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Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes

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POLICE SCIENCE TECHNICAL ABSTRACTS AND NOTES

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Abstractors

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Differential Measurements of Reflectance—C. A. Lermond and L. B. Rogers, *Analytical Chemistry*, 27 (3): 340 (March, 1955). This paper presents a study designed to evaluate the applicability of reflectance measurements to problems encountered by analytical chemists. Using a Beckman Model DU Spectrophotometer with reflectance and photomultiplier attachments qualitative and quantitative reflectance readings were made on such material as dyed cloth and yarn specimens and dry powdered materials. This type of examination might be useful to the criminalist in comparing one more characteristic in more precise terms than mere appearance to the naked eye. (JFW)

A Spectrochemical Procedure of General Applicability—Edwin K. Jaycox, *Analytical Chemistry*, 27 (3): 347 (March, 1955). The author describes a spectrochemical method for semiquantitative or quantitative analysis for the determination of the metallic constituents—particularly the major components—of almost any material, based on the use of a single set of standards and capable of an accuracy of better than 50% for all determinations. This procedure is claimed to fulfill most of these requirements. Germanium dioxide as a filler and cupric oxide and graphite as buffers, in both samples and standards tend to establish a common base so that the emission lines

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used in the analysis are comparable in all kinds of samples and in the standards. (JFW)

Annual Reviews—*Analytical Chemistry*, 27: (4) Part II. This review of analytical methods includes many items of possible interest to the criminalist with references to the original literature for those who desire more details. (JFW)

X-Ray Reproduction Using Bromide Paper for Negative Material—M. Maher-Moussa, *Photographic Science and Technique*, Series II, 2 (2): 94 (May 1955). The author describes a method for making intermediary, small size positives of X-ray films on ordinary photographic paper and treating these papers with various oil mixtures to make the print translucent in order to prepare the final negative print. The best results reported were with three volumes of thin machine oil with one volume of turpentine. (OH)

Some Photographic Copying Methods Useful in a Library—Karl M. Weigert, *Photographic Science and Technique*, Series II, 2 (2): 79-80 (May, 1955). The author describes methods of copying material in libraries, including reflex copies, copying with a Leica camera and ordinary room lighting, and a simple reflex copying method. All techniques require a minimum of special equipment and would be useful for obtaining working copies of library reference material. (OH)

Soil Identification—O. R. Hansen, *International Criminal Police Review*, No. 86: 76-7 (March, 1955). Advantage is taken of the

variety of fungi and microorganisms in soil to establish identity or non-identity. An agar medium containing glycerol and asparagine at pH 8 is used. Samples suspended in distilled water are added to melted agar in dishes and incubated at 22–28° for several days. Standard methods are used for comparison or identification. Only a small stain of mud is required. (JDN)

Arson Investigators Determine the Fire Cause—C. J. Shields, *International Association of Arson Investigators Newsletter*, 5: 30–45 (September, 1954). A discussion of various natural causes of fire and methods for their determination. (JDN)

Directory of University and College Criminology Programs—F. M. Boolsen, Department of Criminology of Fresno State College, Fresno, California. A catalog (second edition) of pre-employment training programs offered by thirty-three American and Canadian educational institutions in the fields of law enforcement, criminalistics, and correction. (JDN)

X-Ray Diffraction in Crime Detection—*Norelco Reporter*, 2 (No. 3): 35–48 (May–June, 1955). A group of reprints of recent articles on the use of X-ray diffraction in crime laboratories. (JDN)

Critique of the Proposed Santamaria Method of Comparing Ridge Prints—J. V. Perez and M. L. Ibanez, *Fingerprint and Identification Magazine*, 36 (No. 12) 3, 4, 5, 20 (June, 1955). The authors in this article state their opinions of the question raised by the paper of Mr. Florentino Santamaria Beltran, regarding fingerprint identification. The paper published by Mr. Santamaria in the *Peruvian Revista de Policia Technica* (Technical Police Magazine), issues No. 187 to 194—July, 1953 to February, 1954, state the value of qualitative criterion over the quantitative view-point. The authors agree on all points of the Santamaria papers with slight reservations and modifications. They believe that an arbitrary numerical value should be assigned to each of the thirteen types of ridge characteristics and that when the sum of these relative values reaches a minimum of ten, the identification of two impressions should be established. The quantity of points, being the present accepted system, is challenged, and a system of evaluating the frequency of rare formations to be substituted is the essence of the article. (TWB)

Investigation of Homicide Seminar—Institute of Industrial Health announces its Fifth Annual Seminar for police officers on the investigation of homicide which will be held the week of October 3–8, 1955. (OH)