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Police Science Book Reviews

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POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

CRYPTOGRAPHY, THE SCIENCE OF SECRET WRITING, by *Laurence Dwight Smith*. Published by W. W. Norton & Co., Inc. (New York, 1943). Pp. 164. \$2.50.

Cryptography, the Science of Secret Writing, is an elementary treatment of the subject which introduces the reader to modern ciphers. Written in a clear-cut, interesting style, the author explains and illustrates various techniques for preparing transposition and substitution ciphers. With this background he then presents a brief discussion of the elements of cryptanalysis, followed by a chapter devoted to problems for the student. Then in order that the student may check his ability the author has included in the final chapter the solution to these problems.

In all this book is well designed for those who wish to acquaint themselves with the fundamentals of cryptography.

ORDWAY HILTON

Examiner of Questioned Documents

CODES AND CIPHERS, by *Alexander d'Agapeyeff*. Published by Oxford University Press. (New York, 1939). Pp. 158. \$1.75.

Codes and Ciphers is a sketchy and elementary discussion of cryptography. Within this small book the author briefly outlines the historical development of cryptography; discusses various types of modern codes and ciphers, including commercial and military codes; and touches upon deciphering of unknown ciphers. In addition he mentions many other related subjects such as signals, signs, secret languages, shorthand, braille, secret writing, etc., even though these do not appear at first glance to belong properly in a treatise on codes and ciphers.

Although this book has much information of interest, it suffers from its brevity of discussion and the author's effort to mention as many possible means of secret communications as are available. It is the reviewer's opinion that a more detailed analysis of much of the material would have added greatly to the usefulness of this text.

ORDWAY HILTON

Examiner of Questioned Documents

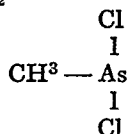
MANUAL OF EXPLOSIVES, MILITARY PYROTECHNICS AND CHEMICAL WARFARE AGENTS, by *Jules Bebie*, Ph. D. Published by The Macmillan Company. (New York, 1943). Pp. 171. \$2.50.

The *Manual of Explosives* is a concise and well written reference book which will be of much interest to forensic chemists, investigators and others who concern themselves with explosives or bombs, and all those active in Civilian and National Defense Training Programs. This book, written by Dr. Jules Bebie, consulting chemical engineer and professor of chemical technology, Washington University, is a ready source of basic information for both the chemist and non-professional man concerning a large number of explosive, gaseous, and pyrotechnic compounds.

A brief introduction to the study of explosives is followed by an interesting chronology of their development dating back to the year 1250 and continuing to 1942. Compounds mentioned in the book are treated in the following manner:

1. "Methyldichlorarsine

Chemical Warfare symbol: MD, German name; Methyldick

Composition: CH_3AsCl_2 

Properties: Colorless liquid. Sp. Gr. 1.838 at 20°.

B.P. 132°. Vapor density 5.5. Decomposed by water, Vesicant and lung irritant. Low persistency.

Uses: Was under investigation at the end of World War I. Appeared promising for producing rapid vapor burns in offensive activities."

2. "Explosive D (Dunnite)

A high explosive developed in the United States by Lt. Col. B. W. Dunn.

See "Ammonium Picrate.."

These two illustrations selected at random give an idea about the arrangement of the book. It is apparent that one can locate information about an explosive compound whether he has the chemical name or the manufacturer's trade designation. This is desirable in view of the fact that many chemists do not have occasion to familiarize themselves with both chemical and trade names of many explosives, yet sometimes are called upon to assist in the investigation of problems involving these very facts.

The bibliography is conveniently divided into sections listing books, bulletins and manuals, catalogues, periodicals and patents.

Attention is called to the fact that a War Department Circular No. 201, issued September 6, 1943, proposes some changes in the symbols for chemical warfare agents. These changes are not mentioned in *Manual of Explosives* undoubtedly because the book had gone to press before such proposed changes were made known.

The Manual of Explosives is a reference book which should be added to police science libraries, for besides providing technical information its material will be found useful in preparing training lectures, case reports, etc.

