

PRINCIPLES OF CRIMINOLOGY, CRIMINAL LAW AND INVESTIGATION  
Vol. 1 (3rd ed. 1991). By R. Deb. S.C. Sarkar and Sons, Calcutta. Pp.491.  
Price Rs. 170.

THE BOOK under review first appeared in 1957, followed up by a second edition in 1968 and 1972 (in two volumes) and now the first volume of the third edition in 1991.<sup>1</sup> Thus, in its two and a half decades lifespan the book has not only stayed on but also acquired a standing in the field. One distinct reason for its success and increasing appeal, has been its ability to grow in form and content. That is how the book that originated in a series of lectures on criminology and criminal investigation for officers of the Indian Police<sup>2</sup> later broadened its horizons and constantly updated the contents with a view to creating an appeal for a much wider constituency of readers.

Though titled as "Principles of Criminology..." the book is hardly a treatise on criminology. It relates to criminology in a very special and subjective way that is primarily understood in terms of the task of crime investigations only. The author has his own way of defining criminology as "the science that deals with crimes and criminals, whereas investigation is an endeavour to discover the truth by application of that science."<sup>3</sup> It is this narrow and technical connotation that pervades the author's understanding and treatment of criminology throughout, which at times creates misunderstanding about the objectives and achievements of the book. Chapter I which is titled as "Criminology (Elements of Criminal Psychology, Social Defence and Scientific Aids to Detection of Crime)" runs into 188 pages, out of which only 20 pages are devoted to a very sketchy discussion relating to causes of crime, explanations of criminal behaviour, penology, individualisation of punishment, modern correctional methods, etc. The remaining pages of this chapter are devoted to issues concerning investigation of crimes, collection and use of finger-print, foot-print, voice-print and expert evidence, case studies relating to criminal investigation and trials, which have hardly anything in common with the issues covered in the first 20 pages. Thus, this chapter on criminology has everything lumped together without any kind of inter-connectedness, either with the criminological or ancillary issues, raised therein. Titles of chapters III to IX suffer on account of a similar lack of logical relationship and inappropriateness. Chapter III is titled as "Lie-Detector" and chapter VI as "Interrogation of Suspects." Is lie-detector technique not deployed in interrogation of suspects? In a way the book calls for a thorough re-examination of the existing scheme of chapterisation, particularly with a view to giving some kind of sequencing to the large bulk of material.

However, the most welcome addition in the current edition is the inclusion of

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1. R. Deb, *Principles of Criminology, Criminal Law and Investigation*, vol. I (3rd ed. 1991).
  2. *Id.* preface to the first edition.
  3. *Id.* at 1.

chapter II on victimology. By including this the author has given ample evidence of his desire to update the book and bring the current socio-legal debates in. The British and American criminologists have already shown considerable concern for plight of the "victims" by focusing on the diverse aspects of victimology.<sup>4</sup> The author very rightly advocates a wider meaning of victimology that covers within its ambit not only the victims of individual criminality, but also those of the abuse of criminal process and administration of justice.<sup>5</sup> Another valuable suggestion is for the payment of compensation to the victims.<sup>6</sup>

In the end one is inclined to appreciate the vast bulk of legal material relating to the law and practice of investigation, prosecution and trial, *etc.*, spread over in various chapters of the book. The reference to relevant court rulings on different points enhances the value of discussions for officials and public alike. But here also this could have been further enhanced by following some kind of uniform footnoting system. All the same it contains useful material for study and understanding of criminal justice administration from the point of view of a field officer, whose main preoccupation is with the "law and procedure relating to Investigation and Prosecution of heinous cases."<sup>7</sup>

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4. See particularly, Mike Maguire and John Pointing (ed.), *Victims of Crime : A New Deal* (1988); Sandra Walkate, *Victimology* (1989).

5. *Supra* note 1 at 191-8.

6. *Id.* at 198-9.

7. *Id.*, title page.

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