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## Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes

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## POLICE SCIENCE TECHNICAL ABSTRACTS AND NOTES

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Edited by

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Abstractors

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**Survey of Paternity Disputes in New York City**—Leon N. Sussman, Sidney B. Schatkin, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 4(4): (October 1959). A statistical survey of paternity cases in New York City indicate a rapidly increasing number of such actions. The admission of paternity, so readily accepted by the courts as a means of concluding a case, are frequently in error and are a moral injustice and a financial burden to the falsely accused man. Blood grouping tests, performed by qualified experts, indicate that in 25% of the cases the defendant is probably falsely accused. Blood grouping tests provide the best defense against a false accusation of paternity and serve in addition as a deterrent to the institution of those false charges which have as their purpose blackmail and extortion. In interests of justice, a preliminary blood test should be required in any case involving paternity. (WEK)

**The Investigation of Suspicious, Violent, or Unexplained Sudden Death, from the Crime Laboratory Viewpoint**—James W. Osterburg, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 4(4): (October 1959). Accidents, suicides, homicides—each of these can be and have been made to appear what they are not. Criminalistics is used by the modern criminal investigator to reveal these ruses. The work of the crime laboratory, indeed, the contribution of the forensic sciences may be regarded as a procedure whereby the senses of the practical field investigator are extended by virtue of the application of specialized knowledge or through the use of scientific instruments and techniques. It is by these means that the true facts are discovered and the ends of so-

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ciety accomplished in the administration of justice. (WEK)

**What's New in Toxicology (1958)**—Irving Sunshine, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 4(4): (October 1959). Today, chromatography and ultraviolet absorption techniques are commonly used in every toxicology laboratory. Newer physical methods are coming to the fore and before too long will also find their application in this field. A recent symposium of the American Academy of Forensic Science has indicated the potential value and application of infrared absorption techniques, or vapor phase chromatography, or continuous dialysis, of polarography for the identification of exogenous chemical agents. These instrumental physical methods can help identify isolated materials if the unknown material has been previously investigated and catalogued. The lack of easily available, catalogued data on the physical properties of drug substances frequently handicaps the toxicologist and constitutes a bottle-neck which should be removed in the near future. The article contains an excellent bibliography of 100 references on recent advances in the various phases of toxicology. (WEK)

**Isolation of Organic Bases Using Acetonitrile and Ether**—R. J. Abernethy, Jack Villaudy, and Edward Thompson, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 4(4): (October 1959). A procedure for basic drugs using acetonitrile and ether as the initial step of extraction is presented. It is simple, rapid, and requires no special apparatus. From some specimens the initial residues obtained are suitable for ultraviolet scanning and crystal tests. Further purification is easily obtained by paper chromatography. Recoveries appear satisfactory. All basic compounds encountered to date have been separated. The acetonitrile and ether method does, however, have its limitations. It is not generally applicable

in a system of analyses, as is Stas-Otto extraction. Further, 100 grams is the maximum sample which can be handled conveniently, and in some cases this may not be sufficient. (WEK)

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**Drug Identification Using Ultraviolet Spectrophotometry**—Louis A. Williams, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 4(4): (October 1959). The ultraviolet absorption spectra of many organic drugs and toxic compounds are now being utilized extensively for qualitative and quantitative analysis in forensic toxicology. The problem of the identification and subsequent quantitation of barbiturates and salicylic acid either individually or combined in the same sample, can be simplified by the use of the differential characteristics of the ultraviolet spectra at two different pH levels. This makes the routine screening of toxicological specimens easy for barbiturates and salicylic acid. This technique can be also applied to other compounds whose spectra are affected by pH changes or whose spectra are altered by other means. The compounds of interest can be either oxidized or reduced, complexed or reacted with to yield a spectrum shift and consequently a composite spectrum. (WEK)

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**The Forensic Science Society**—A decision to form The Forensic Science Society was taken at a well-attended meeting held at Nottingham University (England) on October 31. The object of the society is to advance the study and application of forensic science in all its branches. With this aim in view, a series of symposia, to be held alternately in London and in the provinces. (OH)

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**Seminar in Document Examination**—The Center for Police Training, Indiana University, is offering a one-semester (15 week) seminar in document examination beginning January 27, 1960. Dr. Rafael Fernandex Ruenes, an internationally known document examiner of Havana, Cuba, will conduct the course. In addition, a special laboratory seminar limited to 10 students is currently offered. (OH)

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**Traffic Courses**—Northwestern University Traffic Institute's spring course schedule includes: Accident Investigation, March 7-25; Chemical Tests for Intoxication, March 14-18, Traffic Control, May 9-27; and Traffic Law Enforcement, April 18-May 6. (OH)

**Tentative Definition of Criminalistics as a Forensic Science**—Al. Cuelenaere, *The Laboratory Digest*, 23(4): 10-13 (October 1959). The author considers the various terms applied to the field of criminalistics together with the scope of work performed. He points out that some aspects "may require advanced knowledge of a scientific character" . . . "other examinations, on the contrary, do not require such scientific knowledge." These latter, such a fingerprint identification and making casts of tire tracks, require only a trained technician. He would term this work "Technical Police". The former, more advanced, "Scientific Police". The aspects of scientific police not involving forensic medicine, toxicology, or psychiatry but employing methods of mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering, etc., make up the field of Criminalistics. He further subdivides the field into: Identification of the living and dead, identification of general traces, and identification of special traces involved in burglary, firearms, explosives, arson, document examination, and traffic accidents. (OH)

