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Police Science Book Reviews

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by means of immunodiffusion on cellulose acetate paper is described. Seminal proteins are precipitated by commercially available anti-human seminal plasma rabbit serum. A minimum of laboratory equipment is necessary and only one-half hour procedural time is required. The results are available for interpretation within 18 to 24 hours. The technique is extremely sensitive and is specific. No interferences have been encountered due to common biological contaminants. A modification of the method has been successfully applied to trace stains of human blood. (WEK)

Spectrochemical Detection of Fluorine in Fluoracetamide—L. Schoenfeld and M. Lidju, Journal of Forensic Sciences, 13(2): 267–8 (April 1968). A rapid spectrographic method for detection of fluorine in grain impregnated with fluoracetamide has been described. The detection limit visually established is 100 ppm. The presence of thallium is detected in the same plate exposure. (WEK)

Emission Spectrochemical Analysis of Submilligram Samples—Charles E. Harvey, Journal of Forensic Sciences, 13(2): 269–78 (April 1968). Optical accessories and manipulative procedures for use with a standard emission spectrograph have been described which permit semiquantitative full detectability of trace elements in samples weighing as little as 25 to 50 μg. (WEK)

Recent Additions to a Bibliography on Cannabis—Victoria Hing Yin Kwan and Ponnuam Rajeswaran, Journal of Forensic Sciences, 13(2): 279–89 (April 1968). The bibliography presented is arranged alphabetically according to authors and contains the major relevant publications on cannabis that have appeared since the U. N. Document, as well as some that are not included in it. The following areas are dealt with: Chemistry, U. N. Documents, Identification of Cannabis, Pharmacology, Reviews, General and Social Aspects. Items that have been cited in the U. N. Document are indicated by asterisks. They are included in order to maintain continuity of a series of publications by the same authors. Two series of publications by different groups of collaborators have a common serial title of “Hashish.” These are distinguished as “Hashish I-XIII” and “Hashish I-10.” (WEK)

Edited by
Rolland L. Soule*


The Judiciary Act of 1789 established both the federal judicial system and the office of the Attorney General of the United States. Congress fixed the salary of the first Attorney General, Edmund Randolph, at $1500 per year, and he was given no funds for clerical help or office supplies; necessary expenses came from his own pocket. This one-man operation has expanded into a 30,000 member Department of Justice dealing with a myriad of legal problems in the areas of anti-trust laws, taxes, lands and natural resources, internal security, civil rights, crime, prisons, and immigration and naturalization.

*Associate Director, Southern Police Institute, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky 40208. The author, presently Washington correspondent for Editor and Publisher and former Director of Public Information for the Department of Justice under Attorney General William P. Rogers (1957–61), discusses this monumental task of the Department from a reporter’s viewpoint. The book is part of a series on various United States Government departments and agencies and is tailored for broad public consumption. This volume, along with the others in the series, describes the origin, development, scope, operating methods and structure of a particular federal department or agency and examines its relationships with other agencies and with Congress, the President, local and state governments, and the public.

Since its founding, the office of Attorney General has undergone numerous changes in struc-
ture, methods and policies. The premise that the least favored in life ought to be the most favored at law has been the byword of the Department. This proposition was articulated in the creation in 1957 of the Civil Rights Division, one of the most active and visible divisions of the Department owing largely to its involvement in the Negro’s long struggle to attain full equality of citizenship and to abolish all forms of racially motivated discrimination.

After introductory chapters, including a biographical account of the most celebrated men who have held the post of chief law officer of the United States, Mr. Huston provides an interesting and lucid account of the Department’s work in various areas. Of special relevance to readers of this journal are chapters on the Criminal Division, the Bureau of Prisons, and the FBI. The Criminal Division is responsible for enforcement of a complex and growing federal criminal code (presently comprising about 600 criminal statutes) and the prosecution of those who violate it. The Bureau of Prisons administers 36 federal penitentiaries, reformatories, correctional institutions, youth centers, prison camps, guidance centers, detention centers, and a medical center with a total inmate population of 20,000. The FBI, of course, is the world famous investigation unit of the Department which gathers evidence of violations of more than 170 civil and criminal statutes including bank robbery, kidnapping, anti-trust violations, and fraudulent bankruptcies. Appendices include the 1870 Act of Congress establishing the Department, a chronological listing of Attorneys General of the United States from 1789 to the present, and a description of employment opportunities within the Department.

