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Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes

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POLICE SCIENCE TECHNICAL ABSTRACTS AND NOTES

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Abstractor

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Asphyxiation Caused by the Oxidation of Iron in a Closed Compartment—H. Bergh, *Nordisk Kriminalteknisk Tidsskrift*, 30 (11): 241-42 (1960). An unusual case of accidental death due to asphyxiation inside the keel of a steamship. A 36-year old man inspecting an old steamship which had been drydocked for several years had apparently removed a man-hole cover to the keel and had fallen into the compartment. When found 15-20 minutes later he was dead. The autopsy showed general signs of asphyxiation believed to be due to the lack of oxygen caused by heavy oxidation of the ship's plates inside the airtight compartment over a period of years. (JB)

Suicide or Murder.—A Holmstrom, *Nordisk Kriminalteknisk Tidsskrift*, 30 (12): 261-66 (1960). Discussion of case histories involving suicides due to gunshot wounds where the victims performed unexpected feats during a survival period after extensive injuries to the brain. (JB)

Rapid Electrophoreses of Alkaloids—L. A. Williams, Y. M. Brusock, and B. Zak, *Analytical Chemistry*, 32 (13): 1883-5 (1960). Agar gel separation technique using high voltage (250 v. at 100 ma.) is described. The system requires no control of evaporation because of short operation time, 25 minutes. The agar gel is placed on vegetable parchment stretched on a 3½ x 4 inch lantern slide glass. Spots of alkaloids are identified by iodoplatinic acid solution. Good quantitative results are reported. (JDN)

Injury Caused by Single Shotgun Pellet—A. J. Baird, *The Australian Police Journal*, 13 (4):

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345-52 (1959). Wounds caused by close proximity to a shotgun discharge are discussed. Even in cases where little of the shot enters the wound, the blast effect is enough to cause fatal injury. Injuries from single pellets are discussed. It is the author's hypothesis that single pellets can be directed to the side at a fair angle from the direction of the shot column. (JDN)

Identification of Pigments in Paint Products by Infrared Spectroscopy—T. R. Harkins, J. T. Harris, and O. D. Shreve, *Analytical Chemistry*, 31 (4): 541-5 (1959). The analysis of pigments in paint by infrared spectroscopy is discussed. The method applies to liquid specimens and requires a separation of pigment from vehicle before accurate results can be obtained. Spectrograms accompany the article which might be useful in tentatively identifying pigments in dried films. (JDN)

Rapid Determination of Blood Alcohol by Diffusion Oxidation in High Vacuum—H. S. Mahal, *Analytical Chemistry*, 31 (11): 1908-9 (1959). A procedure capable of giving accurate results in five minutes on 0.5 ml. of blood, is described. Diffusion is assisted by evacuating the reaction vessel and warming the section containing the blood specimen. Alcohol is oxidized by a standard potassium dichromate solution. Excess dichromate is determined by iodometric titration. (JDN)

Seminar on Forgery Detection—The Center for Police Training, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, will hold a Seminar on Forgery Detection, July 31-August 11, 1961. Registration is limited to 25 police officials or representatives of banks and financial institutions. Further information is available through the Director, Center of Police Training.