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**Law, Medicine, and Truth**—Oliver Schroeder, Jr., *Postgraduate Medicine*, 25(3): (March 1959). The author considers the achievements of law and of medicine and points out the uniting elements of the two professions as understanding, but not resolving, the differences between the professions—differences in purpose, in relationship to client or patient, in semantics, and in rate of advancement. Medicine can serve as a "major source of truth in the administration of justice" while the law is preserving law and order. (OH)

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**A Display Illuminator for Transparencies**—Richard C. Pace, *The National Photographer*, 10(12): 594, 606-7 (December 1959). A do-it-yourself article with instructions for building display boxes with self-contained illumination for color transparencies. Adaptable for courtroom demonstrations. Dimensions of box, position of lamps, reflecting paint, mounting of transparencies, and other details are set forth. (OH)

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**Collection of Micro-Traces at the Crime Scene**—Steffen Berg, *Die Neue Polizei*, 12(10): 158-61 (1958). A review of the value of trace evidence. Suggests the use of cellulose tape as a means of collecting evidence from areas not readily processed by removal or packaging such as the sill of win-

dows. Xylol is the recommended solvent for the tape adhesive. (JDN)

"The Pointellex", Practical Accessory for Law Enforcement Photography—Alexander Charkin, *Revue Internationale de Criminologie et de Police Technique*, 13(2): 154-161 (1959). As an aid in crime scene and accident photography a kit containing 60 rulers, 8 x 2½ inches, with green and white squares painted on them and 15 numbers and a head painted green on white background. By means of these objects, reconstruction photographs of the crime scene can be made. To avoid legal difficulties "with" and "without" photographs should be taken. (Submitted by Mohamed Gharbi, Police Technician, Surete Nationale, Tunisia)

Albert Sherman Osborn, Questioned Document Pioneer—Clark Sellers, *American Bar Association Journal*, 45: 1285-1287, 1334-1336 (December 1959). The article sketches the career and contributions of the most significant pioneer in the field of questioned document examination. (OH)

Personal Injury Problems and Medicolegal Trial Technique—The Law Science Institute of the

University of Texas under the direction of Dr. Hubert W. Smith is presenting two courses in February in Houston, Texas dealing with medico-legal problems and trial techniques. (OH)

Arson Investigator's Seminar—The 16th International Arson Investigator's Seminar will be held at Purdue University, from April 25 to 29, 1960, and will be conducted in cooperation with the International Association of Arson Investigators and other agencies interested in the recognition, investigation, prosecution, and prevention of the crime of arson. The seminar will present the nation's outstanding arson authorities, lecturers, and moderators; and will include essential basic information for the arson investigator together with advanced techniques of investigation, criminalistics, and specialized training which will lead to more effective detection, apprehension, prosecution, and conviction of the arsonist.

For additional information concerning the seminar address: Professor Shelby Gallien, Seminar Director, Public Safety Institute, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. (OH).

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE PERIODICALS AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF POLICE SCIENCE\*

Compiled by

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ALGEMEEN POLITIEBLAD VAN HET KONINKRIJK DER NEDERLANDEN. The Hague. 108th Year, no. 5, February 28, 1959; no. 13, June 20, 1959.

D. Eshuis, *Een nieuwe methode voor her vervaardigen van dactyloscopische signalementen* (A new method for taking finger prints) (no. 5, pp. 83-85).—W. Froentjes, *Onderzoek van brandstichtingen* (Investigation of arson cases) (no. 13, pp. 243-49).

ARCHIV FÜR KRIMINOLOGIE. Lübeck. Vol. 123, nos. 5-6, May/June 1959.

K. Lamprecht, *Schuss durch Fensterglas: Experimentelle Untersuchungen* (Shots through window panes: Experimental investigations) (pp. 128-32).

\* All periodicals listed are available in the Northwestern University Law Library, 357 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago.

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CHRONIQUES INTERNATIONALES DE POLICE—INTERNATIONAL POLICE CHRONICLE (REVUE MODERNE DE LA POLICE). Official organ of the International Federation of Senior Police Officers. Paris, Seventh Year, no. 36, May/June, 1959. [First listing in this check list]

M. Baroin, *Police philosophy* (pp. 8-13).—J. E. Winters, *Law enforcement and juvenile delinquency* (pp. 14-22). All articles in French and English.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE REVIEW. Paris. [English edition] 14th Year, nos. 124-129, January-July, 1959.

M. Sicot, *1958-1959: Progress and hope* (no. 124, p. 2).—Rui Carrington da Costa, *Testimony considered in the light of forensic psychology* (pp. 3-13).—M. Fernet, *Homosexuality and its influence on crime* (pp. 14-20).—S. V. Garde, *Jungle crime* (pp. 23-28).—Paul Brosson, *The signature*