

FORENSIC BALLISTICS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE (1987). By Kaushalendra Kumar. Eastern Book Company, Lucknow. Pp. xxi + 298. Price Rs.90.

AWARENESS TO use the gains of scientific techniques and knowledge has, by and large, remained at a low ebb. Researchers in criminal science have so often felt the paucity of standardised Indian information on the subject. The book¹ under review thus brings a big hope. It is a step forward in the direction of creating awareness and also in furnishing scientific information on the subject.

The author has been a scientist, lawyer, teacher, crime scene investigator and an expert witness. He has earned experience and reputation through hard work. All these reflect well in the contents of the book which deals with a developing subject.

More than 200 pages are systematised in the first 12 chapters. These form the core of extensive and intensive scientific information on firearms, ammunition and ballistics. The contents are reinforced with scientific data, diagrams and case studies.

Identification of weapons through laboratory investigation has been dealt with in chapter XIII. The information can usefully be deployed by investigators since the use of science in detection of crimes is very important particularly in comparing materials or objects. This chapter would insist on demanding more and more information so that it can serve as a useful guideline to arrive at proper conclusions in an investigation, which remain vital to the upholding of the law. Even the description of minute details on comparing striations to establish that the bullet found in the victim's body has been fired from a particular gun, ought not to escape the author's attention. Chapter XIV deals with an equally important topic on "scene investigation" of a firearms case. It provides a highly useful information to an investigator to arrive at the truth with reinforced scientific data and details. Chapter XV is devoted to the law of evidence of expert. Two concluding chapters seek to evaluate critically the scientific evidence wherein the text is laced with judicial pronouncements handed down by the Supreme Court and some High Courts.

This study can thus be described as a pioneer work covering the author's practical experience updated with the legal provisions and recent case law. It opens up newer vistas for scholarly studies on other aspects of scientific evidence.

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1. Kaushalendra Kumar, *Forensic Ballistics in Criminal Justice* (1987).

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