



SCIENTIFIC CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION (2006). By B.R. Sharma
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Rs. 595/-.

INVESTIGATION INTO crimes in India is the exclusive function of the police. Indeed, it is done under the supervision of the judicial authority. However, even today, our police relies on the traditional modes of investigation. Third-degree methods are allegedly employed by the police while interrogating the suspects. Atrocities are committed in the process of extorting favorable statements from the accused and witnesses. Still the prosecutions are lost, as the witnesses, with impunity, do not cooperate with the prosecution. And the investigation agency under our system goes scot-free without any blame for having failed to deliver. Quite often they are saddled with charges of corruption abuse of physical torture, murder etc.

This unhappy 'state of affairs' could be avoided if our police adopts scientific investigation in full swing. The book under review is one among the very few forensic science books published in India. Almost all aspects of criminal investigation have been covered. The author being a person having a lot of expertise in the field has exhaustively dealt with all aspects of criminal investigation.

However, it has to be pointed out that the mode of discussion resorted to by the author is not appropriate. Neither the language nor the presentation is comfortable. For example, the following discussion:¹

The investigating officer cannot always reach the scene immediately after the occurrence. The first police official who reaches the scene, therefore, should be careful to preserve evidence...

And yet in another page the discussions runs thus:²

Forensic psychology is applied psychology, utilized for decisions in legal problems. It may be used at the pretrial stage, during trial or at post-trial stage. It may be for investigation, collection of evidence, its evaluation or for the rationalization of the total evidence. The American Board of Forensic Psychology..."

1. B.R. Sharma, *Scientific Criminal Investigation* 93 (2006).

2. *Id.* at 141.



Instances of such discussions are legion in the book. May be, it could be used as a good tool by an efficient trainer for teaching. The questions given under each chapter are useful. In the next edition the language could be made elegant.

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