The book should prove of value to the general reader as well as the student interested in a career in the Department. This reviewer is impressed with the wealth of information in its 270 pages. In sum, Mr. Huston has produced an eminently readable, carefully and richly detailed introduction to an important, but often overlooked, federal department. 

DANIEL P. KING
Division of Corrections
State of Wisconsin

This book is divided by its editor into three parts, each containing eight stories about crimes committed in the Chicago area, and each written by either a retired police and detective officer or a “journalist assigned to the beat.” Most of the stories validate the title of the book as a “Chicago Crime” book, as most of the stories deal with the Mafia and its many “constituents.” Therefore, such episodes as the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre or the “Last Days of Dillinger” or “The Alphonse Capone Case” are not only known to readers of this book, but perhaps to every television addict of this country, and have been recounted many times.

On the other hand, such a celebrated murder case as the Loeb-Leopold or the Wynekoop Case rightly does not belong in a Chicago book, because they could have taken place in any city, and none of the aspects of these cases are “typical” of Chicago.

Generally speaking, the book makes for light reading. The authors have tried to present their cases sometimes from the point of view of the police and police science, sometimes berating the police and decrying police corruption (which undoubtedly was true), sometimes the reader may find a sociological and psychological flavor in these stories, although the editor feels, in editing such a volume, that he helped to create “true folk tales of our times,” even down to the present (to which the last part of the book is devoted.) Personally, I am not with the editor in believing “the articles stand up like great telephone poles against the horizon of our land,” or in his opinion that “the material is so American.” Is it really “American” or an American monopoly to have crime, and is it something to be, like the editor, proud of? Judging from some of these stories, the authors often displayed a social situation in which crime was rampant and, apparently, a “way of life,” in the twenties; but more sophisticated readers, including the layman, ask themselves what to do about crimes, not how many folk tales about crime to relate to our children. One wonders what the purpose of such book is: Just to relate individual cases in the “most unbelievably horrible” way, in which killing is a way of life, and crime pays—as is evident from many of the stories, or is it to illustrate why crime became a way of life in order to learn from sociological and historical aspects how crime developed and how it can be combatted. The latter aspect certainly is not evident in this book, and probably

not intended. The reader (if interested in gruesome "folk tales") will delight in stranger-than-fiction tales, documented by court records and that's that. Or is there more to it?

HANS A. ILLING, PH.D.
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Lynwood, California


This small paperback was written especially for the needs and interests of students of medicine and other biological sciences. It discusses the growth of scientific principles and methods through the centuries, and is especially well suited for reading by all forensic science workers, especially those who are engaged primarily at the technician level.

Evidence in Science will not update anyone in scientific procedures, but certainly will remind workers of the need to pay attention to the correctness of his reasoning.

ORDWAY HILTON
New York City


In Italian medical schools forensic medicine is taught as an important and compulsory subject matter, in the last year of the medical curriculum. This is in keeping with the importance which this subject matter has acquired through the years, and with the fact that, historically, the area of medico-legal activities finds its roots in mediaeval precedents in Italy. Those activities which are normally carried out in the United States by coroners and by crime laboratories are in Italy largely concentrated in Istituti di Medicina Legale, which are part of the existing medical schools. The field includes applications of medical knowledge to criminal and civil law problems, insurance and workman compensation problems, some aspects of criminology, elements of social and professional problems in medical practice. No useful brief comparative analysis is possible between the American and the Italian medicolegal situation, because of the normative and historical differences which exist. It should

be noted, however, that in the United States a recent trend exists towards the development of a more professional and academically sound approach to the field, as exemplified, for example, by the work of Dr. Milton Helpem in New York.

