

Summer 1959

## Police Science Book Reviews

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### Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 50 *J. Crim. L. & Criminology* 100 (1959-1960)

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that the polygraph machine results are 100 per cent perfect; that if one refuses such a test he is automatically guilty of some crime; that some newspaper articles have added to this illusion; that there were many polygraph operators who are not qualified under standards which the best polygraph operators would require; and it is important to our fundamental liberties concerning the administration of criminal law that the subject matter be studied and the results of the study stressed.

It is the consensus of the Committee that:

- 1) The machine or so-called lie detector certainly has its place in the detection of crime because of the psychological effect upon persons who are conscience stricken and who are in fact guilty of crime.
- 2) The outstanding well-qualified polygraph operators in Chicago admit that 95 per cent of the results of a polygraph machine, when successful in detecting crime, are due to the ability and experience of the polygraph operators; that normally there may be a margin of error of from 5 per cent to 30 per cent, depending on the ability of the operator and other factors.
- 3) Without reflection on anyone, there are polygraph operators in the Chicago area who are not qualified operators, and the results of their operations should be looked upon with great caution and care in order not to do unnecessary injury.
- 4) The polygraph machine is not a substitute in criminal law detection for hard, patient investigation of crime.
- 5) Neither the taking nor the failure to take a polygraph test should be given such weight as to do away with the ordinary presumption of innocence, as established by our criminal law jurisprudence.
- 6) In our criminal law jurisprudence, a man is presumed innocent until proven guilty; is entitled to be presented with a grand jury indictment; is entitled to confrontation of witnesses; has a right to counsel and to a jury trial. Therefore, the Committee is concerned with any trend which would do away with this system of jurisprudence by the substitution of a so-called lie detector box, the accuracy of which depends upon the competency of an operator.
- 7) Due to its fallibility, the results of the so-called lie detector tests are not admissible in evidence in a criminal trial.

JOHN S. BOYLE, *Chairman*

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

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Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb\*

**THE REVOLVING DOOR.** By *David G. Pittman and C. Wayne Gordon*, Monograph Number II, The Yale Center of Alcohol Studies, New Haven, Conn. 1958. Pp. 154. \$4.00

This study is a welcome addition to the growing number of applied studies in the Social Science field and, more particularly, the area of alcoholism. The study, sponsored by the State Mental Health Commission of New York and the Health Association of Rochester and Monroe County, New York, seeks in its broader objectives to shed light

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

on the problem of "chronic alcoholism" in Monroe County. However, the authors carefully and wisely refrained from calling their study population "chronic alcoholics." Some of them undoubtedly are alcoholics while others may or may not be.

The study population is the male chronic police case inebriate (defined as those arrested two or more times for public intoxication) committed to the Monroe County penitentiary during a one year period. Data was obtained from interviews with 187 men selected randomly from among the 828 total commitments during the year of study. One wonders how the responses of the 27 persons

who fell into the original sample but who refused to be interviewed and had to be replaced might have affected the findings, and what may have been the biasing effect of some respondents' "...belief that the interviewer would be able to help them with their problems or in their adjustment to the community upon their release"?

The strongest part of the study, and its major contribution is its description of the population under study, compared with the general male population of Monroe County, on eleven major social characteristics. These characteristics are age, racial background, nationality, community background, marital status, educational attainment, occupational status, religious affiliation, residential mobility, criminal history, and social class background. In the light of such comparisons, the study population can be briefly described as a relatively older group possessing a disproportionate number of negroes, especially negroes below the age of 45, moderately mobile geographically, little marital stability, relatively low in educational attainment, and who are mostly unskilled workers. The group had a mean number of arrests for all causes of 16.5 and a mean number of arrests for public intoxication of 12.8. Slightly over one-third had been arrested for crimes other than public intoxication or related offense, and there was a tendency to abandon more serious criminal careers after the age of 35 or 40. Finally, the group came mostly from lower class groupings with a small sub-group showing a pattern of downward social mobility.

The use of the general male population of Monroe County as a base line was quite appropriate and probably the only one available—however, to make comparisons with another sample of men arrested for drunkenness in Connecticut in 1942 and a sample of patients seen in alcoholism clinics throughout the country hardly seems justified because of so many uncontrolled factors which one may reasonably presume to be operating in all three studies.

The last two-thirds of the book (1) deals with the subjects' drinking patterns and their effects, (2) considers the subjects' developmental history from childhood through adolescence to later maturity in terms of primary group experiences and ability to handle primary and secondary roles, and (3) concludes with some recommendations for action. The findings and speculations presented in this latter part of the work should be

interesting and provocative to the students of alcoholism.

