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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

THORSTEN SELLIN [Ed.]


The editor of the new edition of this book tells us that "as a practical handbook for use in criminal courts, Underhill on Criminal Evidence is unexcelled. In bulk, the book may be unexcelled by a single volume on any subject. It is half again as large as the 1923 edition, despite omission of the table of cases—the increase being due to the addition of new cases, to amplification of the subject of Expert Testimony, and to inclusion of new chapters on Identifying Evidence, Visual Evidence, and Receiving Stolen Property. Although the range of topics touched upon somewhere in the book is very wide, a brief examination reveals the following important omissions, which may or may not be typical of the contents in general; blood analysis, and the tests to establish non-paternity; the recent requirements in some states regarding notice of alibi as a defense; the New York receiving stolen property rule regarding presumptions raised against dealers; rules in several states regarding comment on the defendant's failure to testify; and the very important developments in a number of states completely discarding the common law methods and tests of proving insanity and adopting quite modern procedures.

The entire book is characterized by disjointed generalization that is anything but analysis, by indiscriminate cumulation of case materials, and by most of the other confusion and superficiality that enter into the construction of many of the practical books for lawyers' use.

To observe specifically the sort of thing that one here encounters, consider the statement that "It is the general rule that the state has the burden of proving all the necessary ingredients of a crime, including the criminal intention, and this rule logically casts the burden of proving the sanity of an accused person upon the prosecution in the first instance" (p. 597). But immediately following that we are told that "The prevailing view seems to be that an allegation that the defendant is insane is a statement of an independent fact, and is, in its nature, a plea of confession and avoidance. Hence, if insanity is pleaded as a defense, the burden of proof is on the defendant, in conformity with the general rule that he who asserts any affirmative fact has the burden of proof, and if he fails to prove his insanity, he is presumed sane" (pp. 599-601). Such juxtaposition of contradictory rules produces a jumble of authority; and, in addition to confusing the burden of introducing evidence with the burden of proof, there is no indication and apparently no awareness that there are several conflicting theories. The best that can be said of the work is that it
may serve as an index to the case materials.

What has happened in the case of *Underhill on Criminal Evidence* may be surmised: published first in 1898 and having but little competition, it achieved an important niche in the lawyer's bookshelf. Then in 1904 Wigmore published his monumental treatise—one of the very great legal works in modern times. At least one other relatively helpful American book—this exclusively on Criminal Evidence—is available. Then why *Underhill*? The reason hardly reflects credit upon the training or the scholarship of the Bench and Bar. That a work like *Underhill* and countless others—pitchforked mountains of case materials—should be re-issued time after time despite the publication of scholarly treatises, is, unfortunately, rather conclusive in itself. And the stupendous number of reversals because of evidentiary errors further indicates the confusion in the field as well as the incompetence of courts and practitioners.

All of which becomes especially significant when one considers the relationship of the law of evidence to the problems of demonstration and persuasion. Certainly there is great and persistent need to continue to provide thorough critiques of evidence in the light of the best contemporary empirical (chiefly social) science. A mere handful of scholars has made valuable contributions, and most of these have been fragmentary. Others have essayed the task, and departed shortly for "purer" or more tender fields. Yet Criminal Evidence, to confine oneself to that branch, precedes and paralel, admits or rejects, weighs and conditions, the whole stream of fact and knowledge bearing upon criminal litigation. The rules of evidence, like others, have had their origin in the past, and have been colored by the cultural milieu and molded by the knowledge existing in the past. They have been constantly modified as ideas have changed and knowledge has increased. But such improvement has lagged far behind scientific discovery. And all-too-frequently has it been haphazard.

What a world of interest and enlightenment could be turned up by painstaking researches: How do the rules stack up with the best current knowledge? That is the persistent problem. Doggedly and critically and skeptically it should be pursued. In some instances, e. g., ballistics and fingerprints, the rules have caught up with science. But consider, for example: what are the rules of evidence governing bastardy proceedings? And what is known in bio-chemistry regarding paternity and non-paternity? What are the various rules and legal theories regarding proof of "insanity"? And what of contemporary psychologic knowledge regarding mental disease? What are the rules regarding "consciousness of guilt"? And what does psychiatry provide that may cause one to pause frequently, if not to reject, the legal formulas generally? Confessions, use of drugs, of alcohol (cf. the Swedish and other provisions for laboratory tests and the consequent availability of precise data), the weighing of testimony in the light of what psychology offers as to seeing, remembering, exaggerating, suggestibility, the results of cross-examination as compared with those obtained by uninterrupted narrative—these are only a few links in an endless chain of evidentiary problems that await
courageous, critical, broadly equipped explorers.

