


Spring 1965

## Police Science Book Reviews

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### Recommended Citation

Police Science Book Reviews, 56 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 132 (1965)

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asphyxiants, chemical asphyxiants, and central depressants.

The primary effect of the simple asphyxiants is the exclusion of oxygen from the lungs. The chemical asphyxiants produce anoxia either by preventing the transportation of oxygen in the blood stream or by interfering with its utilization by the nerve cells of the brain. The central depressants produce anoxia by direct narcotic action on the cortex and basal ganglia, or by the precipitation of cerebral or respiratory failure and superimposition of other types of anoxia. The indirect asphyxiants are divided into the industrial gases and the war gases.

In acute asphyxiation (survival up to two weeks), the brain is severely congested, with focal hemorrhages in the leptomeninges and white matter. Distention of the small blood vessels, perivascular hemorrhages, and acute changes in the nerve cells occur. The parenchymatous elements and the Purkinje cells may also show acute change. Focal or laminar necrosis of the cortex and central necrosis of the basal ganglia are often associated with proliferation of the endothelium of the small blood vessels.

In the subacute stage (two to six weeks), a variety of cerebral lesions develop. Congestion may be present and focal cortical and subcortical softening may be seen. The cerebral cortex may have a diffuse granular appearance or may show a thin yellow zone of necrosis. Usually, softening of some portion of the basal ganglia will be found. Patchy, focal, laminar, or subtotal necrosis occur in the cerebral cortex, with changes in the astrocytes and microglia, and proliferation of the vascular endothelium. The arterioles of the lenticular nucleus may contain rings of calcium or iron. The unmyelinated cortical nerve fibers, the

myelinated sheaths of the corticofugal nerve fibers, and the white matter may show degenerative changes. The Purkinje cells may be changed and reduced in number. Deterioration of the granule cell layer may also occur.

The residuals of severe anoxia may be only minor, diffuse leptomeningeal thickening and cortical nerve cell loss, or they may be irregular cortical atrophy, cyst formation due to focal softenings, and central softenings and demyelination. Microscopically, the cytological alterations observed in the subacute state are present, as are iron deposits in the nerve cells. (WEK)

**An Unusual Type of Brain Deformity Complicated by Trauma**—Larry B. Howard and Herman D. Jones, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 9 (1): 168-74 (January, 1964). A newborn child with hydranencephaly associated with trauma is presented. Evidence that the anomaly in this instance is a result of the developmental failure of the intracranial portion of the carotid arteries is discussed. The trauma is readily explained by attempts at birth assistance by the mother. (WEK)

**A Tissue Constituent Associated Characteristically with Unexplained Infant Deaths ("Crib Deaths")**—F. Rieders, R. Etter, and G. Herron, *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, 9 (1): 157-62 (January, 1964). 1. It has been shown that a red substance forms when de-proteinization for the Stas-Otto procedure is applied to the brain from "crib deaths." This is the first reported instance of a characteristic biochemical difference between those infants who die suddenly and inexplicably and other infants. 2. Methods for partial purification of the red substance and some of its chemical characteristics have been described. (WEK)

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## POLICE SCIENCE BOOK REVIEWS

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Edited by  
Richard L. Holcomb\*

THE INNOCENTS. By Edward D. Radin, Wm Morrow & Co., N. Y., 1964. Pp. 256. \$4.50.

That completely innocent men have been convicted of crimes they did not commit is beyond

dispute; that this happens often, however, is subject to serious question.

In *The Innocents* the author presents a fascinating, well-written account of a number of cases, about eighty in number, in which persons he considered to be innocent have been charged, or

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prosecuted, or actually convicted of serious criminal offenses. Crime fans will be intrigued with the author's presentation of the facts of the reported cases and the characters they involved. *The Innocents* should be far more interesting to them than the idiotic crime fiction that serves to tranquilize so many readers propped up in bed waiting for sleep to set in. The only trouble is that *The Innocents* will probably keep them awake. And awake we all should be to the possibility of convicting the innocent.

