



1959

Book Review

Rathuel L. McCollum

Follow this and additional works at: <https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clevstrev>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#)

How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!

Recommended Citation

Rathuel L. McCollum, Book Review, 8 Clev.-Marshall L. Rev. 585 (1959)

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Journals at EngagedScholarship@CSU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cleveland State Law Review by an authorized editor of EngagedScholarship@CSU. For more information, please contact library.es@csuohio.edu.

prosecutors and members of the public would take issue with this conclusion. While there is some merit in Mr. Rubin's criticism, the merit applies only to the statutory language. The implementation of punishment may not be as severe as the author contends.

Mr. Rubin's discussion of the problem of whether parents should be punished for the child's delinquency is worthwhile. Parental delinquency is definitely a problem. Juvenile delinquency begins in the home and will end there.¹ The author's theory is to place more responsibility on the community. But this may have dangerous results. The more the community assumes responsibility, the more parents are apt to give up responsibility which is theirs.

In the final analysis, no one is necessarily expected to agree with all of Mr. Rubin's views. But judges, prosecutors, lawyers, social workers, students, teachers, parents, and laymen (who may have difficulty comprehending some passages) would be intellectually stimulated by the problems he propounds. In the light of today's concern with juvenile delinquency, all would find a study of this book worthwhile and beneficial. The reader will conclude that the author is direct, precise, original, and wholly sincere.

¹ See Samore, *Parental Delinquency*, this issue of the *Cleve.-Mar. L. Rev.*

* * *

*Reviewed by Rathuel L. McCollum**

SCIENCE AND THE DETECTION OF CRIME, by C. R. M. Cuthbert. Published by Philosophical Library, Inc., New York; 244 pp.; 1958.

The author has written an account of work undertaken in the Forensic Science Laboratory at New Scotland Yard. He maintains that science can never take the place of hard work and the intelligence of investigative officers. Rather he observes that science can only render assistance to those who seek the solution to a crime.

* B.S., Morehouse College; Graduate studies at New York University and University of Michigan; Physicist on the research staff at Lewis Research Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Cleveland, Ohio; member of the Cleveland Physics Society and Beta Kappa Chi Honorary Scientific Society; and a third-year student at Cleveland-Marshall Law School.

Perhaps much of the value of this book lies in the fact that the events chronicled here are seen through the trained eyes of one who is a former Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police Laboratory at New Scotland Yard and who was one of the early staff members of the laboratory.

The table of contents gives the reader an indication of the author's care in arranging his material. There are chapters devoted to the work of the various classifications of scientists and others devoted to various types of crimes. The chapter headings are as follows: "How Science Came to New Scotland Yard"; "The Forensic Pathologist"; "The Serologist"; "The Forensic Chemist: the Biologist"; "The Physicist"; "The Toxicologist"; "Stolen Articles and Fraud"; "Fire and Sabotage"; "Bogus Breaking Offences"; "The Document Examiner"; "The Ballistics Expert"; "Abortion"; "Drug Trafficking"; "Criminal Responsibility"; "Alcohol and Motor Accidents"; "Instructive and Unusual Cases"; and "Some Foreign Laboratories." The bibliography is excellent and the index is done thoroughly.

Throughout the book, brief synopses are given of cases that illustrate the manner in which the police investigators and the laboratory technicians attempted to mesh their findings. Also there are many photographic plates illustrating some of the fine points to which attention must be directed.

An underlying theme throughout this work is the thought that the scientist is supposed to present the facts as he finds them, not just those that will convict the accused. This is a point that is sometimes overlooked by overzealous prosecutors and policemen where a crime has been committed. There are reported instances where the accused, though innocent, may very well have been convicted wrongfully were it not for the findings in the science laboratory.

The author has special praise for the laboratory of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D. C., calling it "probably the finest in the world." He pictures it as the dream laboratory of any forensic science worker.

This book should be of special interest to the lawyer who desires a better understanding of the scientific aspects of criminal investigation, to the police officer, to the scientist and to anyone interested in justice for the accused. It is a worthwhile contribution to the field of Forensic Science.