

1949

Police Science Book Reviews

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 39 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 696 (1948-1949)

This Criminology is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
Ralph F. Turner*

A GUIDE FOR THE PROSECUTION OF ARSON CASES IN OREGON. The Department of Justice, State of Oregon. Published and Supplied by State Fire Marshall Department, 1948. Pp. vi, 43.

This concise, comprehensive, and thorough digest on the prosecution of the crime of arson in the State of Oregon was prepared primarily for those whose duties, responsibilities, and interests include the suppression and punishment of arson and fraudulent claims or practices in connection with fire losses. It is not only an excellent guide for the prosecuting authorities but will also prove to be a very useful reference and check list for the investigator.

The Guide includes Oregon statutes relating to the crime of arson, definitions of terms, and forms with a liberal number of citations. The paragraphs on the degree of proof and elements of the crime of arson are very instructive. The investigator will particularly appreciate the section titled, "Preserve the Evidence."

This compilation pertinent to the crime of arson should encourage the preparation of similar guides for the prosecution of other major crimes.

University of Missouri
Former Special Agent,
National Board of Fire Underwriters

GEORGE J. KOCH, JR.

OCCUPATIONAL MARKS. By *Francesco Ronchese, M.D.*, and *John G. Downing, M.D.* Grune and Stratton, New York, 1948. Pp. 181, \$5.50.

Unfortunately most of the material in this book is written in technical medical language that would make it difficult reading to most persons interested in the use of occupational marks in determining the identity of an individual.

The purpose of the book, stated by the authors, "is to assemble examples of body marks, some characteristic and common, very valuable for identification purposes, some uncommon or obsolete, and, of course, of much less practical value."

Since the authors are both practicing physicians, specializing in diseases of the skin, they have been most interested in occupational marks of the skin. Perhaps the most important portion of the book, is the section dealing with marks which are not of occupational origin, but which could be confused with conditions which are of occupational origin and are therefore compensable.

It is true that the book covers in some considerable detail, and with a wealth of illustrations, many marks which are associated with specific occupations. In large cities where each year brings its toll of unclaimed and unnamed dead to the public morgue, either the medical examiner or coroner, or police officials highly trained in the work of identification,

* Asst. Prof., Dept. of Police Admin., Mich. State College, E. Lansing.

should have an acquaintance with this book, and many of the facts contained therein.

Kettering Laboratory
Univ. of Cincinnati

FRANK R. DUTRA, M.D.

THE SCIENTIFIC PAPER. By *Sam Trelease*. The Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., 1947, \$2.00.

Perhaps one reason for a noticeable lack of publicized research on scientific criminal investigation problems is the inability to write or the fear of writing. Few people like to write; few people are able to write easily. Those who can sit down and dash off a good scientific paper in a few hours are indeed rare.

The intent of this book is to assist the practical need of students, research workers, and others who are preparing papers on scientific or technical subjects. Certainly those engaged in the police profession, especially police laboratories, fall within this category.

Writing is an essential part of the scientist's profession. Although everyone is not proficient as a writer, the author feels that proficiency in writing can be gained through study and practice.

In discussion of the preparation of outlines for a scientific paper, the author easily points out that the paper on scientific or technical subjects necessarily consists of:

- (a) A report of the fact,
- (b) An interpretation of the facts, and
- (c) A combination of the report and interpretation.

The method of writing is governed by many conditions including the nature of the subject, or perhaps, of the article; the characteristics of the writer and the interest of the probable readers. In order to make a paper interesting, and that is the goal of every writer, a list of devices is given. The author, however, points out that these methods should be used cautiously by the writer whose purpose it is to inform rather than entertain his fellow workers in science. The writer should be more interested in the thing he is describing than in the words with which he describes it. Judicious use of some of the devices of the journalist may serve, without breach of propriety, to give a scientific paper an attractive and interesting style. These devices include:

1. Beginning with a broad introduction that gives the reader the information necessary for the understanding and appreciation of the subject. Referring to the ways in which your subject may be related to the readers' previous knowledge or experience, and suggesting benefits to be derived from further information on the subject. Emphasizing the importance of the subject.

2. Making the paper as easy as possible for the reader to comprehend.

3. Linking each part of the paper with some preceding part by transitional words, phrases, or sentences so as to maintain continuity.

4. Omitting tedious details that are not essential for accuracy and completeness; avoiding repetition of data presented in tables and graphs.

5. Emphasizing the new and unusual; features that have "news value."

6. Preceding every dull passage by a stimulating introduction.

7. Using colorful words and vigorous terms of expression.

8. Using forcible analogies, comparisons or resemblances, similes, and metaphors.

9. Introducing striking or unexpected statements, contracts, and paradoxes.

10. Asking provocative questions.

11. Leading the reader to feel that he is doing his own thinking—not merely following; stimulating his imagination and giving him a sense of achievement.

It must be remembered that a scientific paper is intended to be studied and used as a reference. It is not merely to be read.

Not only are suggestions as to proper writing included but lists of abbreviations, photographic reproduction hints, proofreading, printing, and much else is discussed. In the absence of a personal journalistically trained tutor, readers of this little volume will find many suggestions and aids to better writing.

New York State Police Laboratory

WILLIAM E. KIRWAN

Announcement

The July-August, 1948, issue of the Journal contained an article by Dr. Manfred Curry entitled "The Relationship of Weather Conditions, Facial Characteristics, and Crime." The article is based upon research conducted by Dr. Curry which he earlier reported in a two volume work published in Germany in 1946 entitled "Bioklimatik." The Journal has received a number of inquiries of persons interested in the book itself. It is a two volume work available from Stechert-Hafner, Inc., 31 East 10th Street, New York 3, N. Y., at a cost of \$46.00.