

1956

## Police Science Book Reviews

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### Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 46 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 917 (1955-1956)

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

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Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb\*

FORGERY AND FICTITIOUS CHECKS. By *Julius L. Sternitzky*. Charles C Thomas, Pub., Springfield, Ill., 1955. Pp. 101. \$4.75.

In his book Mr. Julius L. Sternitzky leaves much to be desired by those engaged in combating fraudulent check artists. Much of the book is taken up with personal experience and is repetitious in the use of the perpendicular pronoun. If the purpose for writing this book was to assist other investigators through the author's observations, his gesture is indeed commendable. However, if he is portraying himself as an authority, he misleads us.

The author in invading the field of document examination is oft-times misleading, and he may find objections to many of his ideas. It appears he could have contributed much in the way of valuable information to police departments and investigators who are in the process of setting up check files and modus operandi systems. It is felt that a more detailed explanation on procedure and maintainance of this type of file would fill a need in this rather newly developed field.

The exhibits used are excellent and proper credit for them is given to the Oakland (California) Police Department.

The author's recommendation that a bogus check be held up to the light to observe the "faults" (watermark) may receive much criticism. He refers to a lithographed trademark belonging to a legitimate and highly respected company which appears on check safety paper . . . is this in itself an indication of wrong-doing?

The chapter on "Ink" is not very informative, and in the chapter, "Precautions to be Used by Banks," the author offers nothing new in the field of precautions to be used by banks.

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The American Banking Association's numerical system of identification of checks is a sound, basic system developed over the years. The author persists in calling it the clearinghouse number and explains only the upper or numerator portion of the system at the expense of the denominator. He at no time alludes to the position and size of the numbers. Again, he may be criticized for this oversight.

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NARCOTICS AND NARCOTIC ADDICTION. By *David W. Maurer, Ph.D. and Victor H. Vogel, M.D.* Charles C Thomas Publisher, 1954. Pp. 303. \$7.50.

Chapter I gives a brief history of addiction followed by a description of the social distribution of narcotics. Pages 10-12 deal with the acceptance and rejection of tobacco in its various forms, which is an unnecessary example. Pages 22-28 define "addict" and "addiction" with page 27 giving the authors' definition as including one or more of the following phenomena: 1. Tolerance 2. Physical dependance 3. Habituation or emotional dependance. Considerable portions of the remainder of the book explain, defend, and enlarge on point 3. Pages 31-36 describe methods of taking drugs, and 36-45 to the smoking of opium.

The first part of Chapter II lists and describes opiates and their synthetic equivalents. Pages 64-77 give an excellent description of the effects of opiates and of withdrawal symptoms.

Chapter III lists addicting non-opiate sedatives. Some of these not usually thought of as addicting are so considered by the authors on the basis of point 3 mentioned above. On page 92 the authors have referred to the intoxicating compound present in marihuana as

"cannabinol". This is an error since it has been shown by Roger Adams to whom the authors refer that the compound is tetrahydrocannabinol, and cannabinol has little or no activity. The last portion of this chapter gives the physiological and psychological aspects of addiction to the above drugs. This information is very good but rather poorly arranged in its presentation. Chapter IV deals with the addicting stimulant drugs; while Chapter V gives 20 signs to look for in a suspected addict as possible presumptive evidence of addiction. The authors emphasize that it is impossible for even a trained man to prove addiction by an offhand observation and examination of an individual so it should never be attempted by the untrained, a very good point. This latter chapter gives methods for the identification of drugs, which are the usual ones. Page 142 presents the modified Beam test for marihuana. This test should not be used since it shows only the presence of cannabinol, and not tetrahydrocannabinol which is the active compound of marihuana. There are two satisfactory tests that the reviewer has used for tetrahydrocannabinol. The preferred one is the Duquenois-Negm test which is simple and can be conducted on a few particles of marihuana directly with very good results. Most of the tests listed are not greatly detailed as there was no intention to make this chapter a laboratory reference for testing methods.

Chapter VI concerns the treatment of narcotic addiction in individuals. In the reviewer's opinion this is the best portion of the entire book. Here is presented an excellent discourse imparting to the reader a portion of the wealth of information possessed by the authors in their speciality of treating addicts.

Chapter VII is a brief history of attempted and adopted legal controls for drugs of addiction; Chapter VIII shows the relationship between narcotic addiction and crime. The information is factual; however, the emphasis is that of one interested primarily in the treatment of addiction.

Chapter IX covers available information of youth and addiction, and the final chapter is a rambling discourse on addict slang which is evidently introductory to 31 pages of terms commonly used by underworld addicts.

The reviewer does not highly recommend this book, but if it is available, one should take advantage of the valuable information presented in particularly the sixth chapter and the two following. A reader rarely has the opportunity to learn of problems and methods involved in the treatment of narcotic addicts presented by two men so well versed in a field so very small.

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