

it is made so by the prescriptions the author feels bound to follow, rather than by any incompetence or failure of his own in complying with them.

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Elements of Police Science. By Rollin M. Perkins.* Chicago: Foundation Press, 1942. Pp. xxii, 651. \$4.75.

It is a safe statement to make, that there is general agreement that our American police machinery is on the whole far—very far—from the efficiency at which it ought to be. Various factors have been pointed out as responsible, all of them unfortunately only too real. One of them, political interference or even control, is widely known and appreciated—the problem there is what to do about it. Others, unhappily, are scarcely even recognized by the man in the street. For example, the inevitable breakdown of effective work so long as our police efforts are crumbled up and dispersed into thousands upon thousands of separate, independent and largely non-cooperating little forces. But a factor of inefficiency that ranks only below the two just mentioned consists in the inadequate training (if not the complete lack of it) given, by and large, to police recruits. In the face of a change that has made the one-time police job into a genuine profession, if it is to be handled adequately, the training program to make a real police officer out of the recruit (or even out of the veteran) has largely been at a standstill, or has advanced only by fits and starts in a few favored communities. Of course there are exceptions—the municipal schools of New York and Cincinnati, the regional schools of New York State, and the various school projects of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to name only a few, prove that. But in the main the area of police training shows only a history of little or no progress. To an overwhelming extent, though we demand prior training before we give licenses to our beauticians and hairdressers, our morticians, barbers and horseshoers, we are completely ready to turn a man out on the street as an “officer,” armed with a revolver and with life and death power over his fellow citizens, with only the single safeguard that he must be politically acceptable to the local bosses.

What is to account for this utterly illogical complacency? First and foremost unquestionably is general apathy, and even hostility, to training. The veteran police officer resents the idea that there are things to be learned that he does not know about. What was good enough for him when he was a young fellow and toughs were tough, is good enough for the young fellows of today. Perhaps subconsciously there is even a dim fear of the “showing-up” that the new methods might mean for him if they were to gain this entering wedge. Whether or not these are the correct explanations of the veteran’s hostility, there is little room for doubt that this hostility by the police themselves is the major hindrance to improvement. Where the police themselves refuse to recognize their calling as a profession, the general public can hardly be blamed for taking them at their own low estimate. Public apathy will show little change until police opinion itself is changed by a new generation of more enlightened police officers. That is the sort of truly constructive, long-range work that is being carried on by such intra-professional groups as the International Association of Chiefs of Police, with its pro-

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gram of spreading as widely as possible an appreciation of the progress that can be made by enlightened police work.

But public apathy is not the only obstacle. While it is the principal one—if there were an insistent public demand for adequate training, the difficulties would soon enough be swept away—there are at least two others. One of these is rooted in that perennial trouble-maker already referred to—the fragmentation of our police organization. With the average American force actually only four men strong and with the huge majority below that figure, it is simply out of the question for most departments to run an independent training school. Obviously the answer is cooperation, either along the line of a cooperative school run by a group of cities jointly, or by school facilities set up by a larger unit such as the state police or the Federal Bureau of Investigation. There is likely to be scant local enthusiasm for such pooling of efforts—it smacks too much of an admission of one's own failure to reach perfection single-handed. Better to do without the training than to make such an admission.

The last obstacle referred to, that has crippled progress in schooling, lies in the woefully inadequate textbook material for school use. Since, to a large extent, entirely untrained "teachers" are relied upon, this final difficulty has often been the last straw. Hence the appearance of a well-rounded text in this field is a matter of much more significance than it would be in any other. The present volume aims to fill this need. Mr. Perkins, who is partly its author and partly its editor, has gathered together, as separate chapters, a wide range of articles, many, if not all, of which have already appeared elsewhere, each dealing with a single phase of police work, and running the gamut from finger-printing to police courtesy. Each is by a writer of special experience in his subject. Naturally in such a collection the degree of excellence varies, and here and there criticisms suggest themselves. But far more important is the fact that each article is bound to contribute its sizable bit to the teaching of the whole. By far the best part (and the largest unit in the book) is Mr. Perkins' own contribution—descriptions of the law of arrest and of the substantive and procedural criminal law in general. The reviewer knows of no other treatment of the law of arrest which even approaches the present one in completeness and in clarity of wording—the latter an especially important matter in view of the purpose of the book. The treatment of the general criminal law is elementary and, of course, not aimed at the needs of the practitioner, but it too is admirably set forth to meet the needs of the readers for whom the book is meant. The whole book, but particularly Mr. Perkins' contribution, is well calculated to fill a glaring need. There can be little doubt that alert police teachers will give it a warm welcome.

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Administration of Municipal Legal Services, The: The Chicago Law Department. By Robert W. Siebenschuh.* Chicago: Public Administration Service, 1942. Pp. vi, 58. \$1.50.

This is a monograph showing how the six separate municipal law agencies which, before 1935, supplied legal services for the City of Chicago were reorganized in that year into a single law office under the Corporation Counsel; the operation of this office and the resulting advantages from unification are also shown. An appendix reproduces office forms used for handling litigation and claims.

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