

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Forensic Science—Scientific Investigation in Criminal Justice

REFERENCE: Peterson, J. L., *Forensic Science—Scientific Investigation in Criminal Justice*, AMS Press, Inc., New York, 1975, 439 pages, \$20.00.

This book is a compilation of the best articles by prominent authorities, both living and dead, who over the years covered the role of forensic sciences in the many phases of the criminal justice system.

The collection of materials is extremely well presented and organized to explain the role of science in the legal system and the development of forensic science laboratories and their status in the United States and abroad.

The articles point strongly to the “tie that exists”—whether the authors like it or not—between the man on the street, the police officer, and all other branches of the criminal justice system. There is a common thread winding through most of the material presented: physical evidence and its relationship to crime laboratories, the analyst, probabilities, statistics, the prosecution, and the defense.

The chapter headings are descriptive of the coverage: “The Role of Science in a Legal System”; “The Development of Forensic Science Laboratories”; “The Status of Criminalistics in the United States and Abroad”; “The Statistical Individualization of Physical Evidence”; “Issues in Crime Laboratory Management and Administration”; “The Impact of Science on the Criminal Justice System”; and “The Availability of Science in the Administration of Criminal Justice.”

Each of the seven chapters is preceded with a brief and appropriate introduction by the author. There is a very good bibliography of books and lists of articles.

This book provides useful material for the many engaged in the field of forensic science and in the administration of criminal justice.

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