Jerome Hall.
Louisiana State University
School of Law.

Der moderne Täterbegriff und der deutsche Strafgesetzentwurf.

Kriminalistischer Bericht über eine Reise nach Amerika.


All three of these studies reflect in various degrees the influence of the National Socialist revolution upon German jurisprudence. Every revolution necessarily leads to a reshaping of the existing legal system, and the most radical changes are usually made in the criminal code. But while on some occasions this process has been accomplished with a minimum of ideological fanfare, such empiricism is alien to the German temperament. There is probably no country in the world where the general doctrines and problems of the criminal law in all their ramifications have been subjected to such exhaustive examination as in Germany. It is therefore certainly not surprising that the pending Nazi criminal code should lead to a thorough reexamination of all the old problems. If the American jurist who has read this type of literature before the revolution has sometimes felt that it was a little too theoretical and impractical, he will be led to even greater musing by the present flood of studies of which the three at present under review are fair samples. This feeling is not due so much to the fact that the theories which are propounded have no scientific validity as to the existence of a doubt that the principles can be applied under the conditions of dictatorship. The subtleties of the general doctrines of the criminal law necessarily presuppose for their successful application a degree of judicial objectivity which may be presumed to be non-existent in the present Reich. In current German criminal theory there is much that is admirable in the abstract. We are now often told, for instance, that criminal doctrines must not contravene the "popular consciousness" and that law and morals must be reconciled but how shall the Volksgeist (which has been in cold storage since Savigny) make itself felt? It might be supposed that the popular consciousness would be pretty inarticulate in the present German state. The new German code will in general be based upon positivist principles which are fine in themselves but somehow positivism and dictatorship have become inseparable companions.

These melancholy reflections are justified most by Doctor Lange's study of the doctrine of criminal participation in relation to the pending draft of a German penal code. To be sure the American jurist interested in the criminal law can learn something from Doctor Lange's review of the controversy
in this field. The common law of principals and accessories is antiquated. It represents a purely formal system in which criminal participation is judged solely by a time element. German theory has struggled more directly with the inherent elements of the problem. The adherents of a "restrictive" interpretation would regard as the perpetrator of a crime only the person who has himself realized its constituent elements while the adherents of an "extensive" interpretation would include also various types of accessory activity. The merit of Doctor Lange is that he perceives that the problem is perhaps incapable of general solution and that the nature of the particular crime must be taken into consideration. He quotes Binding's witticism that the deserter must necessarily run away with his own legs. But the whole debate is really terribly unreal as far as the proposed penal code is concerned, for, as is well known, it is to abrogate the prohibition against the analogical elaboration of crimes. The central maxim of penal liberalism is to be cast into the discard. What practical utility then is there in discussing the fine points of criminal participation? Indeed how much practical utility can there be under such circumstances in a penal code? This consideration, it must be said, gives Doctor Lange pause but he brushes it aside and proceeds.

The veteran Doctor Exner's contribution is a report of a criminological journey to America in the summer of 1934. His account in itself will not be of great interest to American criminologists. It reviews familiar developments in the United States in criminal law and procedure as well as in prison administration and criminological theory. Doctor Exner is well informed, and while his views as to our preeminence in crime are not necessarily true they are in the main those conventionally held in this country. He concedes that his countrymen can learn a little from us about prison administration and criminological theory but he tells them also that we live in a waste land as far as criminal law and procedure are concerned. The reason is rather obvious, and it is easy to understand the pleasure which his trip must have afforded Doctor Exner. He was able to see with his own eyes the grotesque results of the ideology of liberalism in our criminal procedure, and he can readily exaggerate the horrors which he found. He takes delight in observing, for instance, that some American courts have pushed the privilege against self-incrimination to such absurd lengths as to refuse to allow the footprints of an accused person to be taken. Some American court may once have been as foolish as that but certainly the case is too exceptional to be of any importance in our present criminal administration. Doubtless our procedure leaves something to be desired but it may be suspected that there is also some room for improvement in German criminal procedure, and precisely along the despised liberal lines.

