

SCRAM, CROOKS!



Action! H. H. Clegg, an assistant in the Department of Justice, is here shown lecturing to the first police class in the department's school for police.

Uncle Sam's G Men Are Giving City Police Forces the Full Benefit of Their Training—War to Exterminate Criminals Gets Under Way

By John L. Coontz

A MAN stealthily creeps up behind another on the roof of a Government building in Washington. A gun flashes in the sunlight and a bit of cold steel presses in the side of the man approached. "Hands up!" cries the gunman.

But instead of "hands up," the robber gets the surprise of his life. His victim drops, makes a lightning half circle and seizes the gun hand in a vise-like grip. For the fraction of a second he holds the gun off and then, in a movement that baffles the eye to follow, he gives that "killer arm" a twist that shoots the gun across the roof of the building, and leaves its owner writhing in pain.

At this point a third man steps up. Critically he examines the situation. And then: "Try again. Shoot that gun farther away. Get between it and the 'robber.' Hold tight to that elbow and wrist after you have got your man at your advantage. Don't give him a chance to get back on his feet squarely. And while you've got him 'broken' slip the 'cuffs' on him."

A REAL "hold-up?" No. Not a bit of it. Just a class in the training of a score of police officers from every corner in the United States in the manner of criminal apprehension and of crime solution. It is one of the United States Department of Justice answers to critics who say crime is still rampant.

The first national class of police officers receiving this training has just completed its course and its membership returned to the nation-wide cities from which it was drawn. There they will impart the knowledge gained to members of their own departments. So criminals beware!

What about the training these men have received that places them in the forefront of criminal detectives of the world?

In the first place, let us look at the type of men selected to receive the instruction. They are all young. Men in the prime of life, well built, highly intelligent, noted for criminal work in their respective cities. They were the pick of twenty-one police departments of the Nation.

Their criminal studies at the "college" consisted of psychiatry, road-blocking, cryptogram decoding, latest fingerprint development, ballistics, use of ultra-violet light in the study of invisible inks, blood and powder stain analysis, gun-firing and jujutsu.

Classes in all these subjects were conducted by experts called to Washington from every part of America. For eight weeks these students went into laboratories, into classrooms, out upon the firing range and to the roof of the Department of Justice Building. And just to see what they learned, let us take a turn with them for a day or so.

Out to the firing range at Quantico, Va., where the United States marines practice their rifle and machine-gun fire, we trek by automobile. The auto is a moving arsenal of firearms. There are rifles, revolvers, submachine guns, tear-gas bombs and gas guns.

Arriving at the firing range, the en-

Science is greatly aiding police in solving crime and fixing guilt. At the right is a microscopic picture of a piece of woolen goods, while above is shown an examination being made under a powerful infra-red ray light.

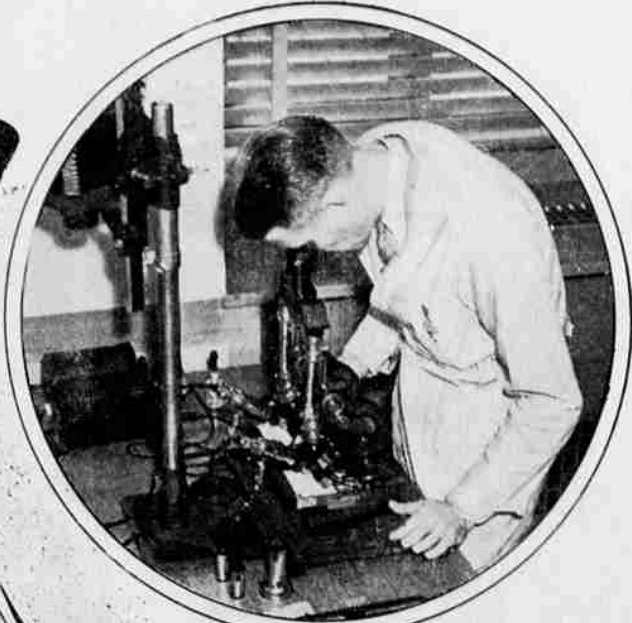
tire class piles out. Guns are removed and the class takes its position. For two hours the staccato of machine-gun fire rolls over the field; the crack of pistol fire, the fumes of gas bombs. Interspersed with this "warfare" are scenes of firing from behind barricades at "robbers" equipped with "subs"; of buildings being "rushed" with tear-gas bombs and tear-gas guns; of automobiles chasing each other from which fly shots as fast as "gangsters" and pursuing officers can spill them.

THE morning class in gun-firing having completed its work, the students return to the Department of Justice Building. Here they are introduced to "Oscar."

"Oscar" is the queerest fellow you ever saw. He is different from humankind in that he is not human. "Oscar" is a dummy, but even at that he plays a most important role of all the equipment of the Justice Department in the education of criminal sleuths.

Into a room equipped with a chair or two, a table and a few other minor things, "Oscar" is brought by his master, Hugh Clegg, assistant director of the Bureau of Investigation. His introduction is unceremonious to the group gathered round. "Oscar" is thrown forcibly upon the floor, knocking over a chair, dislocating a table, upsetting a lamp and kicking up a dust. And there he lies.

Right side up or right side down, "Oscar" lies there until he has served his useful and important mission in training the "criminal students" on how to observe the details of a crime. He has a knife stuck in his back. He has been heaved into the room by a criminal



Ballistic microscopes play a big part in solving many crimes where bullets were used by gunmen.



camera-box affair is brought into the room. A letter sheet is placed in it and a switch turned. With the turning of the switch the sheet of paper is flooded with ultra-violet light. And, peering through the eyepiece of the apparatus, the student may read the contents of the letters, written in invisible ink, unable to be discovered by the naked eye.

