of supervision problems in probation and parole.

Inquiries about the Conference can be addressed to Elton R. Smith, President, Middle Atlantic States Conference of Correction, Box 66, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.—From ELTON R. SMITH, Asst. Supt. of Parole Supervision, Harrisburg, Pa.

## ILLINOIS ACADEMY OF CRIMINOLOGY

The first meeting of the Illinois Academy of Criminology for the year 1954-1955 was held on Monday, October 25, 1954. The program was as follows:

### The Sheriff in Enforcement and Correction

JOSEPH D. LOHMAN

Past President of the Academy and currently elected to the office of Sheriff of Cook County, November 2, 1954

Mr. Edward H. Stullken, President of the Academy, opened the meeting with a welcome to members and guests. He then introduced Mr. Lohman whose talk is given in abstract below.

Anyone who runs for the office of Sheriff, begins to see in the campaigning itself, some of the problems involved in law enforcement and criminal justice. In Cook County, there has been a development of organized gambling and racketeering, a syndicate which takes on the nature of a business, with the usual balancing of profit and loss. The syndicate "plays the percentages." It must maintain an "open house," and must be free to operate. This is the crux of the problem of organized crime. The syndicate must neutralize the law. Crime is organized only to the extent that this is permitted by political officials.

Historically, the office of Sheriff represents a carry-over to modern urban life of an office

primarily adapted to a rural situation. In Cook County, the various incorporated areas have taken on special police powers and law enforcement apparatus. The sheriff's office has not kept abreast of changes in the metropolitan scene. As a result, the people have come to depend less and less upon the sheriff's office for law enforcement.

The sheriff is, in fact, the one person in the county who can effectively carry out crime prevention activities and deal with juvenile delinquency. What is necessary is to bring to the sheriff's office a higher level of knowledge and training, and a bonafide program for dealing with delinquency. A disproportionate percentage of youthful offenders from Cook County are committed to the Illinois State Training School as compared with counties throughout the state. In the past four years, juvenile delinquency in Cook County has increased by 31 per cent. Juveniles must be protected from those community influences

that undermine morality. The most prominent of these are selling liquor to minors, narcotics peddling, and racket football pools in high schools and junior colleges. These are problems over which the sheriff and county officials should exercise controls. The sheriff's office must develop understanding of the individual factors which produce juvenile delinquents, and exercise a positive function in addition to the usual negative function of arrest.

There has been a great increase in the population of the incorporated areas of Cook County. The sheriff's office is responsible for enforcing laws in both incorporated and unincorporated areas. What is necessary is a positive training program: assistance to various local police departments; creation in the sheriff's office of a high example of law enforcement; a training

school to serve the smaller units in the county; a coordinated county signal system; and a systematizing of information and records so that the county will know where to concentrate on the greatest needs. The sheriff's police should be developed as examples of the most ideal police system.

Another responsibility of the sheriff's office is the administration of the County Jail. It is proposed to put into effect there, measures of examination and treatment that will make prisoners less of a threat when they are released. The sheriff's office is also responsible for personnel who represent the courts. For example, the legal profession should not be expected to pay tributary fees to the sheriff's office in addition to regularly constituted legal fees.