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Body Build in the Prediction of Delinquency

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Richard L. Holcomb*

BLUTALKOHOL. 2nd edition. Edited by Dr. H. Elbel and Dr. F. Schleyer. Pub: George Thieme, Stuttgart, Germany, 1956, VIII, Pp. 226. \$6.40.

This book summarizes our present knowledge in the forensically important methods of determination of blood alcohol percentages. The detail of the methods can not be given, but some headlines should be mentioned in order to point out the completeness of this report. "Blood Alcohol Under Particular Conditions," lists influences of food, habituation, muscle activity, temperature, altitudes, O₂-partial pressure, diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, undernourishment, unconsciousness, sleep, brain trauma, blood loss, CO poisoning, and the influence of hormones, vitamins, and certain drugs. The particular interest of the criminalist is served by statistical data (figures on alcohol as cause of traffic accident pp. 200 ff). German, Netherlandish, Scandinavian figures bear out the facts known from investigations in the United States. Blood alcohol of more than .15% is sure sign of unfitness for driving. However, the decisions of higher courts in Germany have not yet uniformly accepted this, obviously because they feel, in their conscience, that the individual driver has the right guaranteed by the due process of law clause of the constitution, to have his fitness or unfitness examined individually. Now, it remains to be seen how long this interpretation of the due process of law principle will resist the growing insight that indeed, the above mentioned percentage of alcohol is an objective at the same time a general sign of unfitness, rare case of exceptionally high tolerance to the contrary, notwithstanding.

W. G. ELIASBERG

New York

THE TECHNOLOGY OF COATED AND PROCESSED PAPERS. Edited by Robert H. Mosher, Remsen Press Division, The Chemical Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1952. Pp. 733, \$15.

Paper is a common place material in modern

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life and as a consequence may be found in many types of criminal investigations. The most common papers which are encountered in law enforcement work are writing and check papers, which are a part of formal documents, anonymous letters, or fraudulent checks. But there are many more uses of paper today, and the coated and processed papers with their many applications fulfill many of these functions. Obviously, from time to time they are bound to be encountered as physical evidence in criminal investigations.

The scope of this branch of paper technology is extremely broad—a fact one can readily appreciate after a study of this text. Among the more common products found are wall papers, water and gas proof papers, insulating papers, coated printing papers, roofing papers, and metal foil coated papers. The document examiner or police laboratory technician may only rarely be confronted with such papers, but when he is he will have a definite need for accurate, concise reference material. *The Technology of Coated and Processed Papers* answers this need.

The text itself was compiled for use in the paper converting industry. It supplements and augments Mr. Mosher's earlier text *Specialty Paper* (1950). Both should be in the reference library of every document examiner and police laboratory.

The present text discusses various types of paper coating including water-soluble, solvent, water-dispersion, hot-melt, and organosol and plastisol coatings. Here can be found the various materials used in these different classes of coatings and the technical problems of applying them. There are informative chapters on adhesives and lamination processes and on saturating agents and paper saturation. Printing inks are discussed in relation to the paper and the printing processes employed.

Among other valuable portions of this text are the extensive references at the end of each chapter, the fine index, and the knowledge that

the authors of each chapter are men well versed in the particular phase of the paper converting industry. Undoubtedly, in the eyes of the police scientists the most useful portion of this text would be found in the chapter on test methods especially in the short sections on the Analysis of Specialty Papers and Analytical Schemes. The text cannot make one an authority in this wide field, but it will give the forensic laboratory worker better knowledge of the identifying characteristics of coated and processed papers.

ORDWAY HILTON

Document Examiner
New York City

THE LIVING LEGEND. The Story of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. *Alan Phillips*. Little Brown and Co. 1957. Pp. 328. \$4.00.

Police cadets in the U.S.A.—if they sometimes think their training is long and tough—will find a tonic in this book. It is a corrective, too, especially for laymen who conceive of the Mountie as a man in a crimson tunic astride a beautiful horse.

The Canadian situation calls for four kinds of police: federal, provincial (rural), municipal, and frontier. Mounties are all four. They number only approximately 5,370, and they spread out over 3,600,000 square miles—which is all of Canada.

