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1930 Year Book of the National Probation Association

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BOOK REVIEWS

1930 YEAR BOOK OF THE NATIONAL PROBATION ASSOCIATION. New York: The National Probation Association, 1930, pp. 357.

This is a book which should be in the hands of every official connected with juvenile or probation work. It is a veritable mine of inspiration and information.

It is the official record of the Twenty-fourth Annual Conference of the National Probation Association, held in Boston from June 6th to June 10th, 1930. As noted in the introduction, it contains the papers read at the annual conference of the Association, which are of such vital importance to the man or woman whose work deals with the prevention and cure of delinquency, that every such person should have the book.

In a general way the articles are divided as follows: first, those on juvenile delinquency and courts; second, those on crime treatment; third, those on probation officers, probation and case work—this includes both adult and juvenile probation cases; fourth, miscellaneous articles.

If one were to select a single idea that continuously runs through most all of the papers, and this one can easily do, it would be that practically all of the speakers emphasize the fact that the most important thing in the handling of juvenile work is personnel and that success cannot be expected unless that personnel is trained. As noted on page nine in the article by Professor Brown of Ohio Wesleyan, "Success or failure of any meritorious form of treatment for delinquency and criminality is contingent upon the personnel responsible for that treatment." This idea predominates in almost every article in such a way that it is the outstanding characteristic of the whole conference.

In addition to the articles on delinquency, those on crime treatment will interest many persons who are not directly connected with juvenile work.

The article by Dean Pound on "The Individualization of Justice" is well worth reading, as are most all of the other articles.

There is the article on "Psychiatry and Crime", by Doctor Overholser, on page thirty-six, that is timely and of interest to those interested in criminology.

The article by Harry M. Shulman on "Popular Misconceptions Regarding Delinquency", is worth reading. He points out that too much emphasis has been put on treatment and not enough on causes.

It would be impossible even to mention the subject matter of the articles contained in this book, but to say the least, they are all interesting and the probation worker will find this little book most valuable as a constant reference work.

—CHARLES G. BAKER.

Judge of the Circuit Court for the
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of West Virginia.

PROGRESS OF THE LAW IN THE U. S. SUPREME COURT. By Gregory Hankin and Charlotte A. Hankin. Washington, D. C., Legal Research Service, 1930. pp. xiii, 483.

This is the second annual review of the work of the Supreme Court by the Hankins. Though more pretentious than the 1929 volume the later one is little changed in plan and scope. A distinct improvement is found in the more critical presentation made of the cases discussed in the 1930 book. Brief statements of cases without more do not constitute interesting reading. Moreover the authors have demonstrated that their observations are sane and to the point.

The purpose is avowed "to give the reader a bird's eye view of the work of the Court as an institution of government in a highly complex society". The authors' difficulty, of course, is to keep the reader on the wing above the judicial machinery rather than drag him through the mill by stating case after case. It is fairly impossible to review a great series of cases involving problems of varied character and hold the sustained attention of the reader. This has no bearing on the book as a reference work but it does refer to its appeal as legal literature. The reviewer ventures to suggest that, from that standpoint at least, it would be better to present only the more striking cases in a given field rather than cover the whole ground and thereby burden the piece with heavy, relatively unimportant matter.

The first chapter tells the story of the recent changes in the personnel of the Court. The authors are impressed with the importance of the economic views of the judges in their judicial activity. Here they concluded that the nominations of Mr. Chief Justice Hughes and Judge Parker were intelligently considered. It is probably desirable that the Senate consider the qualifications of Supreme Court nominees thoroughly but that it was done in the case of Judge Parker intelligently as well is another matter. The