

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of *Science and Crime Detection*

REFERENCE: Allen, David, *Science and Crime Detection*, 1st ed., A. Wheaton & Co., Exeter, Great Britain, 1977, 51 pages, 55 illustrations, \$2.25.

The style and content of the book are written and directed towards the reader who possesses a maximum of a secondary educational school background and has no familiarity with the forensic sciences. The author presents his material in a clear and lucid fashion, wherever possible using simple and easily understandable examples. The book is profusely documented with photographs and reproductions of laboratory data to an extent that far exceeds some of the more advanced contemporary texts of its kind.

The author, in attempting to be brief and succinct, has offered the young adolescent reader very little introduction into the basic concepts of the forensic sciences (history, terminology, laws and methods, and their applicability to the field). The book lacks an index and has only a scanty table of contents. Discussions concerning the chemist's techniques and definitions of scientific terms are related in a scattered and disorderly manner (for example, the chapter on "Science & Police Operations" follows those on laboratory operations, and scientific terms such as refractive index are discussed in the opening chapter on "Case Histories" without being defined until later, in another chapter).

To the best of my knowledge this is the first attempt by any author to try to reach the level of a pre-college student in the field of criminalistics. I believe for the most part that he has been successful in this respect.

I should hope that this quasi-text on crime detection attains a berth on the shelves of most of the public and high school libraries throughout the country and eventually ends up in the hands of a youngster who will thereby become inspired to pursue a career in the forensic sciences.

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