My concern with books of this type, however, is the impression they create and the view that is actually expressed, that a great many innocent people are convicted each year. The author relied heavily upon an estimate a judge once gave him that "justice does falter in five percent of the cases tried," from which the author concludes that every year about 14,000 persons are convicted of serious crimes they did not commit. This I do not believe. I also do not believe that all the cases reported in this book involved innocent people. One of the cases relied upon as a "typical example" involved a Chicagoan whose mother saved \$5,000 from her eleven years' earnings as a scrub-woman in order to obtain the prison release of her son who had been convicted of murder. A number of experienced observers, including one of Illinois' top prison administrators, and this reviewer too, are convinced that the prisoner was not released because of his established innocence, but because of the heart-throbs that a Chicago newspaper generated for a mother who would save her meager earnings over an eleven year period as a scrub-woman to secure her son's release. Her motherly devotion was proved beyond doubt, but the evidence upon which her son was released was vastly insufficient to offset the verdict of the jury that found him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. But most of the cases reported in this book do involve innocent persons—completely innocent ones, and not merely persons who perhaps deserved some kind of punishment for other crimes that they committed.

In a well-warranted admonition to law enforcement officers the author makes the point that one of the biggest factors accounting for many miscarriages of justice is the "police belief in the infallibility of a single eyewitness". He then urges the application of the following principle: "Where there is no further evidence, no corroborative detail of any kind, except that identification to link a suspect with the crime, police should in-

vestigate the prisoner's story thoroughly before starting the legal machinery against him."

In the interest of justice this book should be read by police officers and prosecuting attorneys in far greater proportion than the reading public generally. All law enforcement officers should be exposed to such case studies and be made to realize that innocent people can be and at times are convicted. And they always should be on the alert to minimize the risk of convicting an innocent person. The average citizens who serve on juries, however, should not be led to believe that the conviction of the innocent happens often, or even at a five percent ratio.

FRED E. INBAU

Northwestern University School of Law

**FORGERY DETECTION, A PRACTICAL GUIDE.** By *Wilson R. Harrison*, Frederick A. Praeger, Publisher, New York, 1964. Pp. 232. \$4.50. Dr. Harrison, who recently retired as director and document examiner of the Forensic Science Laboratory, Cardiff, Wales, has prepared a handbook for those who are engaged in the investigation of documents. It is not intended to serve as an instruction manual for those who want to study questioned document examination seriously, but rather it is written to assist those who are confronted with a document which is questioned or in dispute.

For anyone who has the task of handling a great number of suspected documents, especially in law enforcement work, and of determining which should be more thoroughly investigated by a qualified document examiner, this book is a useful publication. Dr. Harrison has suggested a number of field methods for determining whether the document has been erased, when the signature should be challenged, and what might be determined in respect to typewriting, for example. Interspersed among his suggestions for "amateur examination" are numerous words of warning against doing anything which would prevent more extensive laboratory examination or to lessen the evidential value of the document. While these words of warning are clearly set forth, there are a few places at which this reviewer wonders whether certain methods should be suggested to the amateur at all. But these are minor objections and others active in the field would undoubtedly look at some of these suggestions in a different light than this reviewer.

What Dr. Harrison sets out to do can best be

described as making the investigator observant of obvious defects and qualities of a document. He well achieved his purpose.

At the end of several chapters, there are problems based upon the reproduction of some pieces of evidence which the reader can study and answer. The true answers are included at the end of the book. One or two of these problems have a strong British accent and readers in other parts of the world might miss the key point because they do not know the usual practices in Great Britain, but this should not discourage them from attempting the problems. Such problems only further emphasize that every investigator must be familiar with the usual practice in handling a particular document under investigation in order to recognize its obvious faults.

Finally, a chapter is devoted to steps the field investigator must take in assisting the document examiner and assembling known specimens and proving their authenticity. Here is an important part of the field worker's role in a document case. Possibly this chapter might have been expanded, but all of the points covered are significant and well handled.

This guide should be of value to investigators and attorneys whose practices bring them in contact with many documents. From it they will gain a better insight into how to make preliminary evaluations and to recognize those documents which should be thoroughly investigated.

ORDWAY HILTON

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FORENSIC NEUROPATHOLOGY. By *Cyril B. Courville*, M.D., Callaghan & Co., Mundelein, Illinois, 1964. Pp. 291. \$12.50.

The author of this volume, a distinguished neuropathologist, has recognized that autopsies done in the investigation of deaths by coroners and medical examiners in the United States are, in many regions, performed by pathologists who have had no special training in interpreting traumatic and toxic lesions of any kind. This deficiency is especially likely to lead to misinterpretations when the damage involves the central nervous system.

