



BOOK REVIEWS

CRIMINAL LAW (8th ed. 1995). By P.S. Atchuthen Pillai. Tripathi Pvt. Ltd., Bombay. Pp. xxviii + 664. Price Rs. 280.

THE IMPORTANCE of the law relating to crimes has been felt from time immemorial because no civil society can survive unless a minimum standard of law and order is maintained in it. Peace, law and order can be provided only with help of the criminal justice system in a given society. To understand the system in its proper sense by the lawyers, law students, judges, police machinery and any other agency concerned with the criminal justice system there is always the need of good books on the subject. In fact there is no dearth of good books on the subject either in India or even in UK from where basically we have borrowed the criminal justice system.

The book under review,¹ purports to be a complete book on the substantive criminal law, *i.e.*, it is supposed to cover the entire Indian Penal Code and the basic nature of crimes.² The book is written in the topical style which is generally the style followed by the British writers. The book is not a sectionwise commentary of the Indian Penal Code which is generally a well recognised and authentic style of writing books in India.

There are fifty nine chapters in the book which are supposed to cover the entire gamut of the field of criminal law particularly with reference to the Indian Penal Code. There is no doubt as the author has written that this eighth edition of the book may have been thoroughly revised and a lot of material on the subject has been added. However, this reviewer finds that even though the book contains very rich material on the subject relating to English and Indian criminal law but there is very little analysis of the decisions and materials so the rich material could not be made use of by the author. It appears the author collected the material, got it typed and give to the publisher to publish the book. This reviewer honestly believes that unless a proper analysis with rigorous thinking is done it is very difficult to write a book in the English style *i.e.*, in the topical form and not the section-wise commentary. With the kind of material the book contains this reviewer sincerely believes he should have written section-wise commentary on the subject, and hope that this would be incorporated in the next edition.

The book is very bulky and as already mentioned it contains a plethora of cases and other materials on the subject but it lacks in analysis. The language of book is written in very poor English that many a times the reader would not catch the point which/the author would have liked to convey. Of course, the publisher

1. P.S. Atchuthen Pillai, *Criminal Law* (1995).

2. *Id.*, Preface.

3. *Ibid.*



of the book has done his job in a magnificent fashion as he generally does with other law books. The book is reasonably priced at Rs. 280 in the paper back edition. The book may be recommended for students only, but certainly it is not of much use either to lawyers or scholars on the criminal law.

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