Doctor Schönke's study is related least to the immediate necessities of Nazi jurisprudence. It is a very valuable study upon an historical and comparative basis of the so-called procedure of adhesion by which the party injured by a crime may seek civil damages in the public prosecution. Such procedure is not available in countries of the common law but is in force in most civil law countries. The procedure has been urged by many positivist criminologists as a desirable measure of
reparation in combating crime. In general the procedure makes it merely possible for the injured party to seek reparation in the public prosecution although in some countries he also receives various degrees of public aid in making his claim effective. Mexico, however, has recently taken the logical step of making the damages part of the public punishment. Until now Germany has not admitted the procedure of adhesion but since the adoption of the existing penal code it has constantly been included in new drafts. Its introduction would thus not seem to be directly related to the principles of national socialism. Nevertheless it is easy to see why it should seem particularly appealing now. It somehow represents a return to the mediaeval criminal law whose primary aim was the satisfaction of the injured party. Hence it is volkstümlich, and as such has been recommended by Doctor Gürtner, the present German minister of justice, whom Doctor Schönke quotes in his introduction. Later on, however, our author finds it necessary to say that the procedure of adhesion is to be recommended despite the fact that "the coming German criminal law will presumably not accord the same importance as the existing law to the injury of the legal interests of the individual." Perhaps its future then is not assured.

WILLIAM SEAGLE.
Brooklyn, N. Y.


This is a study of parole prediction based on 1000 cases of the Ford Junior Republic. It is a useful contribution to the science of parole prediction. In it, the author further refines the Burgess technique. As it is based on data which are to a large extent verified, it deserves careful attention. The author departs from the Burgess technique not only in the verification of factors but also at the point of their selection for constructing prediction tables. Van Vechten employs only those which are to some degree, at least, correlated with outcomes on parole, building up his tables on those subcategories of the factors which are favorable and unfavorable to success on parole.

The first portion of this study is a description of the organization and functioning of the Ford Junior Republic, from which institution the author drew his 1000 cases for study. In the next section he describes the method by which he selected the cases and compiled and analyzed the data. Although he carefully defines the terms utilized in the study, he has not stated with sufficient clarity the length of the post institution period involved. Apparently the period covered in the "follow-up" is not uniform and the reviewer is not certain from the report whether only the parole period is involved in the "follow-up" or in some cases the parole and post parole period. This does not destroy the conclusions of the study but makes interpretation of the results more difficult.

The book will be of particular value to students of prediction because it briefly summarizes the major prediction efforts to date and contains a bibliography of prediction studies. And for those interested in the make-up of correctional populations, the appendix of tables will be of value as a basis of com-
comparison with other series of juvenile delinquents.

It is somewhat unfortunate that although the author recognizes that the Glueck study of 1000 Juvenile Delinquents is a follow-up of post treatment success and failure covering a uniform period of five years, and his is one of parole success and failure covering varied periods of time ranging from briefer to longer periods, he nevertheless continues throughout the study to make comparisons between the relationships revealed in the two studies. Research has already been shown that a considerably higher proportion of offenders adjust during parole (or under probation or other supervised treatment) than during periods of freedom. He himself says on page 137: "A definite warning is needed against the confusion of the significance of particular attributes for parole and their implications for crime in general. It has been customary to assume that the factors which made for crime were those that made for parole violation and vice versa." In the light of this, any comparison of factors related to outcome on parole with factors related to outcome after the end of treatment can only lead to confusion. And yet, on page 137, footnote 1, appears this statement: "The failure per cent of this study is 51.5: approximating the Glueck's definition of recidivism by considering as failures all who had any subsequent recorded delinquency would give a failure rate of 67.4% as compared with the 94.4% recidivism found by them for those actually committed to a correctional institution. (One Thousand Juvenile Delinquents, p. 174)." Actually the comparison would be more nearly accurate if made with the recidivism rate of the Gluecks' 1000 Juvenile Delinquents during treatment which shows that 53% were recidivists. (by their definition) as compared with Van Vechten's 51.5% (by his definition). (See page 151, 1000 Juvenile Delinquents.) Thus Van Vechten is erroneously led to conclude, where the correlations in the two studies do not check, that "their significance for the continuation of crime is not definitely settled." (See for example his page 46, note 1; and page 50 note 1.)

