

1942

Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Paul V. Trovillo [Ed.]

CIVIL DEFENCE. Edited by C. W. Glover. The Chemical Publishing Co. (Brooklyn New York, 1941.) Pp. 784. \$16.50.

Civil Defence contains a convenient collection of ARP literature which was originally issued by the British Government in pamphlet form. Although written for the English public with no thought of its being used in this country, it, nevertheless, forms a valuable reference book for American defence workers. The first edition was published before the present war, and this volume, the third revision, contains material of importance which has grown out of the experiences gained in the defence of Britain.

Civil Defence is a bulky, comprehensive volume, treating in eighteen chapters and six appendices, many problems of civil defence. There are discussions, accompanied by diagrams and illustrations, of balloon barrages, bombs—their construction and effects, gas-proof rooms, individual protection, buildings and their remodeling for defence, special shelters, responsibilities of the layman, camouflage, factory air-raid precautions and training of personnel, organization of the ARP, fire watching, and a multitude of related topics. The book lays a formidable groundwork for our own efforts at civil defence.

L. D. GASSER

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War Department Member of the Board
For Civilian Protection
Washington, D. C.

THE CHEMICAL FORMULARY, 1941 (VOLUME V). H. Bennett, Editor in Chief. Compiled by a staff of experts. Chemical Publishing Co., Inc. (Brooklyn, N. Y., 1941). Pp. 676. \$6.00.

Chemical Formulary is a handy reference book containing in readily available form thousands of "tested" formulas of in-

terest to laboratory technicians, engineers, chemists, and the layman. Volume V, the most recent in the series, contains the newest or latest formulas which supplement those appearing in the previous volumes.

This volume is indeed comprehensive and includes material under these headings: adhesive for paper, beverages, cosmetics and drugs, emulsions and dispersions, farm and garden specialties, food, inks, leather, skins and furs, lubricants, oils, fats, materials of construction, metals and metal treatment, paints, enamels, varnishes, lacquers, paper, photography, polishes, pyrotechnics and explosives, rubber, resins, plastics, waxes, soaps, cleaners, textiles, fibers, and miscellaneous.

In addition, reference tables are included, and the reader will be aided by a list of trade names of chemicals, a list of chemicals and supplies and where to buy them, and a list of sellers of chemicals and supplies.

PAUL V. TROVILLO

Chicago Police
Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory

DISTRIBUTION OF POLICE PATROL FORCE. By Chief O. W. Wilson (University of California, Berkeley) and former Chief of Police of Wichita, Kansas). Public Administration Service (Pub. No. 74), 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago, Ill. Pp. 27. \$1.00.

In view of the fact that police services and functions have multiplied, there is a need in many departments for effective allocation and distribution of personnel. To meet this requirement, Wilson has developed a model procedure for the geographical and chronological distribution of a police force according to the relative need. Considerable emphasis is laid on a basis for measurement of proportionate

needs for police service. Some factors to be considered in this type of distribution are analyzed. The geographical and chronological distributions of police "incidents" of the Police Departments of Wichita, Kansas, and San Antonio, Texas, are discussed at length.

This pamphlet should be a basic manual for those who have for years been distributing patrol forces without proper regard for complaints, property losses, crime, traffic, accident prevention, and other police incidents, as Wilson gives a logical set-up for the direction of man-power where it is most needed. He very carefully points out that the measurement of the need for police service based upon any single factor, such as population, area, assessed valuation, racial characteristics, or average income, is obviously inadequate. He points to the necessity for an adequate police-records system in every department. There is still much room for improvement here in spite of the fact that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has aided so many departments with Uniform Crime Reports. He tells us: "It should be borne in mind that training and careful supervision usually have proved more effective in terms of increased efficiency than decreases in the case load." The keynote of Wilson's pamphlet is—intelligent organization brings a maximum protection in all phases of police work.

JOHN I. HOWE

Captain
Chicago Police Department

FLASH! SEEING THE UNSEEN BY ULTRA-HIGH SPEED PHOTOGRAPHY. By *Harold E. Edgerton and James R. Killian, Jr.* (Massachusetts Institute of Technology.) Hale, Cushman and Flint (Boston, Massachusetts, 1939.) Pp. 203, 273 photographic illustrations. \$3.00.

The utilization in scientific crime detection laboratories of stroboscopic photography, of the relatively new single-flash and multiple-flash, high-speed photographic techniques, is largely a matter for the future. That such applications can and will be made, however, is beyond question. Dr. Edgerton and others have already demonstrated, in thousands of both experi-

mental and commercial photographs, that objects in rapid motion may be studied with almost as much precision as stationary objects.

Bullets may be pictured, with an intense single flash of light lasting about 1/1,000,000 of a second, or with sequences of light exposing the film with a frequency of 600 flashes per second (each flash lasting for 5 1,000,000 of a second).

The fracturing of plate glass by a bullet, or by any breaking force, may now be studied by means of stroboscopic photography. Technicians in scientific crime detection laboratories should be able to establish, through these high-speed methods, objective comparisons of glass broken under varying conditions, and thus create an extensive reference file for future investigations. The eleven photographs of cracking glass presented by the authors of this volume will suggest to the expert in the laboratory many more investigative uses of high-speed techniques.

The authors present a sequence of "ultra-speed" pictures which conclusively demonstrate that the kickup of a muzzle of a gun occurs only after the bullet has sped out of the muzzle, and that the kickup action in itself cannot be responsible for inaccurate shooting (contrary to the claims of many).

The various stroboscopic studies of drops and splashes, which are here illustrated by the authors, cast new light on what has been known about the patterns of dropping blood. Crime laboratory experts can utilize these techniques to establish, by controlled experiments, more detailed criteria for interpretation of direction, force, distances of travel, and angle of incidence of blood samples found at crime scenes.

The many intriguing illustrations will make this book a valuable addition to anyone's library. But the technician interested in experimenting with stroboscopic photography will discover that the authors have included directions for assembling a single-light flash unit, a list of parts needed for the assembly, and selected references to the technical literature.

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