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## Police Science Book Reviews

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**Underwater Activity**—W. E. Kirwan, *Bulletin, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, New York State, Police*, 26 (1): 1-12 (1961). A discussion of equipment, operational problems, and hazards of the use of underwater equipment in police work. (JDN)

**Post-Mortem Printing Under Difficult Conditions**—J. J. Corr, Jr., *Fingerprint and Identification Magazine*, 41 (8): 4-8 (Feb. 1960). Two methods are suggested for fingerprinting bodies in

difficult cases. The first method consists of inking the fingers by transferring ink from an inked plate by means of a 1½" x 5" plastic strip. The fingerprint is then recorded on strips of plastic, paper or white rubber lifting tape, and stapled in the proper place on the fingerprint card. In the second method, the finger is inked by applying ink with a mushroom shaped piece of modeling clay. A thin layer of modeling clay serves as a pliable backing in the spoon which holds the recording paper. Detail in convolutions can be recorded. (JDN)

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

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Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb\*

**INTRODUCTION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.** By A. C. Germann, Frank D. Day, and Robert R. J. Gallati. Charles C Thomas Publisher, Springfield, Ill. 1962. Pp. 258. \$7.50.

There has been much more talk about law enforcement becoming a profession than there has been action to accomplish the goal. All of us would like to have the position in the community (and the salary) of a physician, but aside from some vague generalities and the example of a handful of law enforcement agencies that are approaching a professional status, no one has had much to say about how to become professional. This book has now broken the barrier. While it is an excellent basic text for any well organized police school, an invaluable guide for a young person considering going into law enforcement as a life work, or a fine source for citizens or serious students who want to learn how law enforcement operates and fits into our way of life, its greatest value will be in assisting enforcement officers to take a hard look at themselves, to see where we have been in history, where we are now, and where we are going.

The three authors are each well qualified. They know a great deal about a wide variety of law enforcement, and they write very well. As a result, this makes interesting, but often slow reading as they make you think, and thinking is one of the most difficult things we do.

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It is not easy to describe just what the book covers for it covers so much. Section heads give a general idea: Philosophical Background to Law Enforcement; History of Law Enforcement; Constitutional Limitations of Law Enforcement; Agencies of Law Enforcement; Processes of Justice; and Evaluating Law Enforcement Today. Some of the concepts and the material presented may be familiar to you if you have read well in this field, but a great deal has never been published before. This publication will go a long way toward changing many concepts of just what law enforcement is intended to do and how it is doing it; this publication will go far toward orienting any of us to our chosen field.

But this book does more than this. For example, there are two charts that explain the process of justice with remarkable clarity. I was in police work for a long time before I began to understand just what happens from the occurrence of a crime until a final disposition. Until I looked at these charts, I did not fully realize just how complex the processes of justice really were. The accompanying text material is complete, yet concise. Such things as a most complete listing and discussion of the wide variety of enforcement agencies in this country, for example, is most helpful.

Much of the discussion is based upon the Constitution of the United States. This is good. We often forget that this is the greatest single document concerning human liberties and that law enforcement can be effective only so long as

it stays within the principles of the Constitution. In this book the authors show very well how law enforcement relates to the Constitution and how it supports us, rather than how it is hamstringing enforcement efforts as some recent speakers and writers would have us believe. At the same time, the authors do not take a soft attitude toward law violators. They are as concerned with such interpretations of the Constitution that miss the real meaning as is anyone else. They are practical men, but men who have taken the time to look at the entire problem with the broadest perspective, and have written down much of their thinking so that others can benefit.

This is an enthusiastic review. It is easy to be enthusiastic about any well written and organized book in the field of law enforcement, and it is doubly easy when the book explores most important areas that we have been only cautiously skirting. If the protection of the property, lives, and rights of the citizens and the maintenance of order is important to you, read it, think about it, and then re-read it.

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SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION AND PHYSICAL EVIDENCE. By *Leland V. Jones*. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1959. Pp. 289. Illus. 87. \$8.50.

The book, *Scientific Investigation and Physical Evidence*, lends a fresh flavor and even a touch of optimism to the often heard theme of professionalization of police. While the immediate future may not offer a bright conclusion, such books are beacons along the way toward the goal.

