

CAUSALITY, DETERMINISM AND PROGNOSIS IN CRIMINOLOGY (1986). By Jozsef Vigh. Akademiai Kiado, Budapest, Hungary. Pp. 301. Price \$ 27.

THE BOOK under review is a translation of the revised original work of Professor Jozsef Vigh, Head of the Department of Criminology at the Eotivis Lorand University, Faculty of Law, Budapest, Hungary. The work has been translated by Prof. Arpad Erdei and the translation editor is Professor Geoffrey Thompson.

Though the study of criminology dates back to the nineteenth century criminology has not yet been able to give a satisfactory explanation embracing all aspects of the nature of criminal human behaviour and the character of criminal responsibility. This is perhaps due to the lack of a homogeneous explanatory principle. The lack of such a principle is because of the interdisciplinary character of criminology. Criminology is closely related to philosophy, sociology, psychology, neurophysiology and other allied disciplines which have a direct bearing on human behaviour. Unfortunately these disciplines have not been integrated with the study of criminology.

The subject of the study under review covers an area which was not discovered earlier in spite of its great relevance. Professor Vigh has dealt with causality, determinism and prognosis in criminology in depth in this scholarly work. Professor Vigh has tackled the problem of crime and causality from many angles. As a social scientist he has worked out a theory of anti-social conduct as determined by a whole chain of causes. Looking at the problem from a sociological viewpoint he views broken homes, disturbed families, poverty, poor education, as causes of delinquency. These causes, he holds, also affect health and intelligence.

In order to make the study more comprehensive he should have also taken into account the impact on criminals of factors such as slum dwelling, unemployment, lack of sanitation facilities and illiteracy.

The book is divided into five Parts. Part I deals with the Causality of criminal offences and crime. It discusses at length the concept of crime in general and criminological concept of particular criminal offences. The author explores and formulates all the causes and conditions that determine the genesis of criminal offence and crime. The need for criminal etiology of crime and the causality of criminal offences has been well explained.

Part II outlines the factors of causality in criminal offences. The author has tried to show as to how individual personality, biological, social and other environmental factors operate to cause crimes. The role of biological factors in causing crime; the harmful effect of social circumstances on personality; role of the actual objective conditions in criminal volitional decision; causal factors of criminal offences committed due to negligence and the constellation theory of the causality of crime have been discussed at length.

After giving a sketch of the notion and the structure of the personality the author has discussed in detail the personality of perpetrators, and examined

the main factors which characterize the personality of perpetrators and the contents of their consciousness. Also how these factors are related to the perpetration of criminal offences. The author has rightly observed that there are people who pursue completely selfish goals and disregard social interests. Such kind of people are extremely dangerous to society.

The personality of a human being is continuously changing and developing under the influence of external environmental factors and internal biological ones. The majority of the people can appreciate as a result of education (formal or informal) that observance of social norms is the most certain way to satisfy individual needs.

Part III discusses the interpretation of determinism existing in human behaviour. The author has discussed in this part determinism of behaviour, the problem of the theory of relative freedom and the illusion of free choice and the dialectic interpretation of determinism. In Part IV the role of prognostication in criminal behaviour has been explained at length. The last Part V is devoted to the study of the principles of determinism in relation to criminal responsibility. The author in this chapter has explained the aims and principles of punishment, the system of punishment, the effectiveness of punishment and the problems of sentencing. The need for developing after-care has been rightly emphasized.

Professor Vigh has used datas, graphs and figures at appropriate places to support his findings and observations. This unique feature of the book has made the study both scientific and authoritative.

The author deserves appreciation and congratulations for his outstanding contribution to this difficult branch of knowledge. Criminology as explained earlier traverses through so many different branches of science that no person can be an allround expert. But after reading Professor Vigh's present work one is convinced that he has acquired mastery over this branch of knowledge.

The book will be useful for lawyers, legislators, judges, jurists, sociologists, psychologists, teachers and all those interested in the prevention of crime.

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