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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by

Rolland L. Soule*

METHODS OF FORENSIC SCIENCE, Volume IV.
Edited by A. S. Curry. Interscience Publishers,
New York, N.Y. 1965 Pp. 369. \$15.00

Volume IV, edited by A. S. Curry, is a continuation of a series begun under the editorship of Frank Lundquist. Included in the several volumes is a collection of chapters dealing with many aspects of the forensic laboratory work. These volumes bring to the Forensic Scientist a collection of methods in his field. Dr. Curry, a well known forensic toxicologist, and the nine authors cover in this volume timely subjects.

Methods for Determining Alcohol, by H. Ward Smith

The author discusses the forensic importance of methods for the determination of alcohol with reference to three factors: (1) the anaesthetic action of alcohol, (2) the number of people who drink alcoholic beverages to excess, and (3) the legal interpretation of what constitutes excess in a given situation. The wide use of alcoholic beverages and the relationship between concentrations of alcohol in the body fluids and its effects on the individual are reviewed with reference to biological principles and laws applicable to the operator of motor vehicles. An excellent discussion of the fundamental principles of methods for detecting alcohol and methods for quantitative determination of alcohol is given with numerous references.

The Examination of Glass Fragments, by D. F. Nelson.

Glass compositions and chemistry are presented in a brief but organized manner. Attention is called to the significance of identifying glass fragments in forensic applications by a study of fragment shape, size, fit, physical properties, and chemical analyses.

Coloured Fibers in Criminal Investigation with Special Reference to Natural Fibers, by Max Frei-Sulzer.

In this chapter the author gives his experiences in the collection of fibers, their identification, com-

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parisons of colours, and the determination of dyes involved. His experiences, as reported here, add much to the field of fiber identification.

Searching for Drug Metabolites in Viscera, by L. K. Turner.

Drug metabolites have been the concern of toxicologists for many years. Turner presents the problem vividly and then gives excellent advice to follow in meeting this challenge. No one chapter could adequately cover all the aspects of this subject; however, many examples are cited with outline procedures to follow in the identification of metabolites. An excellent up-to-date reference is included.

Thin-layer Chromatography (TLC) in Forensic Science, by G. Machata.

Everyone in the field of toxicology is familiar with thin-layer chromatography. The material cited here is not new, but is brief and interesting with emphases on special methods for different types of drugs.

The Detection of Soap Abortions, by Wolfgang Schwerd.

The subject is discussed under three headings; namely, (1) direct detection of soap constituents, (2) detection of typical histological changes, and (3) detection of changes occurring in the haemoglobin. Included in the chapter are photographs of histological preparations demonstrating the presence of fat in body tissues.

Infra-red Absorption Spectroscopy in Forensic Toxicological Practice, by Antti Alha and Veikko Tamminen.

Fundamental principles of infra-red absorption spectroscopy are discussed briefly. Reference is made to other sources for forensic toxicology application. A report of twelve selected cases in the identification of drugs gives the reader much practical information.

Recent Advances in the Grouping of Dried Blood and Secretion Stains, by R. A. Outteridge.

The author points out the importance of recent developments regarding an entirely fresh approach to antigen detection in bloodstains which has yielded techniques capable of a very high sensitivity. The subject matter is discussed in a well organized manner with an up-to-date reference. A standard bloodstain grouping record form is included.

The subjects discussed in this Volume are timely and are an important contribution to the series which is recognized by many forensic scientists. This volume is recommended as a valuable addition to a toxicologist's library.

PAUL E. SHOFFEITT, PH.D.

Auburn, Alabama

TRUTH AND DECEPTION: THE POLYGRAPH ("LIE-DETECTOR") TECHNIQUE. By *John E. Reid* and *Fred E. Inbau*. Baltimore: The Williams & Wilkins Company, 1966 Pp. 291. \$14.50.

[By reason of the fact that one of the authors of this book is the *Journal's* Editor-In-Chief, it is deemed inappropriate to review it in characteristic Journal fashion—that is, an evaluation along with a description of the book's contents. The following, therefore, is merely a factual description with quotations from the book's preface.]

