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Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes

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POLICE SCIENCE TECHNICAL ABSTRACTS AND NOTES

Edited by
Joseph D. Nicol*

Abstractor

William E. Kirwan†

Ordway Hilton‡

International Academy of Legal Medicine—The 5th Congress of the International Academy of Legal Medicine and of Social Medicine is scheduled from May 22 to May 27, 1961 in Vienna. Delegates from all over the world are expected to attend this congress. Professor Dr. Leopold Breitenacker is serving as president. Readers who wish further information on the Congress can obtain it by writing Professor Breitenacker, Sensengasse 2, Vienna IX, Austria. (OH)

International Meeting on Forensic Pathology—The second meeting on Forensic Pathology and Medicine will be held in New York City, September 18–21, 1960. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the ceremonies dedicating the new building for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, New York City, and New York University-Bellevue Medical Center, through the Department of Forensic Medicine of the Post Graduate Medical School, will act as host for the scientific meetings. The Commodore Hotel will serve as hotel headquarters. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Milton Helpern, Department of Forensic Medicine, New York University, 550 First Avenue, New York 16. (OH)

Are the Documents Genuine or Spurious?—Harry M. Ashton, *The Florida Bar Journal*, February, 1960, discusses typical problems handled by the document examiner. The article is intended to assist attorneys who may have questioned document problems. (OH)

Suspicious Document—Winsor C. Moore, *The Practical Lawyer*, January, 1960, 39–56, has pre-

* Associate Professor, School of Police Administration and Public Safety, Michigan State University, East Lansing.

† Director, New York State Police Scientific Laboratory, Albany, N. Y.

‡ Examiner of Questioned Documents, New York.

pared a very useful article for attorneys and investigators who are confronted with document problems. Much of the article is made up of check lists raising pertinent questions as to the background of the document, as to the handwriting, writing materials, typewriting, paper, and other elements of the document. There is also an extensive list of sources of handwriting standards and some helpful hints on how to select a document examiner. (OH)

Southern Police Institute—Southern Police Institute of the University of Louisville has been notified by the Ford Foundation of a five-year grant to support the Institute's problem of advanced in-service training for high ranking police officers throughout the country. (OH)

The Identification of Lucas 700 Headlamp Glass Fragments By Their Physical Properties—D. F. Nelson, *The Analyst*, 84: 388–92 (June, 1959). Fifty different Lucas 700 headlamps were studied as to specific gravity, refractive index, dispersion, hardness, and color. Except in the lower density group, physical properties seem to be independent of each other. Dispersion was found to be the least useful property. All of the samples could be distinguished from each other, although specimens from different parts of the same headlamp could not be separated by physical characteristics. (JDN)

The Application of Ultraviolet Light and Diphenylamine to Spot Tests for Explosives—B. B. Caldwell, *The Analyst*, 84: 665–7 (November, 1959). The effect of ultraviolet light on the reaction between explosives and diphenylamine-sulfuric acid solution was studied. A small quantity of the explosive, dissolved in a suitable solvent, is applied to filter paper and dried. One drop of the

diphenylamine test solution is applied to the spot and ultraviolet irradiation (3200A) is used for three minutes. Colors ranging from yellow to blue-green are produced. For identification, known explosives should be treated similarly. (JDN)

Identification and Differentiation of Sympathomimetic Amines—L. G. Chatten and Leo Levi, *Analytical Chemistry*, 31(9): 1581-6 (September, 1959). d-Amphetamine, dl-amphetamine, methamphetamine, and ephedrine are differentiated by color and microcrystal tests and derivatives. The color test reagents are Marguis, Mandelin, and Sanchez. Picric acid and reineckate salt are used to prepare crystalline derivatives. p-Nitrobenzoyl and benzenesulfonyl derivatives are discussed. Infrared spectra of the parent compound and derivatives are given. (JDN)

Color Photography in Police Science—H. B. Tuttle, *Law and Order*, 8(4): 6 (April, 1960). A survey of the practical application of color to police identification photography. Although more expensive, color photography by its other virtues, merits serious consideration, particularly in 35 mm. "mug" shots. (JDN)

Wamo Powermaster Pistol—W. E. Kirwan, *Bulletin, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, New York State Police*, 24(2): 12 (1959). The Wamo Manufacturing Company of 835 R E Elmonte Street, San Gabriel, California, distributes a single shot bolt action .22 caliber pistol. Rifling is 10 lands and grooves, right twist. Land width 0.046", groove width 0.025". (JDN)

Explosive Powered Tools—W. E. Kirwan, *Bulletin, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, New York State Police*, 24(2): 1-10 (1959). A survey of gunpowder actuated tools including explosive rivets. Although these tools are safe when properly handled, industrial accidents have been reported. (JDN)

The Determination of Time of Death in a Case of Suspected Infanticide—Alvin V. Majoska, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 5(1): 33-7 (January 1960). The determination of time of death has been recognized as a difficult problem and, as recently illustrated by Dr. Camps, the historically accepted criteria are no better than inaccurate guesses.

These criteria are divided into two general classifications, namely, those determinable in the recently deceased body and those which are found in the body after the onset of post-mortem decomposition.

The criteria in the first group consists of the development and degree of: (1) post-mortem lividity, (2) post-mortem rigidity, (3) loss of body heat, (4) lysis of rigidity, (5) clouding of the cornea, and minor noticeable changes.

In the second group, the determinant or indicative factors considered in establishing the time of death are: (1) the presence and degree of putrefaction, (2) the phenomena of mummification and adipocere formation, (3) indirect evidence of flora and fauna activity in and about the body and/or its remains. One also bears in mind eggs and pupae of insects, growth and condition of grass and weeds, and other environmental factors.

The author presents the details of a case of destruction of human remains by steeping them in concentrated lye solution. The original estimate of the time of death was markedly in error and was revised after proper evaluation of the facts. Certain inconsistencies of presumed post-mortem decomposition have been indicated: absence of hair, absence of putrefactive odor, relatively prolonged preservation of early decomposing tissue, preservation of histological architecture of deep portions of tissues and organs. (WEK)

The Forensic Sciences: An International Flavor—Oliver Schroeder, Jr., *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 5(1): 10-9 (January 1960). Often the American Academy of Forensic Sciences seems to be a tight little island. Those of us who are so vitally interested in the subject matter and purposes of the Academy grieve that there appear to be so few persons making serious studies in our favorite fields.

Out of the many discussions conducted at the Fifth International Congress of Comparative Law held in Brussels in 1958, three general theories relative to problems in the field of forensic sciences developed.

1. Science and Truth.
2. Preservation of Human Dignity.
3. Common Standard of Justice.

Discussion of the remarkable growth of some of the practical applications included a discussion of Narco-Analysis; Blood Tests; Electronic Devices; and Lie Detection. The three general