

Book Review: An Outline of Scientific Criminology

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but tax-worried testator has attempted to make provision for the payment of his estate tax. Written before, though published after the enactment of the Revenue Act of 1950, the footnotes warn the reader of noteworthy changes contained in that legislation.

WM. S. PFANKUCH

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An Outline of Scientific Criminology. By Nigel Moreland. Philosophical Library Inc., New York, 1950. Pp. 287. \$4.75.

This book is an attempt to outline the modern scientific method of crime detection. It covers the processes, from the ascertainment of whether a crime has been committed to the final proof of guilt in a court of law, that the law enforcement agencies have, to a greater or lesser extent, at their disposal. The format of the book, however, is a discussion and survey of each scientific aid or process without particular regard to its chronological application in any given case, the book not intended to serve as a hand-book on how to solve a crime. It is a scholarly resume of the developments in each applicable field of science in the war against crime. The subjects treated range from fingerprints and identification to forgeries and cryptography, with a final chapter discussing the application of the scientific method in various countries and illustrations of particular cases.

The book is unique in that it is not written in scientific language, but should be readily understood by both the layman and the lawyer. Moreover, it is highly interesting with its wealth of detail and illustrations of practical applications. Mr. Moreland has an intimate grasp of the principles he discusses and has that rare gift, the ability to define or explain a complex principle in simple, every-day language. He has not confined his subject matter to the apprehension or "gang busting" phase of criminal work, but always seems to have in mind that the main purpose of criminology is the gathering of evidence that will be admissible in a court of law, and which will be of sufficient weight to prove guilt or innocence. For this reason, his work is particularly valuable to the lawyer engaged in criminal work, either as prosecutor or defender. As the author points out, many a man has been saved from prison or worse because his attorney knew enough of the basic principles of scientific criminology to enable him to intelligently gather evidence and enlist the aid of experts to establish the accused's innocence in the face of strong circumstantial evidence against him, a weak alibi, or numerous eye witnesses. Perhaps the best single feature in the book is the exhaustive bibliography of scientific texts listed at the end of each chapter for the reader who should find it necessary to become thoroughly acquainted with a given aspect of criminology.

It is perhaps superfluous to say that Mr. Moreland is a staunch advocate of the use of science in law enforcement. He believes, and rightly so, that science should be the primary means used and not the last alternative after rule of the thumb means have failed; he maintains that if the scientist is used to his full extent, crime would soon cease as a profitable business.

The book is recommended for lawyers who do or expect to work in the criminal courts.

KENNETH H. HAYES