In the Preface the authors state: "The Polygraph technique for the determination of truth and deception which we describe in this book and the opinions we express are based upon our collective professional experiences in the testing of over 35,000 persons in actual case situations. These experiences cover a span of thirty-three years. For one of us (Reid) it has been his sole professional occupation since 1940."

The book discusses the historical development of the Polygraph, describes the instrument, the conditions under which the authors feel the test should be conducted, and the test procedure and diagnostic technique. There are 253 illustrations, mostly of Polygraph records obtained from approximately 200 actual case subjects.

One section of the book is devoted to a discussion of the legal status of the Polygraph technique. In it the authors analyze the numerous appellate court

decisions that have been rendered with respect to the admissibility of Polygraph test results. Then the authors express the view that the test results should now be admitted as evidence in both civil and criminal trials. The reasons offered for the admissibility of the evidence, as well as for an improved general status for the Polygraph technique, are capsulized in the following quotation from the book's preface:

"With crimes against the public as rampant as they are, and with the need for a reliable means of ascertaining the truthfulness or deception of criminal suspects, accusers, or professed witnesses, the Polygraph technique, when properly employed, can be very helpful in many criminal case situations. It has also demonstrated its great utility in the resolution of civil disputes, in the investigation of thefts by employees in private industry and public employment, and in the screening of applicants for employment in sensitive positions of trust. In governmental operations involving national security its value has been very adequately demonstrated.

"Frequently overlooked in some appraisals of the utility of the Polygraph technique is the fact that its use frequently results in the *exoneration of innocent suspects*; and it is for this reason that the name Polygraph is now used instead of the earlier designation of 'lie-detector'.

"We profess no infallibility for the Polygraph technique, but we can sincerely report it to be a very reliable aid in the determination of truth or deception. Moreover, the Polygraph technique, properly employed, possesses a degree of accuracy commensurate with, and even superior to, most of the presently approved forms of evidence, scientific as well as nonscientific, that feature in criminal and civil trials.

"In presenting this text on the Polygraph technique, we do so with the utmost confidence in its utility and reliability, and we believe that an impartial evaluation of what we here present will warrant a more favorable status for the technique than currently exists. We also believe that the time has come for judicial approval of the test results in criminal and civil cases, subject, however, to the precautionary requirements we herein recommend respecting the examination procedures to be used, the qualifications of the examiner, and the presentation of the evidence in court."

TEAR GAS MUNITIONS. By *Thomas F. Swarengen*. Charles C Thomas. Springfield, Ill. 1966. Pp. XXVI, 569. 529 Illustrations. \$34.50.

The subtitle "An Analysis of Commercial Riot Gas Guns, Tear Gas Projectiles, Grenades, Small Arms Ammunition, and Related Tear Gas Devices" is descriptive of the contents of this volume, which is a complete discourse on tear gas. It is a fine reference book. The cost is a factor in buying such a book and may create difficulty for a police department with a small library budget.

The police department that purchases one of these books can use it to help determine how to best utilize different forms of tear gas munitions in various situations in their jurisdictions. It is a guide to planning for the purchase, training, and tactical usage of tear gas munitions. Descriptions of items are in minute detail and unfortunately make boring reading. It is fine advertising for the manufacturers.

Descriptive tables comparing different types of gas, effects of gas, ranges of gas ordnance, etc. might help the reader. If the author had made reference to the 529 fine illustrations throughout the book, it would be easier to correlate the text with the illustrations. He never states: "see figure —".

The writer, a Chief Warrant Officer in the U. S. Marine Corps, is not greatly hindered by his lack of police experience, but falters when he describes safe burglaries and the effectiveness of tear gas on the protection of safes.

Like all reference books, it can become dated as new information and materials are developed.

Some of the information is to be found in military manuals on tear gas. Also if one reads the instructions enclosed with tear gas items, he may not wish to read this book. However, much of the material compiled in *Tear Gas Munitions* will be difficult to obtain. The police officer should know which type of tear gas munitions will help to save his life or the lives of others when subduing dangerous criminals or mental cases.

With the increasing frequency of various types of demonstrations and riots with which the police are confronted today, the knowledge which Mr. Swarengen has put into print can be of utmost importance at critical times. Your police should plan how they can make tear gas munitions work effectively in all situations to preserve the peace and protect life and property.

THOMAS G. BRODIE

Miami, Florida

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