An attempt has now been made to provide a systematized source of information on forensic neuropathology, based upon extensive experiences and observations through years as the consultant in neuropathology to the Los Angeles County Coroner's-Medical Examiner's Office.

Dr. Courville vitalizes many of the conditions

described with details of illustrative cases of his own, and his extensive researches and publications are reflected in the prominence of his name in the lists of references which conclude the chapters. Generally, the writing is direct and lucid, although occasional sentences are so complicated that their meaning is obscure. The illustrations are superb throughout, and the diagrams illustrating the mechanisms of skull fractures, bullet wounds, and contre coup injuries should be especially helpful to all pathologists dealing with traumatic injuries.

This volume is highly recommended because it is authoritatively written and it fills a pre-existing void among the books that a pathologist needs.

FRANK R. DUTRA

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POLICE SELECTION. Edited by *Richard H. Blum*, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, Illinois, 1964. Pp. 252. \$7.50.

The final line in this book says "Personnel selection is the key to the future of law enforcement service." It is difficult to see how anyone can disagree with this. However, far too many police agencies have failed to adopt the best possible methods of selection; far too many agencies still use methods that industry discarded years ago. This book is the best guide written to date on the improvement of selection methods in law enforcement.

Eight men have contributed to this publication. Very often this results in a disorganized publication with considerable duplication and rehashing from chapter to chapter. This did not occur here, probably because the various authors are capable and because the editor did much more than add his name to a publication. Each of the contributors has had considerable experience in law enforcement and particularly in the area they are writing about. The result is one of the best contributions to the police literature at the administrative level in many years and certainly the best material on selection written so far. Better still, the authors are continuing to study and improve methods of selection.

This is not a handbook for people charged with the task of selection. You cannot pick it up and find ten easy ways to develop a testing program, but you can study it with a little care and improve your own program. By and large outlining specific techniques in detail is avoided. One exception is in background investigations where

there is a great deal of excellent material dealing with the specifics. The book gains from this approach. Personnel selection has presently reached a point where some understanding of testing methods, interpreting results, interviewing procedures, and methods of recruitment are necessary before you can approach the problem at all. If you do have this background, the book is invaluable. If you do not, you should not be involved in a selection program, unless you have professional experience.

The chapters cover: History and Perspectives by Edward Comber; The Administrative Setting by Wesley Pomeroy; Selection Standards: A Critical Approach by B. Earl Lewis and Richard Blum; Recruitment by Joseph Kimble; Psychological Testing by Richard Blum; Psychiatric Evaluation by David Wilson; The Background Investigation by Jewell Ross; Oral Board by John Guidici; and an excellent final chapter entitled Selection for What? The Long Range Goals. There is an appendix containing some useful sample material. The index is adequate, and there is a good bibliography at the end of each chapter.

The final chapter contains the best discussion of the professionalization of law enforcement that has been written to date. Many people in the police field may be taken aback by this material, and all of us will be forced to take another look at just what we mean by professionalization. For far too many years we have glibly talked about professionalization. However, it often seems that the motive is to gain the standing and the salary of the professions with little thought of just whether or not every law enforcement officer at every level of operation can or should become a professional. It is a little hard to conceive of the officer directing traffic or acting as a jailer, or even the officer performing routine patrol duty needing to be a professional. We are a long way from that point now, and while there is no doubt that general police standards will improve, we have a long way to go to become a profession in the many sorts of duties that make up a law enforcement organization. At this time it seems to me that the closest analogy is to a hospital. All of the various employees are essential to the operation of the hospital. Without the janitor the surgeon could not operate, but at the same time only the doctors are true professionals and the nurses and administrators are trying hard to be.

Another area that is exceptionally well treated is the establishment of selection standards. While

there is some agreement from department to department throughout the country as to the more obvious standards such as height and weight, many of the most important standards, such as what we may call "character" have never been closely examined. By their very nature many of the qualities that we think of as necessary in a police recruit are most difficult to define. It is even more difficult, and probably impossible with present methods, to determine how applicants fit the standards. In spite of the difficulties, there are some methods that will improve what we are doing now but for these techniques to become effective, we must recognize the problem more clearly than we do now.