This study reemphasizes to the reviewer the absolute necessity for the verification of all data used in constructing prediction tables and for agreement among students of prediction of criteria of "success" and "failure" in criminal conduct. This is of the utmost importance because it is only in this way that any comparisons between factors and outcomes in the various prediction studies can have any significance either in corroborating the findings of the various studies or in arriving at any justifiable conclusions about the utility of the various prediction methods.

ELEANOR T. GLUECK.
Harvard University.

EL PESO CORPORAL EN LOS DELINQUENTES DE CUBA. [Body Weights of Cuban Offenders.]
By Israel Castellanos. 78 pp.
Havana, 1935.

Dr. Castellanos is Director of the Criminological Laboratory and of the National Bureau of Identification of Cuba. He has devoted this monograph to the discussion of the weights of 6,317 Cuban delinquents. The first 34 pages consist of critical remarks upon body weight, the various indices and formulae used for relating weight to other bodily dimensions, classification of weight
groups into categories, types of scales used, allowance made for weight of clothing, etcetera. This section assembles conveniently and discusses adequately a great deal of scattered material on the subject.

The second part of the work deals with body weight in Cuba. Castellanos divided his subjects into three groups—Whites, Negroes, and Mulattoes—on the basis of skin pigmentation. The total series includes 2,503 Whites, 2,145 Negroes, and 1,609 Mulattoes. The females in the series number 324, divided equally among the three racial categories. Subjects were weighed without shoes, but otherwise with ordinary prison clothing. Weight of the clothing was deducted. The mean weights for each age in the various racial classes are seriated. In both sexes the smallest mean weight occurs in the Whites and the largest in the Negroes. This ranking agrees with that of mean stature.

The offense classification of the delinquents was fourfold: against persons, against property, sex, and miscellaneous. In each racial group the offenders against persons surpass all of the other groups in mean weight. When the offenders against persons and against property are combined in one group—"intensive criminals"—and contrasted with the two other groups thrown together, it is found that mean weights of the "intensive" class are somewhat higher.

Dr. Castellanos is careful to point out that the object of criminal anthropology is not to devise coefficients or other anthropometric means of recognizing and isolating potential criminals, but rather to gain an understanding of biological characteristics of delinquents.

The data presented in this monograph are valuable and the critical discussion should prove useful. A comparison of the weights of criminals with those of civilians of similar racial antecedents is essential for answering the question as to relative biological status. It is to be hoped that Dr. Castellanos will secure the comparative material necessary for such determination.

On the whole, studies of single isolated characteristics in criminal groups are quite insufficient for demonstrating the biological position of this stigmatized sociological category. The entire assemblage of anthropometric and morphological features of the criminal must be considered together and contrasted with that of civilians. Apart from the enormous labor involved in such a task, the student who has undertaken and completed it is confronted with the difficulty of securing funds for the publication of the great masses of statistical data which must be presented in order to substantiate his findings. Consequently the criminal anthropologist may find himself in the dilemma of choosing between incomplete publication of selected items of his data and no publication at all. Dr. Castellanos has chosen the former way out. The reviewer, who is in a similar quandary, has decided that it is better to withhold the evidence until it can be presented properly, in its entirety. If the criminological world is so completely convinced of the irrelevance of biological data that it is unwilling to give the anthropologist a hearing, the latter would better continue his researches in camera and bide his time.

E. A. Howton.

Harvard University.
**BOOK REVIEWS**


This is a report of a psychoanalytical research project carried on by Drs. Alexander and Healy over a period of ten months. During this period work was started on eleven adults, all of whom presented very serious degrees of criminal behavior. Four of these cases proved inaccessible and refused to continue the analysis. All these cases had been known to the Judge Baker Foundation in the early days of their delinquent careers. Five of the cases were in prison during the period of this study, and two were still in prison at the end of the study. The procedure followed in the study of these cases adhered closely to orthodox psychoanalytical techniques.

