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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 Baliscope and the Detector—Pierre Hegg, *Revue de criminologie et de police technique*, 4 (No. 2): 189-190 (April-June, 1952). Describes an apparatus for the recovery of bullets for comparison using a vessel two-thirds full of glucose syrup. Claims minimum distortion, instant recovery of specimen, and small space requirements.

The detector is a set up for quick examination of money or documents by either reflected or transmitted light through interchangeable lenses supported by a pantograph. (MC)

Research on the Analysis of the Ink of Handwritten Documents—Doctor Charles Sannie and Zeev Moloster, *Revue de criminologie et de police technique*, 4 (No. 2): 154-167 (April-June, 1952). The author describes the technique of chromatography on paper which gives positive and demonstrable identification or differentiation as to any two or more samples of ink line. The apparatus required is normal laboratory equipment, and no special materials other than suitable paper for chromatography are needed. Sampling methods are outlined. Defacement of documents is held to a minimum. Qualitatively the constituents of the samples are readily determined by checking against known standards. Some information is given regarding the dye stuffs and other materials currently used in the manufacture of the four groups of commercial inks. The article contains an extensive bibliography. (MC)

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Infra-Red in Judicial Investigation—Rene Lechat, *Revue de criminologie et de police technique*, 4 (No. 2): 167-176 (April-June, 1952). Direct and photographic examination under infra-red by electronic image converter used by St. Louis Police Department. Of interest in examination of documents, cloth, spots and stains, skin, pigments, and dyes. Gives considerable background information relating to direct infra-red photography and ultra-violet examination by older techniques. (MC)

Use of Human Excrement in Development of Clues in Criminology—Walter Hepner, *Revue de criminologie et de police technique*, 4 (No. 2): 176-185 (April-June, 1952). Interesting cases from practice illustrate the procedures of identification. Explains the valuable information often put at the disposal of the investigator by careful work at the scene and competent laboratory analysis. Description of extremely useful apparatus for cleansing and assorting samples is also given. Previously published in German. (MC)

A Transparent Table for Microscopic Examination of Documents—Jacques Mathyer, *Revue de criminologie et de police technique*, 4 (No. 2): 191-192 (April-June, 1952). Describes a table providing controlled direct light and trans-illumination for both direct and microscopic examination. A bridge permits work to be placed directly under the microscope. (MC)

Typewriting Identification—*FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, October 1954, 10-15. An article touching on the fundamentals of typewriting identification is directed toward the field investigator rather than the technician. (OH)

Catching Check Passers—Edward Dowdall, *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, October 1954, 8-9. The author describes a technique of warning merchants that fraudulent check passers are operating by having one merchant alerted in each block to notify neighbors of the presence of check passers. This "block system" has worked effectively in White Plains, New York. (OH)

Witness or Advocate—Questioned Document Examiner—Donald Doud, *Illinois Bar Journal*, August 1954. The author discusses and contrasts the truly scientific document examiner with the incompetent or dishonest expert who may appear in court. He presents criteria for the trial attorney in selecting an expert and evaluating those that he may encounter in the courtroom. (OH)

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy—*Industrial Bulletin of Arthur D. Little, Inc.*, No. 313, October 1954, 1-2. A brief discussion of spectroscopy using nuclear magnetic response is presented. This type of spectroscopy was discovered only eight years ago and depends upon the effect of magnetic fields on the movement of spinning nucleus. The method is non-destructive, and instruments are on the market which allow rapid n-m-r analysis of small liquid samples. The method is most effective with liquids. (OH)

Possible Factor In Sudden and Unexpected Death During Infancy—David M. Spain, Victoria A. Bradess, and Irving J. Greenblatt, *J.A.M.A.* 156: 246 (September 1954). It is estimated that several thousand infants in apparently good health die suddenly and unexpectedly in the United States each year. Such deaths have been ascribed by different observers to accidental mechanical suffocation, enlargement of the thymus, abnormalities of adrenal gland function, and various forms of infection. These authors studied the serum gamma globulin of the infants who died unexpectedly and suddenly and found that in each instance it was reduced to less than 60%

of normal control sera. The antibodies which normally aid in resistance to infections are associated with gamma globulin. In the several weeks following birth, the infant depends upon antibodies received from the mother's blood via the placenta, and it is in the period of approximately two to three months of age that these antibodies have reached a low ebb, and the infant has not yet begun to manufacture antibodies of his own in appreciable quantities. Thus, this is a critical age and apparently some infants are much more vulnerable to infection than others as a result of the condition described in this paper.

The importance of this article is that frequently infants' deaths are ascribed to neglect or criminal activities and parents are left with a feeling of guilt about the death, or in occasional cases, there may actually be suspicion or prosecution in such cases. It would be valuable to establish as a routine the examination of sera of infants found dead in these circumstances. This can be readily accomplished with paper electrophoresis techniques. (FRD)

Sabotage and Its Investigation—A. Cuelnaere, *L'Officier de police*, 1-20. Traces etymology. Relates development of sabotage from labor weapon to instrument of war. Sabotage, through violence and psychological attack, proves effective against power, communication, and transportation. Strategy hinges on choice of a vital link. It should take account of long range results, including knowledge of adversary's over-all strategy if possible.

Technical investigation of subversion should aim to reveal the originator, the motive, the inspiration or complicity, and the possible existence of organization. Usual acts of sabotage include breakage of machines and equipment, cutting of cables and ropes, use of contaminants and explosives, and measures against personnel.

Counter measures involve organization of security forces, control of access, screening of personnel, emergency planning, communications and mapping, liaison with police and military, and espionage. Bibliography. (MC)

Determining the Age of Latent Prints—L. P. Stackable, *Fingerprint Magazine*, 36: 7-8, 31 (July, 1954). Mr. Stackable sets forth his method of determining the age of latents by comparing the crime scene latents, after they have been identified, with test latents which the subject is required to place on similar objects, while trying to duplicate the conditions prevailing at the time the crime was committed.

The adhering power of the "Crime" latents for the powder is compared to the test latents which are powdered at intervals until one is found that will cause approximately the same amount of powder to adhere.

He further states that it is well for the technician to "know" the developing powder he uses and its limitations.

Mr. Stackable stresses that the results given are opinions and that elimination inked fingerprints should be secured where other latents equally fresh are developed and not identified with the subject. (JWT)

National Association of Arson Investigators—The 1955 annual meeting of the IAAI will be held April 26, 1955, at 7 p.m. in Memorial Hall, Purdue University, in conjunction with the 11th Annual Seminar in Arson Detection and Investigation. Members of the association are urged to be present as the agenda will contain important matters, including election of officers, value and continuance of various IAAI publications, and what additional aids can be offered the membership.