

Reviews

SCIENCE FOR THE PROSECUTION. By JULIUS GRANT, Ph.D., M.Sc., F.I.C. Pp. 302. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1941. Price 15s. net.

The author has aimed at giving a general survey that will explain to both lawyers and laymen interested in the subject some of the most important applications of science to criminology, and will also show the police the value of evidence which can be readily overlooked. It thus serves as a signpost pointing in many directions. In the main, the book is concerned with general principles rather than procedure, and this has enabled a very wide field to be covered. Technique is described in broad outline, with photographs of apparatus and results obtained, and reference is made to actual cases which illustrate the applications of the various methods.

The subject matter is divided into ten chapters. The first, "The Scientific Approach to Crime," discusses scientific criminal investigation and deals *inter alia* with the teaching of forensic science, the proposed Medico-Legal Institute, and the police laboratories established by the Home Office. We agree with the author that the advantages of publishing scientific advances in criminal investigation outweigh the drawback of their potential use to the criminal.

The next six chapters deal with optical methods, and, for the scientific worker, this is the most valuable part of the book, for they are on a subject on which the author is a leading authority. His outline of methods and types of apparatus is excellent. Chapter VIII deals with chemical methods, and, owing to the general method of presentation, compresses much into a small space. Chapter IX, on blood groups and serum analysis, gives a good description of the precipitin test and brings out the significance of blood-grouping methods. The last chapter, "Psychology and Crime," discusses briefly the work of the psychiatrist in court, especially after a conviction has been obtained.

The book is well written and should be welcomed by the classes of readers that the author had in mind. There is a short list of books on the topics of the different chapters, but not a full bibliography. If the author's hope, that his book will be of value to the scientific worker, is to be fully realised, it should give complete lists of references to both books and journals. For instance, Brose's fluorescence method of photographing finger-prints is described and illustrated, but one looks in vain for guidance to where further practical details can be found.

A further suggestion to the author for his next edition is that the title he has chosen may be misconstrued. It tends to imply that the resources of science are the monopoly of the prosecution. The possibility of such misconception could be removed by adding two words to the title—"Science for Prosecution *and* Defence." EDITOR.

THE COLORIMETRIC DETERMINATION OF OXIDATION-REDUCTION BALANCE. A Communication from the B.D.H. Analytical Laboratories. Third Edition revised. Pp. 22. London: The British Drug Houses, Ltd., Graham Street, London, N.1.

The reader who has not seen previous editions of this brochure may be assured that, although it is published by a firm which has done much to establish a British supply of fine chemicals, it is neither a catalogue nor an advertisement except in a very limited sense, references to its origin being few in number and unobtrusive in character. One half of the text of this revised edition is a concise and intelligible résumé of the theory of oxidation-reduction balance, and the remainder describes briefly a number of practical applications of oxidation-reduction indicators. Among the theoretical matters discussed are electrode potential, rH value, the nature of the indicators and the capacity and poisoning of oxidation-reduction systems. The practical section includes brief notes on the use of the indicators in volumetric analysis, vitamin C estimation, biochemistry and the testing of milk and soil. In addition to a number of graphical diagrams there is a table of the oxidation-reduction potentials of certain systems occurring in volumetric analysis and a list of the potentials of 37 indicators. The brochure may be obtained by readers of *THE ANALYST* free of charge on application to the publishers. It is proverbially ungracious to look a gift horse in the mouth, and indeed there is little needing adverse comment or criticism in this useful publication. Since a previous edition contained a list of references to journals while this one does not, the reviewer must disregard the proverb and suggest that the year of publication should have appeared on the title-page.

A. O. JONES