

## RESEARCH IN THE POLICE ARTS AND SCIENCES

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The lag between achievement in the natural sciences and social action has long been a matter for serious concern. Today, it is something of a paradox that a society capable of atomic power engineering fails to demonstrate any substantial degree of efficiency in the field of social engineering. The contrast is presented between phenomenal technological development in the industrial and agricultural sciences on the one hand, and lack of social planning and organization, ill-conceived administrative policy in the public services and the pathologies of crime and dependency, on the other.

Let us examine briefly the implications of this discrepancy in the field of the police arts and sciences. Crime rates are high in the Northwest in comparison with the national average. The best available estimates indicate that the annual cost of crime in this region is greater than the total annual appropriations to universities and colleges, plus the total annual cost of the public educational system in this area. Rural districts combine with urban centers to generate a drain on the resources of this region greater than the total annual income from agriculture. The full story of crime in the Northwest has not yet gained the attention of the citizen and taxpayer.

To this must be added the huge costs of dependency, for the causes appear to be practically identical, and the social and economic losses resulting from traffic fatalities and accidents, as well as retarded traffic flow and congestion.

The talents and energies of one thousand scientists were harnessed for one year to the immediate development of the atomic bomb. Who can predict the results if we were to intensify research in the social science field on a comparable scale?

When the history of the American police is written, the past three decades will be recorded as the era of scientific crime detection. During this period almost unbelievable advances have been made in the application of scientific disciplines to investigative procedure. All of the arts and sciences have been brought into play in the detection and apprehension of the criminal, and the production of evidence against him. At the disposal of the investigator are the miracles of physics, chemistry and other facilities for the laboratory analysis and identification of questioned materials involved as evidence in criminal cases. Much is yet to come from research in the scientific disciplines of chemistry, physics, biology, botany, geology and other natural sciences in extending the reach of the scientific crime detection laboratory.

The trained police officer and detective, supported as they are today by the technical resources of the laboratory, present an almost invincible combination in the investigation of crime. The era of scientific crime detection has witnessed the virtual extinction of the so-called crime mystery. From the records we are compelled to conclude that the police in the Northwest have been doing a magnificent job of law enforcement. With the investigative resources now at the disposal of the police, the criminal cases reported to them for investigation are being solved and the offenders are being jailed and booked for trial. Statistics covering admissions to penitentiaries, reformatories, training schools, and releases on probation, reveal a convincing measure of success in this respect.

In fact, it can be stated with considerable accuracy that enforcement, as an instrument of crime control, has been given a fair trial. It has not produced

the results anticipated by a society that has worshipped at the shrine of punishment as the major strategy in combating the crime problem. An ascending crime curve reveals that our traditional productivity in the field of legislation has accomplished very little in changing the warped behavior pattern of the delinquent and criminal offender. We are coming tardily to the realization that social change is not brought about automatically by the passage of laws. The arrest, jails and penitentiaries stand as trademarks of failure in a social system which until recently has concerned itself with the end result rather than with the conditioning factors that produce the juvenile and adult offender.

Research here and abroad has thrown new light on delinquency, and it is now known to those who have followed this research that the attack upon crime and dependency must begin in the plastic period of childhood. Today, there is a discernible shift in emphasis in the police field from enforcement to a prophylactic criminology that parallels the concept of preventive medicine. The movement is upstream toward the nursery and at points in the life of the youngster where personality, temperament, attitudes and other factors that condition personal efficiency are flexible and where behavior patterns are beginning to take form. This is a task far more complex than enforcement and a challenge to research in the social sciences to get about the job of showing the way.

