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Police Science Technical Abstracts and Notes

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POLICE SCIENCE TECHNICAL ABSTRACTS AND NOTES

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Micro Pipettes—P. F. Holt and D. G. Stringer described a form of micro pipette and pipette filler which are easily constructed without special equipment. The design is applicable to any volume desired. Results can be obtained which are accurate to within the possible error in reading the burette. This apparatus is described in *Metallurgia*, 38: 65-67 (May, 1948).

Mobile Uniform Shop—In order to save many man hours required in travel to and from uniform fitting appointments, the Illinois State Police have equipped a van with all sizes and types of uniforms used by the men of that department. The Uniform Supply and Alteration Unit is staffed with a tailor and a driver and services each of the fourteen stations at regular intervals. This new equipment is described in the *Illinois Policeman and Police Journal*, 14: 15 (March-April, 1948).

Novel Foreign Chemical and Pyrotechnic Munitions—All busy police departments are confronted with the problems of war souvenirs and their identification and classification when found in dangerous places. A few of the smoke and signal flares of Italy, Japan, and Germany are described by J. Goldenson and C. E. Danner in the *Chemical and Engineering News*, 26: 1976-8 (July 5, 1948). The majority of the pieces described are of the shell type to be used in mortars or flare pistols. A glass smoke grenade used by Germany is discussed as well as a Japanese self-projecting smoke candle.

Recovery of Evidence from Water—The experiences of the Thames Division of the Metropolitan Police in recovering various objects from canals and rivers are described by T. Fallon in *The Police Journal* (London), 21:110-14 (April, 1948). The nature of the site to be probed governs to a great extent the equipment and tactics to be used. Various styles of apparatus have been designed and constructed and are transported to each dragging operation. Among these pieces of equipment are drag nets (for the recovery of small objects), boat drag (with tripping device for releasing hooks if they become fouled on river bed), bar creep drag (for use where river bed is free of obstructions), and magnetic drag (permanent magnet and electromagnet). When the area of search is established one person must be in complete charge. To insure a systematic and orderly operation the area should be roughly plotted and each run recorded. A very light touch is needed, and infinite patience is a prime requisite of the entire crew; the Thames Division dragged twelve days in winter in one case. Since no drag is perfect in operation the area must be covered two or three times. An experienced hand is needed to handle the boat.

Stolen Property Indices—An excellent article concerning the establishment of records of stolen property appears in the July, 1948, issue of

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the *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 17: 10-16. Numbered property, such as watches, tools, etc., and unnumbered property, such as clothing, billfolds, etc., are the two major types discussed. The numbered property is filed according to the last one, two, or three digits depending upon the size of the department. This filing is independent of the nature of the article unless the department is large enough to warrant a separate gun file, automobile file, or jewelry file. The unnumbered file is divided into major classes according to the use of the article with each major class subdivided into descriptive groups. Suggestions are made which will enable any department, large or small, to set up a stolen property file.

Photographic Record of Intoxication—The system in use at Waterloo, Iowa, for recording the actions of drivers suspected of being intoxicated is reported in the *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 17: 24-25 (July, 1948). A section of the police station was painted white and provided with adequate lighting for photography. Sixteen millimeter movies are taken of the responses to commands for movements designed to test coordination, balance, etc. Waterloo has found the results quite gratifying since the equipment has returned its cost four-fold in one year and greatly increased the number of convictions over the previous year.

Non-fix Traffic Ticket—The Chicago Police Department has adopted a non-fix traffic ticket as designed by the Traffic Division of the I.A.C.P. This ticket consists of four sections: the first is the court copy and complaint, the second is for the department records, the third is the officer's copy, and the fourth is given to the violator. Violations involving parked or moving vehicles can be handled on the same form. A detailed description of this quadruplicate ticket is to be found in the *Police Chief's News*, 15: 2-4 (March, 1948).