

Laboratory and all reputable examiners not to express an opinion or take a case to Court which clearly does not fall into this class. By such means Documentary Evidence undoubtedly will hold its place on a level with all other Technical Evidence submitted to our courts.

In passing, the pseudo-science of 'Graphology' or character-reading from handwriting can hardly be overlooked. First we must remember that the term Graphology is somewhat loosely used in Europe to cover both character readers and experts in handwriting identification, while on the American continent the term Document Examiner is applied to those whose duties cover only problems of identification. The term Graphologist is reserved entirely for character readers who, in Great Britain and on this continent, are not permitted to testify on questions of identification. If they do so they generally conceal the fact that they practice character-reading.

If the so-called character-readers can do all that they claim there would be very little need for criminal investigators. It might be interesting to note that on the occasion of the Hauptmann trial in New Jersey several graphologists sat at the defence table, but none of them took the stand in Hauptmann's defence though several Document Examiners of international repute testified on behalf of the State. Some graphologists even go so far as to state that their findings are not based on any science, but on some occult power.

Much of the scientific data upon which evidence as applied to document examination is based recently has been collected—new cases frequently presenting problems for which no solution can be found in text books. Therefore a brief resumé of the scope and limitations of this work may prove of interest and illustrate the variety of problems submitted for examination.

Probably one of the most important and often used aids to document examination is photography, varying from simple copy work with the Identiscope to transmitted light photography, which is used to disclose the faulty writing line of forgeries.

Having already dealt at length with the subject of handwriting identification, the next problem to be considered is the identification of type-writing, which being mechanical in nature is subject to less variation.

Frequently an investigator will request information regarding the make of typewriter used to write an exhibit. This information usually can be given after reference to a collection of samples of all type manufactured by the various typewriter companies. Occasionally the machine may have been rebuilt with new 'bootleg' type, in which case the problem may prove difficult or impossible to answer.

The most important question to be answered is in regard to the identification of the actual machine with the exhibit produced. Here again photography plays an important part, for with suitably enlarged photographs taken over glass test plates the task of picking out the identifying marks consisting of scars or malalignment of type is rendered comparatively easy.