The police, no less than the workers in other fields concerned with the health, happiness and welfare of children, have an important part to play in the formulation of those qualities which make for self-reliant and law-abiding citizens. Research thus far reveals that approximately three and one-half per cent of the public school population at the primary and elementary grade school levels are cases of sick behavior requiring special expert attention. The records further reveal that approximately ninety-two per cent of this three and one-half per cent approach maturity in penitentiaries, jails, reformatories,

mental hospitals, or as community liabilities in one form or another. Identified by their teachers in early life as high social risks and flying the danger signals of impending delinquency and crime, we continue to stand by and watch these youngsters go overboard later in an abortive solution to life's problems. Police administration and other administrative services now recognize in a general way the promise of preventive tactics in the approach to crime control. Further progress in this direction awaits the availability of trained personnel and the research development of techniques and procedures by which leadership and resources in the community may be focused upon the discovery of the individual developing behavior problem case, its diagnosis and readjustment.

Although the literature of criminology has expended rapidly during the past thirty years, a research program should be directed toward the need for texts and reference works in all phases of the police arts and sciences. There is an urgent need for specific texts and manuals in the General Administration of Justice, Police Organization and Administration, Patrol Service, Police Tactics, Criminal Investigation and Identification, Report Writing and Police Psychiatry.

Research should be instituted for a treatise dealing with personal identification. Every aspect of identification should be embodied in this work, including the contributions that are to be found in the volumes already published in the fields of anatomy, biology, anthropology, physiology, histology and other sciences. Genetic studies, occupational studies and all other scientific inquiries made in connection with identification should be included in such a treatise. This major contribution cannot be placed between the covers of one volume and, more than likely, may reach the proportions of an encyclopedia.

There is as yet no work dealing exclusively with police statistics and since the police problems differ from all other fields of activity, it is now imperative

that some attention be given to this subject. There is so much that is false circulating concerning crime that the time is now at hand to apply to each aspect of police work all of the disciplines associated with the highest development of statistical analysis. What is the story on crime and delinquency? What is the actual nature of the problems in connection with traffic regulation and control that confront the modern police department? What are all the details connected with vice in the community? These are the stories that are yet to be told in the scientific language of the statistical analyst. Here is an opportunity for a monumental contribution to the police arts and sciences.

In his *Criminal Psychology*, Hans Gross has suggested some of the values of the application of psychology to investigation. Since the publication of his work, other books have been published in the United States and other countries in this field, including studies of instrumental deception detection. Here is a rich and virgin field for psychological research. Because European workers have given this matter wider attention than we have in this country, their publications must first be consulted before the research is instituted here. The translation project mentioned later would place significant material at our disposal.

Police personnel administration is worthy of the best scientific research. What personal characteristics peculiarly qualify men for the various branches and positions in the police service? How does it happen that some men have all the apparent qualifications and yet lack the ability to perform successfully the duties of a police officer? This entrancing subject in all of its details, including the application of scientific testing principles for the selection of re-

cruits, must of necessity receive the attention of research experts who are trained not only in the sciences that are applicable in this field but who also know something about police requirements, both in theory and practice.

Your attention is invited to another aspect of police research related to the literary field, the translation into English of important scientific works now available in many languages of the world. Many of the finest contributions to scientific police procedure are yet to be translated into English. French, German, Italian and Russian scholars, among others, have been prolific contributors to modern police literature. The works of such distinguished police scientists as Castellanos of Havana; Gambarara and Vucetich of Spain; Carrarra and Ottolenghi of Italy; Locard and Bertillon of France; Grassberger, Litchem and their associates of Austria; Schneickert, Philipp and Meyer of Germany; Matsui and Takahashi of Japan, in addition to important contributions from the Russian Archives of Criminology and Forensic Medicine at Karkov, should be translated into English and made available to the American police officer and the student of police science and administration.

Every aspect of police service is as technical as medicine and engineering and it, therefore, follows that from research must come the basic techniques and procedures that will assist police administration in achieving its objectives. State and local administrations are yielding to a strong public demand for the use of scientific methods. Universities and colleges in the Northwest can make important contributions in this respect by bringing their resources for training, research and consultation into contact with the needs of the public service.