About one-half of the Mountie's time is devoted to investigation or detection. The training of the recruit from his first day, heads away from specialization toward versatility, self-completeness, and self-reliance. These human qualities are "musts". The one-man detachment at the country cross-road and throughout the remote north discovers why they are "musts." A statistical item has impressed this reviewer as a revelation of the effectiveness of at least one detail of the training of the RCMP: in the course of 170,000 investigations per year (average) gun-fire is exchanged in only two or three. Though he is carefully trained in the use of his gun, it is a matter of pride on the Mountie's part to leave it in its holster.

The book is divided into five parts: "The Hero", (which includes an exciting account of catching up with "The Mad Trapper of the Rat River"); "The Crucible", (which details the Mountie's long and exacting training); "The Secret War", (a story of the RCMP in the struggle against infiltration and spying by the Communists); "The Investigator" (including details of the search for the "Christmas Killer"); "The Frontier" (maintaining law and order in the lonely wastes far north.) There in the north the Mountie is a jack of all trades whose beat is hundreds of miles long in all directions.

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BODY BUILD IN THE PREDICTION OF DELINQUENCY

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INTRODUCTORY

The need for screening devices to identify potential delinquents before they have embarked on criminal careers is being more and more recognized as fundamental. A pioneer effort in the construction of three such instruments¹ and several checkings of one of them encourages further experimentation with such devices as the cornerstone of a wide and comprehensive prophylactic attack on juvenile delinquency. A description of these three predictive instruments, as developed by Professor Sheldon Glueck and myself, and validations of one of them, are presented in an article appearing in "The Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology and Police Science," July-August, 1956, and "Federal Probation" in September, 1956.² One of these devices is based on five traits of temperament, another on five traits of underlying character structure, and a third on five interpersonal factors of family life.

Because of findings made subsequent to the construction of these predictive devices concerning the role of body build in delinquency,³ it now becomes pertinent to reexamine them to see if they can be strengthened; for in the volume, "Physique and Delinquency," it was found that because of

¹ GLUECK, S. AND E., UNRAVELING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, New York, The Commonwealth Fund, 1950; see Chapter XX.

² GLUECK, S. AND E., *Early Detection of Future Delinquents*, JOUR. OF CRIM. L., CRIMINOL. AND POL. SCI., Vol. 47 (1956), pp. 174-182; GLUECK, ELEANOR T., "Spotting Potential Delinquents: Can It Be Done?" FEDERAL PROBATION, Vol. XX (Sept., 1956), pp. 7-13. See, also, *An Experiment in the Validation of the Glueck Prediction Scale: Progress Report from November 1952 to December 1956*, New York City Youth Board, Research Department, July, 1957.

³ GLUECK, S. AND E., PHYSIQUE AND DELINQUENCY, New York, Harper and Bros., 1956.

basic differences in certain aspects of temperament and character structure, some body types have a greater delinquency potential than do others, and that there are significant differences in the response of youngsters of different body builds to environmental stresses.

How, if at all, does the newly established dimension of body build in the patterning of delinquency modify the construction, and enhance the usefulness, of screening devices for identifying potential delinquents?

BODY BUILD AND THE PREDICTION TABLES IN "UNRAVELING JUVENILE DELINQUENCY"

To answer this query it is necessary to review the findings in "Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency" that pertain to differences in the body build (physique) of delinquents and non-delinquents. It will be recalled that for the purposes of that inquiry, 500 persistent male juvenile offenders and 500 non-offenders were matched case for case, by age, intelligence, residence in underprivileged areas, and ethnic origin. The ethnic matching of the delinquents and non-delinquents (Italian with Italian, Irish with Irish, Polish with Polish, and so on) enhances the significance of the differences in body build that were found in "Unraveling," namely, that twice the proportion of delinquents as of non-delinquents were of predominantly mesomorphic physique⁴ (60.1 percent:30.7 percent); while one third the proportion of predominantly ectomorphic physiques were found among

⁴ As derived from WILLIAM H. SHELDON'S THE VARIETIES OF HUMAN PHYSIQUE (New York, Harper and Bros., 1940, pp. 5-6):

"Mesomorphy means relative predominance of muscle, bone and connective tissue. The mesomorphic physique is normally heavy, hard, and rectangular in