

***Textbook of Criminal Law*, Glanville Williams, London: Stevens & Sons, 1978. Pp. xi, 973. \$42.40 (cloth), \$27.50 (paperback).**

This text provides a refreshing innovation on the method of presenting the general concepts of criminal law. The entire book is patterned on the posed question, followed by an answer and further questions. One can visualize a professor asking the first question to stimulate the mind of the student and then an educational and informative dialogue developing.

The format of the book is also unusual. The questions are in large black type. Basic answers are in standard face type while technical matters are in a smaller print. This conveniently allows the novice to skip-read and the more informed to delve into the detailed explanations.

The book deals both with the fundamentals, and some of the idiosyncrasies, of the criminal law. It can be used either by a person well versed in criminal law as a re-approach or by the beginner who would quickly learn some of the basic concepts.

The book is divided into six parts; these are:

- (1) General Considerations, which deals with the theory of criminal law.
- (2) The Protection of the Person, which deals with actual forms of offences.
- (3) Involvement in Crime, which deals with the persons who perform a crime, accessories, methods and conspiracies.
- (4) Defences, which includes: ignorance, intoxication, provocation, entrapment and necessity.
- (5) The Protection of Property, which deals principally with different concepts of theft.
- (6) Regulatory Offences, which includes strict liability and vicarious liability.

The six parts contain a total of forty-four chapters which in turn contain from four to twenty-eight subtitles. Each page contains a heading which allows a ready reference to the index.

The text is full of stimulating questions designed to arouse the interest of the reader, such as, "Can a man's presence at the scene of a crime ever amount to an encouragement of the commitment of a crime?", and "Can there never be an accessory without a perpetrator?". An illustration of this latter question is, if a man handles goods, believing them to be stolen, where in effect they are not, can the person who helps him be convicted as an accessory to the handling of or attempting to handle stolen goods?

The discussion on "Prevention of Crime" is one of particular interest, starting with the question, "Suppose a person tries to prevent a crime, but in fact no crime is being committed?", and ending, "Suppose someone tries to help a peace officer arrest someone, and the arrest is unlawful, what is the liability?"

The chapter on "Duress" contains a number of questions which are of a practical concern to a growing number of people but are as yet unanswered. These deal particularly with the threats of injury to oneself or others by terrorists as a means of requiring a person to perform a criminal act and the subsequent liability of the person. Another debatable question involves the position of the *agent provocateur*. What if a plain clothes officer coming to know that some nefarious scheme is afoot, pretends to join in, in order to secure the conviction of the other parties: is he guilty himself?

The major drawback of the text, insofar as Canadians are concerned, is that many of these questions and answers are based upon statutes applicable primarily to England. England does not have the constitutional problem of the division of jurisdiction over criminal law and related matters between the Dominion Parliament and Provincial Legislatures. The difficulty facing the reader of the book is to differentiate between the laws which are classified as criminal in England and those which are only quasi-criminal under Canadian law. Nonetheless, English statutes from the *Piracy Act* of 1698, through to the *Sex Discrimination Act* of 1975, are incorporated into the text in such a way as to be of thought provoking interest to the reader, of whatever nationality.

Notwithstanding this drawback, the principles are so well illustrated that a great deal of benefit and useful information can be obtained from a close reading. Although it is lengthy, the book is developed in such a way as to be readable not only as a text, but also as a presentation of the development of various philosophies of criminal law in relation both to the common law and to statute law.

This book is written primarily as an instructional text, but could be used with profit even by a beginner. It is, in sum, an interesting and useful work, one which has a place not only in the law office, but also as a ready reference in the home.

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