Seven of the cases are described in considerable detail and these case stories occupy seven of the eleven chapters. The authors have had to pick and choose from the voluminous material obtained, and they have presented these case stories in narrative form. They have included in the discussion of the case their own interpretations of the material. A great deal of emphasis was placed on the dream material produced and on the interpretations of this material by the analysts.

In the introduction the authors state that the purpose of this study was primarily etiological and not therapeutic, although they recognize that any sound etiological study carried out by psychoanalytical methods would have to be very closely associated with therapy. In reading the case material one does get the impression that this etiological emphasis predominates and that there was more interest in getting material than in doing treatment.

There is constant emphasis upon the fact that all of these cases had been studied by the ordinary methods in the early days of their careers and that most of the material later revealed through these psychoanalytical studies was not touched. Naturally the book emphasizes the emotional complications revealed in all of these cases. The earlier studies had stressed the social conditions in which these individuals lived, and while the authors have given due recognition to the importance of social conditions as favoring development of criminal behavior, yet they do emphasize by this material that social conditions alone did not create the recurring criminal behavior manifested in these individuals. Where unfavorable living circumstances coincide with the type of emotional conflicts revealed in these studies then the likelihood of criminal behavior becomes greatly increased. Therefore, they emphasize the close relation existing between social conditions, individual emotional maladjustment and constitutional make-up of the individual. They give as the primary purpose of this research project the creation of a better knowledge of the inter-relations existing between these important determinants of human behavior.

The book represents a serious and thoughtful attempt to apply psychoanalysis to both the investigation and treatment of the adult criminal. The conclusions have the merit of modesty in that they are not advocating any widespread analysis of either child or adult offender. They do point out, however, both in their conclusions and in the presentation of their case material, the wide gaps in our knowledge of motiva-
tion of delinquent behavior and the paucity of such knowledge as comes from studies that are limited to social situations. The frankness in which they describe the values and the lack of values accruing to these particular cases adds to the merit of this book. Their own conclusion, however, leads the authors to feel that years of failure and social misconduct might have been averted had there been available for these individuals and their families "more intensive and prolonged work upon the basis of psychoanalytic understanding and interpretation."

The book on the whole is well written, and merits careful reading by students of criminal behavior. It is moderately well indexed.

FREDERICK H. ALLEN, M.D.

DIAGNOSTIC CRIMINOLOGY. By

This lithoprinted manual is an attempt to organize psychiatric knowledge in the field of criminology in order to make it more readily available for students and beginning workers in juvenile and adult courts. While it presents no new material, Dr. Selling has written an interesting historical introduction on the development of criminology. There follows a discussion of the examination of adult and juvenile offenders which goes into considerable detail on how to take histories and is somewhat stereotyped. He has, however, stressed the importance of the human aspect of an examination, and the importance of the type of relation that is established between examiner and the individual being studied.

There follows in the fifth chapter a fairly condensed statement of the different types of psychiatric syndromes found in both adults and children with an attempt to recommend a type of treatment procedure best suited to each syndrome. This method of presentation is better suited for the adult syndromes than for children. The appendix gives samples of the reports the author has found useful in laying facts before the Judge. A manual of this type will be of some help to those students and beginners in courts, but the somewhat dogmatic manner of presentation may be misleading and somewhat harmful to an untrained person. The trained person will probably find little use for this book. There is a small bibliography attached.

FREDERICK H. ALLEN, M.D.


It is a general treatise and laboratory guide for chemists engaged as public analysts, municipal, or police chemists, particularly those required to place the resources of their laboratories to the aid of the peace officer in criminal investigation. Between its two covers are collected and discussed approved
analytical procedures for a comprehensive assortment of problems so arising which otherwise send the analyst through a widely scattered scientific literature for his leads.

The subjects given attention are: Introduction; Blood Stains; Clothing; Counterfeit Coins; Documents; Dust, Dirt, Glass Fragments, Stains and Marks; Explosives and Explosions; Fibres, Woven Fabrics, String and Rope; Fingerprints, Footprints, and Tracks of Vehicles; Fires and Insurance Frauds; Firearms, Cartridges, and Projectiles; Microscopy, Photography, X-Rays, Ultraviolet Rays and Infrared Rays; Poisons; Preservation of the Human Body After Death; Robbery from Letters and Parcels; Tobacco.