Powerful magnifying lenses bring out the ridges of fingerprints. By examining them under increased magnification their peculiarities are brought out. No two fingerprints are alike. The whorls and ridges that go to make the tips are different in every human individual.

Handed a piece of furniture, a knife, a piece of paper or some other object, the student is now instructed to take a fingerprint impression from the specimen. A fine powder is dusted over the paper and then brushed off. This is "set" by chemical means and later photographed.

In connection with this fingerprint

fingerprints is quite simple. All that is needed is a knowledge of photography, a small amount of silver nitrate and a strong light, rich in ultra-violet rays.

Salt reacts with silver nitrate. So when the criminal has touched a piece of cloth with his hands or handled it the sweaty salt of his hand or fingertips are left on the cloth. All that is necessary is to get a photochemical reaction from this salt, such as is obtained in any photographic process. As a consequence, therefore, the fingerprinted fabric is treated with a 10 per cent solution of nitrate of silver. Result: insoluble silver chloride which blackens when subjected to light treatment. This blackening process reveals the whorls and lines of the tips of the criminal fingers.

Another startling method of checking on criminals is available through a recent invention in the Department of Agriculture. This is the invention of a "slicer," as it has been called.

The "slicer" consists of a razor blade working in a slot after the manner of the familiar cigar cutter. Its use is confined largely to fabric material and the slicing of infinitesimal cross-sections from threads of the material for identification.

For instance, if a murder has been committed and a few strands of the sweater worn by the slayer have been found, the up-to-date sleuth takes out his "slicer" in the laboratory and pulls a strand of wool from the sweater. He places one end of the strand through the opening in the middle. He pushes his razor-blade cutter across the opening, catching the end of the thread and cutting it in half. Performing this operation he has in his hand for the microscope two or three cross-sections of the wooler thread about one ten-thousandth of an inch in thickness.

Placed under a microscope on a slide to which they have been fastened by tiny drops of glue, they are easy to identify. The type of wool from which the sweater was made is thus easily identified. Long staple or short. From an early fleece or late fleece, according to the season. And in this manner, very much after the manner that Forester Kohler, of the Forest Service, identified the Lindbergh ladder, the piece of wool from the sweater strands found at the scene of the crime may be identified and the murderer brought to justice.

IN ADDITION to the practical work given the young sleuths sent to Washington to study the latest and most approved methods of scientific criminal apprehension, instruction also is being given them in such subjects as "Abnormal Psychology," "Prosecution Administration" and "Social Problems and Social Changes."

Such subjects give the students an insight into the workings of the human mind and how to build a case against a suspect. For criminals have many subtle methods of slipping through the net that is cast for them, not the least of which are crooked lawyers.

The new school for the perfection of law enforcement officers throughout the United States in the matter of criminal apprehension is the direct result of efforts put forth by Attorney General Cummings. When Attorney General Cummings came into office three years ago last March the country was overrun by gangsters of the worst criminal type. He set out to destroy them. How well he has succeeded may be gathered from a reading of the roster of gangsters killed or thrown into jail by the Department of Justice in this period of time. All the major gangsters are dead. On the statute books of the Federal Government are laws that make it almost certain death for a criminal to pick a fight with the Federal Government.

But it is his crime school in which the Attorney General justly takes pride. Slowly and painstakingly he has worked to accomplish the school and there has come to it from all over the country law officers to study the latest Federal methods in criminal apprehension. The first class of this school has been "graduated." It has gone back home ready to put into application its learning. The United States Attorney General believes. Every effort will be made to make this school for police officers a permanent institution so that local law-enforcement agencies can have the benefit of the same efficient training that is given the famous G men.



Police students at the crime school not only studied the latest scientific methods of crime solution, but they also were put through a strenuous course in calisthenics.

gang that has just murdered him. Or maybe they haven't, or maybe he has not been murdered by a gang at all.

All of this is for the class to determine. They are to discover whether the bullet wound in "Oscar's" temple was made after the knife wound in his back or vice versa. The identity of "Oscar" is also to be worked out. How is he dressed? Expensively? Poorly? Or half and half—a good coat that has seen society days and a pair of pants that came from down in the slum district? Is "Oscar" a bum that has received a handout, or is "Oscar" a gentleman that has fallen to a low estate in life from which he has not been able to rise?

What else about "Oscar." Has he a handkerchief on his person? A watch? His hands and feet—are they small?

Have the hands ever done manual work or are they hands of a gambler, a dilettante? Any cigarette stain on those fingertips?

For two hours or more the class works over "Oscar," taking notes, making comparisons, deduction and drawing conclusions. When all is completed the class turns in its papers and then listens to a lecture in which the character of "Oscar" is revealed, his calling in life and how he was murdered.

"Oscar" disposed of, the class now receives individual slips of paper. These slips are plain, white letter sheets with no writing on them. The class turns them over and over with instructions to read their contents. This is impossible until the secret is revealed as to how they may be read. For this purpose a

taking the students are instructed in a new method which, according to officials, is superior to the old. This is the nitrate silver method. It opens a whole new field of fingerprinting.

The dust method of taking fingerprints meets with its best success only when the fingerprints are taken from a smooth surface. The silver nitrate method does not require a smooth surface. In using it fingerprints may be taken from rough surfaces, such as a shirt collar, a sock, a tie or bed clothing. Even the criminal who has hoped to hide his identity through the use of gloves at the scene of his crime is no longer safe. The silver nitrate permits the taking of impressions of fingers from inside gloves.

The silver nitrate method of taking