
Police Drugs. *Jean Rolin.* Translated from the French by *Laurence J. Bendit.* Philosophical Library Inc., New York. 1956. x+194 pp. \$4.75.

Certain drugs have been observed by physicians and psychiatrists to reduce the will of the patient to withhold information, or in other words, to cause him to confess when guilty of crime. The drugs described in this book are scopolamine ("truth serum"), mescaline, the amphetamine group, hashish, cocaine, ether, and the barbiturates. Special emphasis is given to pentothal since it was used in a specific case, described in chapter 4, and resulted in a serious miscarriage of justice in French courts.

The author very clearly sets forth the purposes of this book in the first paragraph of the introduction. He writes as follows, "The moment methods of investigating the unconscious pass from the strictly medical and therapeutic sphere into the forensic, these drugs become prostituted into means of extortion, turn the skill of the expert into the work of a policeman, and destroy all chance of true justice being meted out."

The book is well documented and should be of interest to all who are associated with medico-legal problems.

LOYD E. HARRIS