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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Richard L. Holcomb*

CRIMINAL ABORTIONS. By Jerome E. Bates and Edward S. Zawadski. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1964. Pp. 250. \$8.50.

Every author treating a controversial subject often finds the scope of the study limited to something resembling a descriptive undertaking only. This is not the case with Mr. Bates and Dr. Zawadski in dealing with the social, legal, personal, and professional ramifications of criminal abortions. Their treatment of this social-legal ill is an attempt to provide a valid basis for understanding a problem which could rank among the most serious categories of criminal activity in the United States.

The legal and moral aspects of criminal abortion are legion. The attitude of our society is ambivalent toward the problem. The majority of the people deplore the act and demand tight statutory controls to prohibit criminal abortions. However, an estimated two million women are the more or less willing victims of criminal abortions annually. Apprehension of the abortionist requires the testimony of the victim, yet few of the victims willingly attach social and legal stigma to their names and reputations by admitting complicity in the act. Statutes covering criminal abortion are sometimes hazy and ill-defined. The enforcement of the law is often lax and embarrassing. Consequently, the demand for legal enforcement of criminal abortion statutes increases as the act multiplies, yet convictions for criminal abortion are dependent on too many intangible social factors to make any statute really enforceable.

The authors of *Criminal Abortions* suggest a program of medical research and social education as a forerunner of an effort to re-examine the social-legal position of society toward criminal abortions. Their position is well taken. Dr. Zawadski and Mr. Bates have carefully side-stepped the philosophical and moral implications of criminal abortion, or at least treated these aspects as peripheral issues. Their intent in producing this volume was apparently to generate interest in a social-legal problem of the first magnitude. They have succeeded admirably. The book is well written and

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well documented and as an absent of "do-gooder" philosophy as most basic academic texts. The substantial appendices offer firsthand insights to the problems of criminal abortions.

The readers of *Criminal Abortions* may not agree with the thesis of the book for various personal reasons. However, whether policeman, sociologist, medical practitioner, lawyer, student, or researcher, he will close the book with a sharpened perception of the many faceted problems of illegal abortions.

HARVEY D. MILLER

Iowa City, Iowa

HOW TO WRITE AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT. By William Dienstlein, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill. 1964. Pp. 115, \$4.75.

No police officer likes to write a report any more than anyone likes to write anything. There is nothing glamorous, or even vaguely interesting in applying the seat of the pants to the seat of the chair and reducing what you have done to words. Report writing is never a popular subject in police schools. The unlucky instructor who is selected to teach it finds himself starting out with two strikes against him.

In spite of this, almost all police officers, and certainly all commanding officers, will readily admit that good police reports are essential to good police operations. This is something that officers must do, and do well, like it or not.

As a result it is most gratifying to see a text that will be of definite assistance in teaching report writing. This is a well written and very practical book. Just about everything that a policeman needs to know about report writing is in this book. It is brief enough so that it can be used as a text for it stays with the essentials and will hold the interest of the reader as well as anything on this topic can.

There will be few experienced officers who cannot improve their reports after studying this material. Recruits who master it will find that they know about all they will need to do a good job.

The author's rules for good report writing will apply to any law enforcement agency although there may be some specific regulations on form

that will need changing. There is a good introduction, a chapter on information to be included, a chapter on the principles of good report writing, and a brief chapter on the parts of a report. The appendix contains examples of narrative reports. The chapter on principles has a good selection on basic grammar, construction, and punctuation.

If you want to write better reports or to train officers, this is a book you should have.

RICHARD L. HOLCOMB

POLICE ARREST AND SEARCH. By *Herbert Phillip Vallow*, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1962. Pp. 119, Illus. 51, \$5.75.

This is a good basic textbook. The price is probably too high for each police officer to have a copy, but this is the sort of material needed in police instruction.

One of the first chapters discusses the basic legal elements associated with an arrest. At the start of this chapter the author makes it clear that this chapter is in no way intended as a legal authority and goes on to point out possible variations in the law from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. By doing this he avoids the mistake of many writers on the law of arrest who present their local law as being correct everywhere. This is a brief, simple, yet satisfactory, explanation of the law of arrest.

The remainder of the book is quite a complete treatment of all phases of the mechanics of the approach, the arrest, search, restraining, and transporting. The illustrations are adequate and present both the recommended and not recommended methods of a variety of procedures. The text is detailed and explains the many minor points that often make the difference between success and failure. Illustrations from the author's experience help illustrate some of the points.

There is a need for more basic books that are this well written and illustrated.

RICHARD L. HOLCOMB

THE CALIFORNIA POLICE. By *John P. Kenney*, Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1964. Pp. 144. \$6.50.

Dr. Kenney presents an historical account of the development of the California Police System in an interesting and well documented manner. He has examined and developed a chronological account of the building processes of an organization which has been a model in state police opera-

tions. It is hoped that this volume might be the forerunner of similar scholarly, yet practical volumes that trace the development of the police function in the United States. Too little work has been done in this field.

The book could be strengthened considerably by including more information regarding the political alignments and power struggles prior to the enactment of the basic statutes pertaining to the establishment of the California System. The impact of the municipalities and other governmental units could be analyzed in some depth; personalities and roles of the principal participants could also be explored. If this were done Dr. Kenney's volume would add greatly to the literature of police administration specifically, and public administration and political science generally. It is this reviewer's opinion that writers in the field of police administration have much to offer to the art of general administration, but have long neglected accepting the natural role of our profession. *The California Police* makes note of the many political ramifications in organizational development, but treats these rather superficially. This tendency will limit the area of audience interest, as does the \$6.50 selling price.

HARVEY D. MILLER

Iowa City, Iowa

DIRECTORY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES OFFERING DEGREE PROGRAMS IN POLICE SCIENCE AND RELATED FIELDS. Edited by *Charles E. Grant* Diablo Valley College, Concord, California, 1964. Pp. 13.

This paper bound booklet contains the names of one hundred colleges and universities in the United States (56 in California) and one in Australia which offer degrees in police science and related fields. The listing is arranged by states and contains the school name, director's name, and degrees offered. Grant writes "It is hoped that it [the book] will be of value to police, regulatory, investigative and security agencies in their recruiting programs and that it will help to bring Police Science Educators and Police Trainers closer together."

This useful publication could be improved slightly if it contained an alphabetical list of degrees according to the abbreviations used in the publication.

O. H.