Professor Franchini is director of the Medico-legal Institute of the University of Genoa. He has devoted all his professional life to the field and is a leading European authority with a long teaching and research experience. His work has been characterized by a balanced approach and by a constant interest for areas, such as that of criminal behavior, juvenile delinquency and professional responsibility, which extend the field of forensic medicine beyond the limited, although basic, autopsy table.

The book which recently has been added to his long list of publications is a modern and comprehensive manual for the medical student and the practicing physician on criminal medicolegal problems. A perusal of its Index demonstrates the wide range of contents of the field.

An introductory section (the first 6 chapters) traces the history of the field and discusses basic normative concepts, such as causality in forensic medicine, together with general methodological problems. The following chapters are devoted to special subjects: sexual crimes, abortion, causation of impotence, homicide, infanticide, battery and assault, professional confidence, professional responsibility, etc. The two final chapters cover the "on the spot" medico-legal examination and autopsy and laboratory techniques.

The normative differences make the book specific for the Italian medical practitioner and the Italian magistrate. Yet, comparative information would be essential to a balanced development of the medico-legal knowledge in any country. From this viewpoint, the interest of colleagues across the Atlantic should be stimulated towards acquiring adequate information about prevailing practices in Europe. The book provides much useful information, not only for the physician, but also for the practicing attorney, the magistrate and the criminologist.

The book is profusely illustrated with much original material and has a detailed index. Unfortunately, it does not include a bibliography of the many authors cited in the text.

FRANCO FERRACUTI, M.D.
Professor of Criminology
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The American Ink Index contains extensive listings of trade names of inks used in the printing industry, and an index of manufacturers of specialty inks. Manufacturing is listed by states as well, and a directory of manufacturers is included.

A glossary of trade terms is of value to forensic science workers, while the other information contained in this small volume can serve as a ready source of information in certain types of criminal investigations.

Ordway Hilton
Examiner of Questioned Documents
New York City


If it is the purpose of this volume to satisfy curiosity—perhaps morbid curiosity, at that—then it succeeds. If it is the purpose of it to add to the literature on crime and punishment with a scholarly or scientific contribution, then it appears to fall short of the mark.

The book opens with some fascinating (by modern standards) line drawings dating back to the mid-19th Century and concludes with familiar photographs from the Kennedy Assassination and Britain's Great Train Robbery. In between are some striking curiosity pieces—for example, the noted UPI picture of Jack Sullivan grinning and smoking a cigar while sitting stripped to the waist in the Arizona gas chamber moments before his death: (The photograph is reproduced 6½ inches square so the detail pops out.)

The text matter accompanying the photographs, however, is mostly hit or miss and adds little to any serious consideration of the subject of the role of photography in crime—either scientifically or journalistically. Had a newspaper compiled such a volume, it could rightly be accused of sensationalism.

George N. Gill
Managing Editor
The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky


The importance of this study dealing with a comprehensive forensic and criminological survey lies in the offense with sex offenders. The author stresses the fact that sex offenders are numerically small and without any "weight" in criminal statistics. The first part of the study deals with a detailed historical survey. In the second part, the author discusses 178 records of trials between 1959 and 1964. Cataloging the dependency nature of the offenders, the author arrives at eight phenomena in the phenomenology of Unzucht (perversion), phenomena which are designed to facilitate legal applications and "crimino-political" discussions. The author had also access to the causes of the offenses as well as the personality of the offenders.

In the third part, the author attempts to submit suggestions, in regard to prevailing law and to further legislation, which the author sees as freedom (or non-punishable) from sex offenses (other than rape).

This study is a good example that an understanding of so-called "embarrassing" sex offenses (whether homosexuality with children by consent or exhibitionism or voyeurism) can lead to a more realistic discussion of reality, which can only be useful for criminal law reform. It is regrettable that the author has seen fit to omit from his bibliography not only important German sources (such as the writings of von Hentig) but also all non-German titles.

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