

OUTLINES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE. By R.V. KELKAR (2nd Edition).
[Lucknow: Eastern Book Company. 1984. lxxx+612 pp. Hard-
cover: Rs75].

OUTLINES in Criminal Procedure is written in the commentary style of traditional books on criminal law and procedure such as Gour's *Penal Code of India* and Sohoni's *Code of Criminal Procedure*. One must say at once that this book does not pretend to rival Sohoni's work. There are two major differences. First, Sohoni's work is a five-volume piece (1984 edition). The five volumes are an encyclopaedic collection of authorities on the interpretation of the provisions of the Indian Criminal Procedure Code and therefore more comprehensive in nature. However, *Outlines* adequately covers all the basic questions which a student or practitioner may ask about the conduct of a criminal case.

The second major difference is that *Outlines* is arranged according to topics and does not run according to the order of the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code. This, in a way, is a fresh approach which should certainly make it an ideal companion to Sohoni's work. *Outlines* consists of thirty chapters but the real division in the book concerns three areas — (a) pre-trial procedure; (b) trial procedure; and (c) post-trial procedure.

It is the topical arrangement of this book that will make it attractive to students. The explanations are set out in very simple and clear language uncluttered by technical points or argument. The reader should be aware, however, that large parts of the book consist of the author's comments and paraphrasing of the provisions of the Code. Though this provides a useful synopsis of the procedure concerned (the author did an excellent job in this respect) there are instances where statements are made on weak authority. This may be due to the author's projection of his views as to what the position ought to be. This is not, however, a criticism that his views are unsound. On the contrary, his opinion on matters of importance such as the "principal features of a fair trial" is very sound and persuasive.

Outlines could have done well to provide cover in areas poorly or inadequately covered in Sohoni's work. One such area concern? section 92 of the Indian Criminal Procedure Code (equivalent to section 60 of the Singapore Code). That section deals with the instances where a court may authorise the issue of a search warrant. Another

area involves the constitutional aspects and remedies in criminal procedure.

Given that the author arranged the chapters according to topics rather than sections of the Code (as does Sohoni) one might be forgiven for expecting to see a comprehensive system of indexing so far as the provisions of the Code are concerned. The author in fact adopted an unusual format. In the table of statutes he lists the provisions of the Code in running order but only a one page reference is given most of the time and that is the page which deals with that provision in depth. Cross references to other provisions are only found in the footnotes of that page.

The main attraction of this book lies in its compact size and the ease in which one may get answers to basic questions on criminal procedure. The practitioner may still head straightaway for Sohoni's work; but one must remember that the object of this book is to provide an outline of criminal procedure, and to that end the author has succeeded admirably. Its topical arrangement and size make it the only book to complement the established classic of Sohoni's *Code of Criminal Procedure*.