RALPH F. TURNER

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THE THERMODYNAMICS OF FIREARMS, by *Clark Shove Robinson*. Published by McGraw Hill Book Company, Inc. (New York, 1943). Pp. 175. \$2.50.

The Thermodynamics of Firearms is a book which will be of interest to forensic ballisticians. It appears at a time when technical data on ballistics, both interior and exterior, is being accumulated at a rate probably without precedent in the history of firearms. Up to the present, no authoritative volume has appeared which devotes itself exclusively to the thermodynamic problems of interior ballistics. This publication will afford an answer to some of the perplexing and highly complicated problems which often confront the firearms examiner.

The material is presented in a sound and logical manner, beginning with five chapters which contain explanations of the basic principles of the thermodynamics, mechanics, stoichiometry, and physical chemistry. Formulae are explained and sample calculations are developed which illus-

trate the laws of thermodynamics, energy, pressure, work, heat capacities, force, momentum, stoichiometric calculations and reaction rates.

The author has chosen his material carefully, for each chapter represents a clear and concise discussion of the subject based on preceding information, thus making the book suitable for classroom or lecture use. The major portion of the book is given to the mathematical and theoretical discussion of thermodynamic problems. It is necessary to have a thorough foundation in higher mathematics to full appreciate the work which must have been necessary to prepare the volume.

After giving the reader an introduction to thermodynamics the author discusses approximately eighteen different subjects including the following chapter heads: Heat Capacity of Powder Gases, Calculation of Explosion Temperature and Pressure, Ignition of Propellant Powders, Rate of Explosion, Propellant Powder Composition, Friction, Stability of Propellants, Measurement of Pressure, and Measurement of Temperature. There are records of closed-chamber experiments and calculation of interior-ballistic curves. The concluding chapter contains a brief discussion of rockets and a very extensive bibliography and reference section consisting of 332 publications listed.

It is this reviewer's opinion that *The Thermodynamics of Firearms* is a well written book and should receive the consideration of laboratory technicians, scientific criminal investigators, and ballisticians.

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X MARKS THE DOT, by Muriel Stafford. Published by Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Inc. (New York, 1943). Pp. 245. \$2.00.

X Marks the Dot is a purely fictional mystery built around the psychological investigation of handwriting. The author solves a series of murders by graphological analyses of the suspects' writing, the uncanny accuracy of which could only be possible in fiction. As a detective story it has originality in the methods employed although they are to a large extent impractical, but as a contribution, even indirectly, to police science or graphology it has virtually no value.

ORDWAY HILTON

Examiner of Questioned Documents

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND DETECTION. Charley & Pickersgill, Ltd. (Leeds, 1937). Pp. 125. One shilling.

This pamphlet was published in England to help and encourage systematic investigation and uniform recording of crimes. It consists of five chapters divided as follows:

- I. Outlines of Criminal Investigation and Detection;
- II. Practical Investigations of Crime;
- III. Judges' Rules;
- IV. C. I. D. Records, Clearing House, and Personal Description;
- V. M. O. (Modus Operandi) in Practice.

Crime is sub-divided into: (1) Prevention of crime; (2) Apprehension of the offender in the act; (3) Detection of the offender. It is interesting

to note under chapter three that in England the Judges issue rules to guide the police in introducing evidence.

There is little in this pamphlet to interest police offices outside England. Our Uniform Crime Reporting as outlined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation leaves nothing to be desired, and other publications are available to officers in this country which are much more practical to us in the United States.

JOHN I. HOWE.

Captain, Chicago Police Department.

THE SPY IN AMERICA, by *George S. Bryan*. Published by J. B. Lippincott Co. (Philadelphia, New York, Boston, 1943). Pp. 256. \$3.00.

As an aftermath of any war we always find several books being published on some phase of spy work. As a result of this 2nd World War we find several already on the market. This is probably because spying is the most exciting part of war work or at least the most interesting angle of the business of war to fictionalize.

