

TREATISE ON CRIMINAL LAW. By K. K. DUTTA. (2nd Edition), [Lucknow: Eastern Book Company. 1987. xxxiv + 690 pp. Hardcover: Rs. 125.00]

THIS book goes by the ambitious title of *Treatise On Criminal Law*. The content in fact covers criminal evidence and procedure and has virtually nothing on substantive criminal law, that is, criminal offences such as robbery, theft, murder, etc. Its treatment of the evidential and procedural aspects is presented in a form more like a general map and thus, leaves many areas lacking in depth. (See, for example, the definition of and comments on expert evidence at p. 277).

There are 28 chapters in the book consisting of 690 pages. In many of the chapters there is a section containing notes on some of the more important decisions of the Indian Supreme Court. This is perhaps an indication that better organisation is desirable. In some chapters such as "Search and Investigation by Police" (Chapter II) there are no separate sections commenting on important decisions. Presumably, the decisions are discussed in the main text. If that is so, the same format should be adopted for the entire book. Furthermore, in some chapters the section on court decisions is entitled "Some important decisions of the Supreme Court" (Chapter XXIV), while in others it is entitled "Important Decisions" (Chapter IX).

At times, the disorganisation of the text becomes glaringly apparent. For example, at pp. 212-214 where the author purports to discuss "Evidentiary Value of Dying Declarations" he concludes with a passage stating, "The following principles have been laid down by different Courts including the Supreme Court in connection with the consideration of dying declarations ..." and immediately after the text of it he starts the next numbered paragraph with, "The following decisions of the Supreme Court are relevant in connection with the matters considered above, besides those noted previously."

One particularly useful feature in the book however, is the citation of the corresponding section of the 1898 Criminal Procedure Code to the sections of the current 1973 Code.