

Winter 1960

## 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, 50 *J. Crim. L. & Criminology* 523 (1959-1960)

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.

ject to judicial notice. (2) The particular apparatus used in the instant case was constructed in an accepted manner and was proven to be in good condition for accurate measurement. (3) The witness using the apparatus as a basis for his testimony was qualified in its use through training and experience. Since these prerequisites were met in the instant case, the testimony of the operator was competent evidence.

**Municipality Is Liable for Tortious Acts of a Police Officer**—Plaintiff was arrested by a police officer for driving while intoxicated. During the arrest, the police officer struck the plaintiff, causing the loss of sight in one of his eyes. The evidence disclosed that the police officer was hired on a trial basis and was given no training. He had previously been involved in several street brawls and had once been convicted of grand larceny. The trial court found for the plaintiff, but on defendant's post-trial motion, arrested judgment. On appeal the Appellate Court held that liability could be assessed against the city for the tortious acts of its agents where the city was negligent in hiring the

officer. *Peters v. Bellinger*, 159 N.E.2d 528 (Ill. App. 1959).

In reaching its decision in the *Peters* case the Appellate Court cited *Molitor v. Kaneland Community Unit District No. 302*, No. 35249 (Ill., May 22, 1959), where the Illinois Supreme Court renounced the doctrine that school districts are immune from civil liability for the wrongful acts of their agents. Shortly after the *Molitor* and *Peters* cases the Illinois legislature provided statutory immunity for some governmental bodies and their agencies and limited liability for others. However, no new provisions were legislated to modify present law which limits liability for cities under one-half million population to \$50,000 *except where the injury results from the willful misconduct of the officer*. ILL. REV. STAT. ch. 24, §§1-15, 1-15.1 (1957). The city, as co-defendant, in the *Peters* case has filed an appeal in the Illinois Supreme Court claiming that the Illinois statute intended to retain municipal immunity and thus that the holding of the *Molitor* case cannot be extended to municipalities.

(For other recent case abstracts see pp. 476-477).

---

## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

---

Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb\*

**KOERPERLICHE UND GEISTIGE EIGNUNG ZUM FUEHREN VON KRAFTFAHRZEUGEN BEI HIRN-VERLETZTEN** (Physical and Mental Ability of Brain-Injured Persons in Driving Automobiles). By *Artur Grossjohann*, M.D. Stuttgart, Germany. Georg Thieme Verlag, 1959. Pp. 84, DM 7.50. In the USA through Intercontinental Medical Book Corporation, New York 16, N. Y. \$1.80.

The author of this small, but extremely timely, monograph has studied thousands of cases both in medical settings (clinics, hospitals, and private practice) and in courts, and concludes the following 16 points: There seem to be more light—than

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

serious brain injuries. Even light brain concussions can lead to serious complications. There is no possibility to separate the physical and the mental symptoms. Hence the danger of exposing these patients to any kind of traffic. Even initial and individual brain damages lead to a total physical (and sometimes mental) disability. Among the psychological changes, a great number of character structures were altered. The incidence of Jacksonian-type of epilepsy range from 5% to 50%. There was relatively little evidence of lack of coordination per se. About one third of all brain-injured were declared unconditionally able to drive vehicles; another third was declared as incompetent to drive cars. Of importance seemed to be the "conditional" ability to driving. A probationary

license was found to be difficult to control as in most cases no objective case-material was on hand.

HANS A. ILLING

Los Angeles

---

POLICE PROMOTION QUIZZER. By *Paul B. Weston and Harry P. McCann*. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1959. Pp. 300. \$7.50.

Paul B. Weston is a retired Deputy Chief Inspector of the New York City force and is generally well known in police circles. Harry P. McCann is not identified.

This book is intended for men planning to take promotional examinations. It is also of value to men giving promotional examinations.

The authors have devoted the first thirty-four pages to the use of the book, planned study and a section on how to pass promotion tests. This is sound material and nothing has been published in book form like this before. I am sure that if a man carefully followed their suggestions, he would raise his score a number of points. All of the methods I have ever heard of for improving your study habits and a number that are new to me are discussed. The types of questions that might be used, and the approaches to each are fully covered so that the man does not find himself in a totally unfamiliar situation. There are no "tricks". All of the methods are based on systematic, hard work. There are devices and methods that will make writing an examination easier, but do not expect a magic key that will shoot your score up.

The remainder of the book is made up of eleven chapters covering various phases of police work from patrol to police management. A great many sample questions using many different forms of questioning, along with the answers, are given in each chapter. You take these exams as part of your study plan. In doing this you will familiarize yourself with both police practices and the ways of asking questions about them. The only caution is that some of the terms used, a few practices, and the law may not be the same in every jurisdiction so it would be well to check each answer to make sure that it follows local practice.

There have been a number of promotional quizzes published. To date they have all been so specialized that they are of little value except on a

specific department. They never tell much about studying and organizing material and how to take a test. This book does a good job, and if I were going to take a promotional exam, I would get a copy.

RICHARD L. HOLCOMB

---

ORAL COMMUNICATION OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION. By *Robert S. Casey*, Reinhold Publishing Corp., New York, N. Y., 1958. Pp. 199, Ill. 20. \$4.50.

In beginning the preface Dr. Casey states his purpose:

"... to assemble, organize and make available the information that will help technical people tell things well and to emphasize that most of us need such help. The central thought has been "help" and "how to do it." Learning to speak effectively is of necessity a do-it-yourself project."

Although prepared primarily for chemists and workers in similar scientific fields, all of the material is closely related to the problems encountered by those doing forensic work. We constantly have need to tell things well in dealing with investigators or clients, fellow workers, the public, and the legal profession. Anyone who has listened to or read transcripts of technical court testimony should be aware of the need for improvement in this vital area of oral communication.

In twelve well organized chapters the author proceeds to his stated objectives. Each chapter closes with a reference list for those whose needs have not been fully met by the text. A comprehensive Author Index is provided in addition to the Subject Index. This little book assembles in one convenient handbook a wealth of the practical techniques useful in effective explanation of technical matters. It will serve as a reminder of little things we should be doing but are not and suggest some new ideas that deserve consideration and possible adoption. The dust jacket says, "Effect help for science speakers". And it is... and for those in the police sciences or forensic sciences. The cost \$4.50 can be properly considered an investment.

LINTON GODOWN

Chicago