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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 Use of Fingerprints Found on the Scene of a Crime—U. Sorrentino, *International Criminal Police Review*, No. 85, 51-2 (February, 1955). The article reviews the procedure for comparison of fingerprints found at the scene of a crime against various files, such as palm prints of habitual criminals and single fingerprint indexes. (JDN)

A New Method of Testing for Seminal Stains—S. P. Berg, *International Criminal Police Review*, No. 85, 53-5 (February, 1955). A review of the various methods for detection of seminal stains with emphasis on the detection by use of enzyme acid phosphatase. The new method proposed by Berg uses the substrate developed by Seligman and Mannheimer. The reaction differs from that proposed by Walker through the use of dianisyltetrazonium chloride. The end reaction is an intense bluish-violet.

The reagent has been tested against various common secretions, such as saliva, blood serum, traces of food, and vaginal fluid—all with negative results. Seminal stains have been successfully detected on items kept at room temperature for one year. The author states that the reaction is specific for semen. (JDN)

Training Pays Off—S. Marcher, *The American Rifleman*, 102: 17-19, 76 (December, 1954). A discussion of the training program of the Los Angeles Police Academy with respect to the handling of weapons and the production of good marksmen. In addition to

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training in small arms, cadets are taught to use the 12-gauge riot gun and the Thompson and Reising sub-machine guns. Other auxiliary weapons such as gas and gas grenades complete the training of the Los Angeles police cadet. The ratio of criminals killed to police fatalities over the period of 1920-1950 has changed from 3.6 to 1 to 21.5 to 1, showing the merit of an excellent training program. (JDN)

Adapting Color Photography to Police Work—J. F. Shumate, *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 23: 6-9 (November, 1954). The use of 35-mm. cameras with color film and the eventual projection of transparencies in court is discussed. The application of color photography to routine accident scenes by the Denver Police Department indicates that this media is capable of general application in the hands of moderately experienced photographers. The Denver Police Department has established a Modus Operandi file in color, and it is their experience that many identifications which would have been missed in a black and white were possible when colored photography was used. (JDN)

Check at Bureau of Motor Vehicles—Anon., *Spring 3100*, 25: 6-9, 18, 22 (October, 1954). A review of the procedure at the New York City Police Department in regard to check of vehicle licenses, operators' licenses, chauffeurs' licenses, and motor vehicle conviction file. The problem of enforcing a noncompliance order is discussed. (JDN)

Chemical Identification of the Amanita Toxin in Mushrooms—S. S. Block, R. L. Stephens, A. Barreto, W. A. Murrill, *Science*,

121 (3145): 505 (8 April, 1955). A simple chromatographic method of extracting and identifying the toxin from several of the amanita mushrooms is described. (JFW)

Chromatographic Fractionation of Roofing Asphalt—*Technical News Bulletin*, National Bureau of Standards, 39 (4): (April, 1955). A method of separating various fractions of roofing asphalt by chromatography used in the study of degradation effects of weather exposure on asphalt. The principles and the technique or variations might be useful in comparison of asphalt or similar materials obtained as evidence. (JFW)

Photographic Methods for Deciphering Erased Pencil Writing—Ordway Hilton, *International Criminal Police Review*, No. 85, 47-50 (February 1955). A discussion of the standard photographic procedures available for deciphering erased pencil writing is supplemented by a presentation of a new technique utilizing low intensity, subdued light illumination. The author recommends reduction of light intensity so that with north daylight illumination and moderate speed emulsions exposure time runs between 2 and 5 minutes with the lens at f. 11. This method has produced acceptable results when other techniques failed. (OH)