It was not possible to devise a consistent means of describing the accuracy of lie detection procedures that would apply to all reports and therefore the table contains some explanatory comments. The following headings are used in the table:

(*a*) Verified reports: Instances where it has been possible to provide independent confirmation of a judgment based on the polygraph examination. The most frequent example is a judgment of guilt followed by a confession of guilt.

(*b*) Indeterminable cases: Cases where an independent confirmation has not been made. The most frequent example is a judgment (of guilt or innocence) for a crime not supported by a confession. Unfortunately, this category includes some inconclusive polygraph examinations, described below.

(*c*) Proved error: Cases where a judgment of guilt or innocence can be shown to be in error.

(*d*) Inconclusive polygraph examinations: Cases where the results of a polygraph examination do not permit the examiner to make a high-confidence judgment of guilt or innocence.

The following conclusions may be derived from the data in table 3:

(*a*) In criminal cases, judgments based on the polygraph often cannot be verified. When verification is possible, such as reported by Trovillo (1951), the accuracy of lie detection ranges from 50 to 85 percent, for cases in which guilty judgments were supported by a confession. (About half of the cases in this sample was judged guilty.) But Inbau and Reid (1953) estimate accuracy as the percent of cases in which the examiner made a definite determination of guilt or innocence rather than an inconclusive one. This is an unusual application of the term "accuracy" (also see below). For Larson (1932), accuracy of 100 percent is based on finding one thief among 90 college girls.

(*b*) There are few reports on proved error. Where data are reported, proven errors occur up to 2 percent. In these cases, the guilty are more likely to be judged innocent than are innocent persons likely to be judged guilty.

(*c*) Inconclusive polygraph determinations occur in 10 to 20 percent of the cases.