The study group is pictured as living and having lived in an institutional context and in a cultural configuration conducive to the learning and perpetuation of excessive drinking and as men whose life history is generally one of broken homes, poor integration of the family unit, inadequate experience in primary group relationships and poor performance in secondary task rules relating to education, occupation, and marriage. This kind of information should be useful to the sponsors of the study. However, the reader should be as careful as the authors were about generalizing from the findings on this population to the police case inebriate in another community.

However, the authors do at times get carried away with their speculations, especially in the latter part of the book. For example, their rather extended speculations about how institutional living functions "...to enhance the tendency to become dependent on drinking," (p. 66) may have some validity, but it would seem to go somewhat beyond the evidence presented.

All in all, the study does add to the ever-slow accumulation of knowledge about alcoholism in general and the chronic police case inebriate in particular; and it should be a stimulation to further research, especially, we hope, along such lines as comparing the drinking patterns and life history of the kinds of cases considered here with the general population. One is left wondering how many persons there are in the general population with similar life histories who do not become chronic police case inebriates or do not drink at all.

Probably the major conclusion of the study having implications for action is the conclusions that 60 per cent of the cases studied had never received any treatment for their drinking problem in a hospital or clinic although the bulk of them had assets which, if properly developed, could restore them to useful citizenship. Anyone interested in action in this area should give serious attention to the recommendations the authors present in the final chapter.

HAROLD MULFORD

Iowa City, Iowa

GERICHTLICHE BEBURTSHILFE. By H. Najoks, Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart, 1957, pp. XII, 247.

Legal obstetrics is a special field within legal

medicine. The author, professor of gynecology and obstetrics at the University of Frankfurt a. M., has an unusual experience in his particular field shown by the case histories. The chapters deal with the following: Legal questions centering on birth; legal abortion; criminal abortion; infanticide; trauma and pregnancy; sudden death in pregnancy, childbirth and confinement; the obstetrician and the diagnosis of paternity (carrying time); medical secrets in obstetrics; consent to obstetrical operations and entering the hospital; malpractice in obstetrics; criminal errors in obstetrics; the obstetrician in court as expert and defendant.

This catalogue gives an idea of the wealth of material gathered in this book. As was said before, the case histories on which the conclusions are based are of particular value. This should be a desirable addition to the library of any one interested in legal medicine.

W. G. ELIASBERG

New York

MODERN SELF DEFENSE. By R. H. Sigward, Wm. C. Copp and Associates, New York, 1958. Pp. 225, illus. 550. \$3.90

About once a year someone writes a book on judo, jiu-jitsu, or some other type of hand to hand combat. This is another such book. It has more pictures than most of them but the pictures are not very good in many instances. Sometimes you just can't tell what is going on. This book is better organized than most and quite complete, but it still leaves much to be desired. It would be most valuable to someone who collects books on self defense.

R. L. HOLCOMB

Iowa City

THE OFFICER SPEAKS IN PUBLIC. By Everett King, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1958. Pp. 216. \$5.75

Lieutenant King has prepared a monograph of value to those who teach speech to police officers. Such teachers will learn much about the officers' orientation to the problems of speech making.

As a text in public speaking, the work could have been improved through a better organization of the

materials presented. This is not to say a police officer interested in improving his public speaking will not benefit from reading this book. A teacher of speech, however, would more likely choose a basic text in the fundamentals of speech for classroom work. While the work is not recommended by this reviewer for classroom teaching, it has undoubted value for officers who wish to improve their public speaking through home study.

ROBERT RAY

Iowa City

FROM ARREST TO RELEASE. By *Marshall Houts*, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill. 1958. Pp. 235, \$5.75

This book is a treatment of the various legal procedures in and following an arrest. Many police officers have an understanding of the law of arrest, but from there on, just don't know what is happening. While it is not essential, in most cases, that a police officer be expert in the various legal steps following the arrest, he should know what is going on so that he can build better cases, work more intelligently with prosecuting authorities, and not have to wonder just what happened to his case. He has the most important original role in a criminal case, and he should remember that what he does is only part of a continuing procedure.

Of necessity, this is a brief treatment, and it has the problem of the variance in law from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. However, for the purpose of this book, the author has handled the material very well. I do not share his enthusiasm for Tom Runyon who died in the Fort Madison, Iowa, penitentiary in 1957 and I felt that the chapter by Runyon entitled "Penology Could Be Practical" does not particularly fit into the rest of the book, even though it is written in Runyon's usual excellent style.

Mr. Houts has written several other useful texts for police officers. This present book will take its place as a standard source in police training. It is a useful addition to the field that will be of value for years to come.

R. L. HOLCOMB