A useful index is provided. Also, many references to treatises and original articles are given at appropriate points in the text. The chapter on Firearms, Cartridges, and Projectiles has been extensively revised and improved. In other chapters additions and improvements have been made principally in those devoted to Documents; Stains and Marks; Footprints and Tracks of Vehicles; and Photography.

The relation and utility of the analytical procedures discussed to scientific criminal investigation is exemplified by many case notes from investigative matters within the author's professional experiences as a Public Analyst. These clearly reflect the authoritative quality of the entire treatise. In addition they give to the book that quota of interest which a well solved police mystery always vicariously gives to the understanding reader. These are sufficiently pertinent and clear to enable both discerning chemist and peace officer better to know what aid may be expected from the chemical laboratory in a criminal investigation cooperatively conducted.

EDWARD OSCAR HEINRICH.
Berkeley, California.

FIFTY-ONE FINGERPRINT SYSTEMS.
Compiled by Frank M. Boolsen.
Edited by B. C. Bridges. Mimeo.
41 pp. Published by the Authors.
1935. $5.00.

This book, the first of its kind in English, is a compilation, in condensed form, of the most important systems which have been developed in various parts of the world for the classification, and filing of fingerprints. In mimeograph, it contains no illustrations of the types of patterns referred to in the text, but the descriptions are sufficiently clear to be easily intelligible to fingerprint experts. The authors have not attempted to record all of the existing schemes, but have outlined those best known and most widely used, including the monodactylar as well as the ten-finger systems.

Similar compilations have been published by other dactyloscopists, notably Heindl and Locard, but being in foreign languages these cannot conveniently be used by identification experts in this country; for this reason the present work should be welcomed by all who are interested in fingerprint classification and its problems. Researchers in this important field will find it invaluable as a reference work; with illustrative material to accompany it, the book should prove most useful as a teaching manual. Copies may be obtained from Mr. B. C. Bridges, Superintendent, Bureau of Identification, Alameda, California.

M. E. O'NEILL.
Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, Chicago.

This pamphlet was prepared by Mr. Goldberg and has been published by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The questions to be answered in the schedules have been drawn from the author's personal observations, consultation with several authorities on this subject and from the schedules of The Osborne Association and of the Jail Inspection Division of the U. S. Bureau of Prisons.

Part I, Prison Schedule, covers first the general laws relating to the institution and the administrative provisions for its control. Then in order, sections are devoted to: Buildings and Equipment; Personnel; Prisoners; Discipline and Privileges; Health, Sanitation, Food; Industries; Education and Recreation; Religion; Pardon and Parole; and the too often neglected, Accounting and Record Keeping. Part II, Jail Schedule, covers about the same general form with the variations appropriate to this special problem. The material is intended to serve as a maximum schedule form from which may be selected schedules suited to specific purposes.

As Sanford Bates, Director of Federal Prisons, states in the Introduction, "It is not a simple thing to investigate a penal institution and arrive at the real facts of the situation.—Even a trained investigator or inspector does not always know what to look for when he enters a prison, jail or workhouse."

Similarly, the author writes, "Much of the value of any survey must rest necessarily upon the shoulders of the appraiser, his knowledge of the subjects covered, his entree into the institution and especially upon his own ability to observe and to evaluate critically the observations made."

These schedules are the most inclusive, detailed and comprehensive ones yet offered. They are to be highly recommended for the use of federal inspectors, state officials, civic bodies, and public minded citizens interested in an inquiry into conditions in state and local institutions.

Prentice Reeves.
The Osborne Association, New York City.


A brief chapter, pp. 225-39, surveys the literature on crime and race, the author concluding that hitherto no evidence has been produced to prove that one race or subrace is biologically more likely to commit crimes than another. The absence of adequate data has prevented Dr. Klineberg from throwing any new light on a problem which has occupied criminologists of all countries.


This revised edition of the original pamphlet has been prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The modifications in the earlier classification of offenses brought about by the adoption of the so-called "Standard Classification" have been taken into account, making the guide still more useful for the up-to-date police department.