This book is a vivid account of espionage in America from the Revolutionary War to the end of World War I. There is a section devoted to Nathan Hale. Another tells of Major Tallmadge, Washington's chief of spies; another of Pinkerton and his work with the Army of the Potomac. We read again of Lieutenant Rowan, the man who carried the "message to Garcia." It is not surprising to find spy reading matter, both fact and fiction, appealing to vast numbers of readers when we see how professionalized this work has become and when we read of the danger, bravery, intrigue and villainy that are involved. In this book we get not only a narrative built around the spies themselves but also an historical background drawn from authentic sources. The author was born in 1879 and is a graduate of Amherst. He has served on the staffs of the New International Encyclopedia and the Encyclopedia Americana, and was managing editor of the New Standard Encyclopedia. He has written several books besides this one, including biographies of Sam Houston and Edison. He sets out to give and succeeds in giving authentic account of the spy in action.

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THE POLICE YEAR BOOK. 1943. International Association of Chiefs of Police. (Washington, D. C.). Pp. 288. Available and issued to members.

This Year Book contains the proceedings of the forty-ninth annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. It was held at New York City September 21-23, 1942. It is published annually by the I. A. C. P. and gives a record of the proceedings of the Convention, talks, etc., and reports on past progress. It contains a wealth of information on present day police problems discussed by leaders in the field. In the first article the retiring president, Don Leonard, discusses the past record of the Association and calls attention to the many post war problems our police departments will have to face and urges action along this line now.

The entire book is sort of a resumé of "Law Enforcement at War." Some of the articles and the authors are: "The Equinox of Our Liberties." By Hon. J. Howard McGrath, Governor of Rhode Island; "The Present Task of Law Enforcement." By J. Edgar Hoover, Director Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C.; "Federal Control Measures for Alien Enemies." By Edward J. Ennis, Director, Alien Enemy Control

Unit, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.; "The U. S. Office of Civilian Defense." By Lt. Col. William A. Brewer, Assistant Chief Training Section, Protection Division U. S. Office of Civilian Defense; "A Police Department at War." By Brig. General D. C. Draper, C. M. G., D. S. O., Chief Constable of Toronto, Ontario; "In the City of Boston." By Joseph F. Timilty, Police Commissioner; "In the City of Los Angeles." By Joseph F. Reed, Administrative Assistant Los Angeles Police Department. "Organizing Police on a War Basis."—A panel discussion. "Organization and Functions of a Control Center." By Captain Donald S. Leonard, Michigan State Police, Detroit, Michigan and also Director of Civilian Defense, State of Michigan; "Military Government and Occupational Police." By General A. W. Gullion, The Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington, D. C.; "Jurisdiction and Duties of Civilian and Military Police."—A panel discussion; "Police Responsibility for Social Protection Standards in Wartime."—A panel discussion; "Police Communications Problems." By James Lawrence Fly, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C.; "Composition and Nature of Chemical Bombs." By Major Vernon E. McGuckin, Chemical Warfare Service, War Department, Washington, D. C.; "Effect of Bombs and Bomb Reconnaissance Squads." By Lt. Col. E. L. Sherwood, Bomb Disposal Officer Ordnance Division, Headquarters Second Service Command, Governors Island, New York; "Disposal of Bombs and Suspicious Parcels." By C. M. Wilson, Director Chicago Police Department Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory; "A Summary of Manpower Police Problems." By Chief Harold Anderson, Kansas City, Missouri. There are also several very interesting and instructive articles on war transportation and traffic control.

An important present day police problem is industrial protection and that problem is featured and discussed at length. All in all this is the most comprehensive of all issues of the I. A. C. P. Year Book. Subjects that are given very little attention in this issue are personnel induction and recruit and in-service training. We look for these to be important matters of discussion and articles in the next issue and at the next conference as all the post war problems confronting the average police department will call for higher types of recruits and much more intensive training. President Don Leonard is to be congratulated for getting together such a galaxy of talent and having such a well attended conference in these trying times. He has accomplished much in spite of the world conflict.

JOHN I. HOWE.

Captain, Chicago Police Department