

Fall 1963

## Police Science Book Reviews

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### Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 54 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 391 (1963)

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Richard L. Holcomb\*

### THE HUMAN SKELETON IN FORENSIC MEDICINE.

By *Willon M. Krogman*, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, 1962. PP. 368 Illus. 232. \$14.00

This book is an example of the incomparable thoroughness in cataloguing and examination of all available literature, for which Doctor Krogman has long been known among his colleagues. It is, in fact, not so much a book as a library on the subject it covers. The present reviewer has a worn file folder full of reprints, photostats of publications, handmade summaries and graphs of necessary data for skeletal identification, which can now be retired from active service because Doctor Krogman has covered all this material and much more in one neat hard-cover volume. The complete reproduction of the pertinent tables and graphs makes reference to the original publications unnecessary.

In addition, however, to commending the work highly as a reference text for the person already trained in physical anthropology, it must be considered in respect to its use by others. Doctor Krogman has wisely emphasized individual variability and the relative uncertainties of various criteria and predictions in a way which should discourage any hasty or overconfident use by persons not prepared to understand the complexity of the subject. However, it should be extremely useful and enlightening to the pathologist sometimes called upon to examine skeletons in the capacity of medical examiner, or to the anatomist not specially trained in physical anthropology, who may have identification cases brought to his attention.

Clerical work and proofreading appears to have been good; one marvels at the patience of those who had to check the innumerable figures of the

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innumerable tables. One puzzling error is not Doctor Krogman's responsibility, for it is in a graph photographically reproduced; in Figures 24 and 25, the mystifying legend "Age in Years" appears along the Y axis where it should be "Number of Cases", just as it did in the original paper. And in a future edition it would be pleasant to see the name of Doctor Genoves spelled right as consistently as it is spelled wrong in this edition (11 times, to be exact). Photographic reproduction is not of the best, particularly in respect to X-rays, which are always difficult to reproduce. Figures such as those on page 33 and 34 do no credit to the publisher.

It is safe to guarantee that this book will never be a best-seller; but it will be cherished by those select persons who need and will often use it.

ALICE M. BRUES, Ph.D.

University of Oklahoma  
Medical Center

TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT. The Southwestern Law Enforcement Institute, Charles C Thomas Publisher, Springfield, Ill. 1963. Pp. 105. Illus. 3. \$4.75

This book is made up of the lectures given by ten men at a school. It suffers the same defects of similar publications. These were undoubtedly good lectures and interesting to listen to, but they lose a lot when printed.

Most of this material has appeared in other publications, some of them now outdated. The material is very elementary, incomplete in many cases and except for three illustrations in the chapter on photography, unillustrated.

This publication is in no way worth the price of \$4.75. This was simply an easy way to put out one more book in a flood of borderline material.

RICHARD L. HOLCOMB

PATROLMAN PATTERNS, PROBLEMS AND PROCEDURES. By Norman L. Clowers, Charles C Thomas Publisher, Springfield, Ill. 1962. Pp. 289. \$8.75.

This is a very good elementary police text. As a matter of fact, any police officer can learn a number of better ways of doing things from this book. The author has had a wide experience as a police officer and has learned a great deal from this experience. His style of writing is easy to read and very direct.

The book does suffer from a few minor defects. The organization is not too good. For example, there is a chapter on automobile patrol and one on foot patrol. A variety of topics are presented in each chapter, but they are not necessarily peculiar to the type of patrol. For example, suicide cases are covered under foot patrol in seeming disregard of the fact that many motorized officers may be first into the scene. Again, the space allotted to topics is not always in relation to their importance. For example, the section on mental illness is so brief as to be misleading, but material on the selection of uniform items is more detailed than it needs to be. Illustrations are almost entirely lacking. A number of good illustrations, and a little better organization would make this an outstanding text.

The chapter on observation is excellent, the best written to date. It is not easy to tell someone how to look around intelligently, but the author has done this very well and in an interesting way. There is a good bibliography and a satisfactory index. These are important points often omitted.

Since this is the first edition of the book, I am looking forward to further editions. I am sure that the author realizes what his book lacks. Once it is in print, it will undoubtedly be improved. Getting this book out in the first place represents a tremendous amount of work, and throughout there is evidence of careful consideration of the problem followed by careful writing.

One of the nicest things you can say about a book of this type is that it is practical. This book is very practical. It was written by a competent law enforcement officer for law enforcement officers. I am certain that it will be a basic police text for a long time to come.

RICHARD L. HOLCOMB

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND INTERROGATION. Edited by Samuel R. Gerber and Oliver Schroeder. The W. H. Anderson Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. 1962. Pp. 503. Illus. 95. \$9.75.

This book is made up of 26 chapters by 12 authors. There are chapters on the police officer and his scientific aids, surveillance, observation and description, and investigating incendiary fires, four chapters on burglary and robbery, seven chapters on homicide, and eleven on interrogation.

The two editors are well known in the field of law enforcement, but this book will do no credit to their reputations. Chapters run from very poor to good. Nothing is outstanding. The book suffers greatly from repetition, with the various authors making the same points. Some authors have little connection with police operations, and their writing shows it. As a series of lectures, which these chapters were originally, this probably was interesting material, particularly if the class had a chance to ask questions and discuss. However, it is most difficult to make a book out of lectures without a great deal of re-writing. This obviously has not been done.

Some errors cannot be excused. The chapter on instrumental detection of deception by Bernard J. Conley is a prime example of sloppy work. I was not surprised that he might leave the final "e" off of Leonard Keeler's first name, but it took a little time to figure out that when he speaks of "Cesare Ambrosia" that he meant Lombroso. In speaking of polygraph manufacturers, he refers to "Stilding," doubtless meaning Stoelting. Time and again the basic blood pressure cuff is referred to as "cup". There are many similar errors, and they set the pace for the poorest material published to date on lie detection.

Some other chapters are better. George H. Hatherill, Commander, Criminal Investigation Dept., London Metropolitan Police, New Scotland Yard, contributed ten chapters. While his British approach is a little different from ours, his material is entirely sound and well presented.

This book is supposed to be the first in a "Science in Law Enforcement Series". It would be best to withdraw this volume and start the series all over again with a carefully planned and edited publication.

RICHARD L. HOLCOMB