There is some discussion on the probationary period as a part of the selection process. This reviewer would have liked to have seen more. At best present methods of selection only pick applicants who are likely to become good officers. In most cases we do not evaluate them with any degree of care during probation to see how they are working out. The experienced officers who have direct contact with a new man generally know in quite a short time whether or not he will make a good policeman. Some of the men that look best during the selection process do not work out at all in actual practice. The problem is how to develop techniques that will allow an in-service evaluation and how to get the observations of the associates of the new man into a meaningful form for use by the administrators. This is an area that could have been expanded.

Here is an exceptional book. It is well written, well organized and comprehensive. Anyone with a responsibility for the selection of police recruits should study it with great care. It will be a standard for many years.

RICHARD L. HOLCOMB

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TRAINING OFFICERS' HANDBOOK. By *Thomas F. Adams*, Charles C Thomas, Springfield, 1964. Pp. 157. \$6.50.

Little dispute exists as to the need for concise, factual handbooks of instructional techniques in the police training field. Police training suffers not so much from a lack of desire on the part of individual police officers to increase their professional skills, but from a lack, almost a dearth of qualified instructors in the area. The drought of instructors stems from many factors. Notable among these is the fact that most police recruitment policies select men who do not possess the

ability to transcribe their thoughts in an orderly process so that the fruits of their knowledge can be passed on to others. One marked exception to this rule is Thomas F. Adams.

Sergeant Adams is a policeman with the rare insight of practicality which views successful police operations as a process of continual individual and departmental improvement. With this view in mind he has compiled an excellent text of instructional techniques which should prove of value in all police department training programs, regardless of the department size.

Much of the material is not new. Some, as a matter of fact, is too fragmented to be of any more than incidental value. Though suffering from these defects, the bulk of the fourteen chapters are skillfully outlined, offer a wide range of instructional techniques, and provide much thought provoking functional material for the police instructor.

This book parallels earlier efforts in the same field by Klotter and Harrison, but appeals to a somewhat different audience. Sergeant Adams is aiming at a somewhat less sophisticated group, those engaged in less academically oriented training, rather than those primarily interested in college level police education. In this, he has accomplished his purpose.

*Training Officers' Handbook* should be included in your police science library.

HARVEY MILLER

Iowa City

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STATISTICS ON DELINQUENTS AND DELINQUENCY.

By *Walter H. Lunden*. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1964. Pp. 304, 245 charts and tables. \$11.50.

This book represents a great deal of effort. Data on delinquency is organized into four areas; the nature and extent of delinquency; the characteristics of delinquency; juvenile court statistics; and institutional statistics. Data taken from many sources spanning many years and several continents is included. There is so much data, in fact, that there is little space left to discuss just how it was collected and what it means. As a result, it is not easy to draw any but the most general con-

clusions from this material. With so many different studies, or at least collections of data, presented, confusion occurs. Part of this is based on the fact that some of the data has not been reduced to a common denominator, for example, rates of delinquency are not defined the same from table to table. This, of course, is to be expected because we have not yet really defined delinquency in even a generally acceptable manner.

This last is not meant to be critical of the author. He is entirely capable of writing an evaluation of all the material presented and then forming it into a meaningful whole. This could have been done only in quite a lengthy series of publications and would have taken a number of years. I am not sure that this present publication is a good alternative. Any serious researcher would want to go to the original study. Any other student in the field might find more data than he cares to have. As a result, it is difficult to say just who this book is aimed at; who it will be of value to.

RICHARD L. HOLCOMB

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FOOTWEAR EVIDENCE. By *John Reginald Abbott*. Charles C Thomas, Springfield. 1964. Pp. 88. Illus. 17. \$4.75.

Mr. Abbott has taken a narrow and difficult subject of interest to identification officers and criminalists and presented all the pertinent information concerning footwear evidence. The book is well written and presents a good background for the beginner or the expert in this particular field of identification.

One of the contributions writings in police science can and should make to the profession is an appeal to the widest reading audience possible. Unfortunately, the appeal *Footwear Evidence* is so narrow as to be almost nonexistent. It appears as if it would have been a wiser course of action to combine this book as a chapter in a general book on criminalistics, or to publish it in a leading police journal.

The price, \$4.75, is prohibitive to many in the police field.

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