

1956

Police Science Book Reviews

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

Police Science Book Reviews, 47 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 143 (1956-1957)

This Criminology 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.

POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb*

THE POLICE SERGEANTS MANUAL. By *B. W. Gocke and H. L. Stallings.* O. W. Smith, Publisher, Los Angeles, Calif. 1955. Pp. 350. \$4.50

This is a revision of a book that should be considered as a standard in the police field. Considerable new and useful material has been added. While the title presents this as a manual for Sergeants, the greatest part of the material is very useful to any commanding officer.

Chapter 1. Police Administration and Departmental Procedures. Many of the views in this chapter can be adapted with certain revisions to most departments although some of the suggestions are above the reach of most smaller departments. Many of the records recommended are neglected because the executive heads of the smaller departments are taken from the oldest men in years of service rather than from the most able.

Chapter 2. The Police Sergeant. I am in perfect accord with this chapter. Many of the recommended attributes must come from a careful recruitment program. The desired qualities can be developed provided promotional material is hired.

Chapter 3. The Development of a Sergeant. There has been considerable improvement in training and much will be done in the future if information gained by experienced personnel is shared in training programs. Most states realize the importance of Police Training and many State University courses have and are being established. It is a 'must' that promotional material be assigned to these schools.

Chapter 4. Relations Between the Sergeant and Other Men. This chapter, along with Chapters 6, 11, 14, and 15 are, to my mind, the most important chapters in this work. All stress the human side of Command and relations with others with whom we are required to spend

many hours in all types of work and under all kinds of conditions. Care must be exercised by all Command to keep sight of the human side of our jobs and to sell good relations with all persons contacted.

Chapter 5. Leadership by Inspiration. This chapter recognizes the constant 'parade' in which all police officers are called to participate in their daily rounds. The policeman represents city government to both residents and visitors.

Chapter 6. The Sergeant as a Builder of Morale. Here is stressed the importance of the basic fundamental for any successful business. Many of the causes of failure in business has been caused by the breakdown of the morale of the employees of that business.

Chapter 7. The Sergeant as a Disciplinarian. Men schooled in the contents of this chapter would be a great help in relieving the commanding officers of those minor details which are time consuming and, while no less important than many other details, may well be delegated.

Chapter 8. Routine Duties of a Sergeant. It appears that much of the routine duty of the Sergeant as covered in this chapter is left to the imagination of the individual Sergeant. Many of the routine duties seem to have been omitted, possibly because of common knowledge or because of their simplicity.

Chapter 9. Planning. In most departments, the planning for the activities of a shift or division are the prerogatives of the top command. The approach in this manual may be that used in some of the larger departments and seems to the writer to be of value to 'get the job done'. It may well be necessary for any department head attempting to change the old system so as to follow this manual to move with caution and to discuss with Command before the Sergeant makes many of the decisions or plans recommended by the writer.

Chapter 10. Leadership and Command. Chapters 10 and 11 are closely associated and

* Chief, Bureau of Police Science, Institute of Public Affairs, State Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City.

any failure in applying Chapter 10 may well effect Chapter 11. Here again the personal side of our work is stressed, and a good approach is made by the author to guide the Sergeant to the successful completion of his job.

Chapter 11. The Sergeant's Control Over his Man; Inspection of Results. All factors covered in Chapter 11 are most important to the success of any department. Much stress must be placed upon teaching 'how', explaining the need and then seeing that they get the job done.

Chapter 12. The Problem of Rating. The discussion deals with rating and appears to place a good deal of responsibility upon the Sergeant which might belong to some one in a higher position. The material covered, and the method of application to the benefit of the departments are in accord with the reviewers ideas.

Chapter 13. Report Writing. This chapter treats one of the most important duties of any police officer whether he be in a command position or the newest recruit. The authors cover their material completely and in good detail. The subject matter and contents of reports is complete, and it appears there is only one factor lacking. How do you obtain these reports? What steps are necessary to require officers to make complete reports? All of the accepted arguments have been used to make men see the importance of good reports, why reports are necessary, etc., but most police officers look upon reports as only one of the necessary evils.

Chapter 14. The Sergeant as an Adviser to New Officers. This chapter presents one of the most important parts of the Sergeant's job. It is important to the department and to the success of any new recruit to understand the aims, policies, and performance of police functions.

Chapter 15. Public Relations. Good public relations and the understanding and respect of the citizens of any community are a must for a successful police operation. Cooperation with the department's attempts to enforce laws, promote programs of safety and other police programs can only come from a well informed

citizenry who are sold on their department and its well being.

Chapters 16, 17, and 18. The Sergeant as a Counsellor to Subordinates, The Sergeant as a Source of Information, The Sergeant and Present Day Training Programs are of real value to the successful Sergeant and the Police administrator in the assistance and advice he may render to the old or new officer. Department heads may also derive considerable benefit from the use of the information a Sergeant can obtain that would not be available through any other source. Men are reluctant to confide in someone who may be much higher in rank and so more removed from his individual problem.

The information contained in the Appendix of this work is both thought stimulating and provocative. Much assistance in the selection of promotional material is contained within these pages.

I have found this book to be one of the best and most complete works on police functions I have had the privilege of reading. Its installation as required reading in most police departments would be of great benefit to the individual officer, the department and to the public in general. I heartily endorse this book in its entirety.

OLIVER A. WHITE

Chief of Police
Iowa City, Iowa

Book Notes

THE POLICEMAN'S MANUAL. By *Carl Vollmer*. Arco Publishing Co., New York, 1954, pp. 113, \$2.50.

According to the foreword *The Policeman's Manual* attempts to bring to the policeman, regardless of rank or assignment, information that will aid him in his daily work as well as prepare him for promotion. This attempt missed the goal. The material is sketchy, aimed largely at the New York Police Department, and poorly presented. This book cannot be recommended.

R. L. H.