While the reviewer has never met Prof. Jones, his reputation as one of the real pioneers in Criminalistics is well known. To him must belong some, if not much of the credit, for bringing the science to its present high state of development on the west coast of the United States. The purpose of the book, as announced in both the introduction and the third paragraph, is "to set forth methods and procedures for recognizing, gathering, marking, preserving, packaging, and presenting physical evidence in court." The book is well documented with many typical case reports from Prof. Jones well stocked store of cases. However, at times some of the examples may be confusing.

The book traces the use of physical evidence

from its collection, through chapters on narcotics and toxicology. The first two chapters on evaluating physical evidence and comparative analysis, as well as the fourth chapter on footprints, are good. The chapter on blood alcohol is very poor describing one method for the analysis of blood alcohol and only a few paragraphs about the breath testing methods which the police officer is more often required to use. The section on interpretation of blood alcohol results is only one paragraph, out of date and gives the officer little information to help him arrive at a correct opinion. The chapter on poisons starts out well, presenting the investigator with a number of vital questions he should be able to answer in a suspected murder by poison. It then wanders into a series of possible tests for some poisons without indicating to the investigator the necessity for making these tests on purified specimens. The investigator is not told that hours or even days may be necessary to separate strychnine from body organs before the spot tests mentioned can be used. This may lead the uninitiated to attempt to make a dichromate test for strychnine on vomitus and, finding it negative, decide that poison is not present. Or it may lead to the type of thing that is run into when the investigator brings in to the laboratory a specimen of vomitus with the request that it be analyzed for poison and announces to the chemist "I'll wait for the answer now." The chapter on poisons ends with a paragraph on stink bombs.

Few police investigators are interested in how the crime laboratory scientists arrive at their conclusions. Most are interested in whether or not the chemist can confirm what they have already decided and how soon. Some are interested in what physical evidence can be useful and how it can be submitted to obtain the maximum information. In this light, the author starts out well, but as the book progresses, it becomes a "do-it-yourself" course in Criminalistics. This is particularly noticeable in the chapter on narcotics. There are a number of excellent photomicrographs showing various crystalline reactions of various narcotics with various reagents. Some investigators might be led to believe that this is a simple, quick, and positive test. While these tests may mean a lot to an experienced microanalyst, they mean little to the average chemist let along the uninitiated police investigator.

Probably the best section is the chapter on

questioned document examination. It starts out by dispelling the notion of the "handwriting expert" and gives the officer certain good principles for collecting representative exemplars as well as lines of inquiry from which standard writing specimens may be obtained.

The book may be a lament of the plight of the modern police officer, who finds scientific methods thrust upon him by well read defense attorneys who could not cross examine an expert witness but who force police officers to attempt to go beyond their means. It also seems to say that there is a rebellion afoot and the use of science in crime investigation is a bright ray shining in the future.

This is not a book that makes for an enjoyable evening's reading, and one doubts if Prof. Jones intended it to be such. It must be read, reread, and digested to obtain the maximum of usefulness from its pages. Most investigators will find that a handy dictionary will be a necessary accessory.

No matter, if the investigator does not become discouraged with the technical and sometimes difficult language with which he may not be acquainted, he can gain an insight into the extent to which the scientist can give him assistance. While this book may not be well done, there is an implication that is clearcut, and this is just one of a series of books needed along this line. Perhaps the very criticisms leveled at Prof. Jones' book present obstacles which have prevented many scientific evidence examiners from attempting such a book.

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POLICE ROADBLOCK OPERATIONS. By *John I. Schwarz*. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill. 1962. Pp. 79. \$4.50.

Here is a sound book on an important phase of police operations. Not too much has been written on this subject, and certainly this is the most complete treatment to date. The author says about everything you can say about roadblocks, but he does say it in a somewhat disorganized manner. I do not feel this is his fault, but rather the failure of the editor for few of our most able and best informed police officers have ever written a book. As a result, while they get the material down, they may not present it in the best possible manner. A professional editor could have made the changes that should have been made in a day or two, and this publication would have been much better.

There is only one illustration. This is a grave defect for it is most difficult to explain methods of blocking roads without illustrations. It would seem that any publisher who can ask \$4.50 for a seventy-nine page book could afford a few illustrations.

In spite of these critical comments, this is a very useful book. The deficiencies are not the fault of the author. He knows a great deal about roadblock operations, is entirely practical, and by spending a little time, you can readily see just what he means.

There is a real need in most section of the country to improve (and in many cases, establish) roadblock plans. This publication is a useful guide.

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