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## Juvenile Courts in the United States

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**Juvenile Courts in the United States.** By Herbert H. Lou, Ph.D. The University of North Carolina Press, 1927.

Dr. Lou was a Chinese student who studied English at the National University of Peking, from which he graduated and came to this country in 1921 to spend two years at Harvard and four at Columbia Universities. His book on our juvenile courts was prepared as his doctor's thesis and occupied three years in research and writing. Judge Edward F. Waite of the District Court at Minneapolis, formerly judge of the Juvenile Court there, reviewed the book for the *Minnesota Law Review*, pronouncing it a thorough and authoritative piece of work—by far the most elaborate attempt that has yet been made to compass in a single book the origin, underlying principles, organization, methods and outlook of the children's court. He says the book is well adapted for textbook use in schools of social science; and if the time has come for law schools to give attention to the subject, this is the best treatise available. Judge Waite observes that Dr. Lou cites only 134 cases involving juvenile court questions out of many times that number in the reports, but gives a digest of juvenile court legislation and remarks that while Dr. Lou is not a lawyer, it is plain that he may easily become one.

The book has also been reviewed by Charles L. Chute, general secretary of the National Probation Association, who says it is so complete, impartial and authoritative that all judges, probation officers, and others having part in the administration of these courts should read it as an indispensable requirement for entering or remaining in the service. I quote Mr. Chute: "The book is an examination of the juvenile court as a movement—in all its philosophical, sociological, historic and legal phases; of the juvenile court as an institution—in its administrative, diagnostic and procedural features; and of specific juvenile courts as exemplars of special methods or policies. Besides the background, it gives the practice, and makes recommendations in court and probation methods. Its authority is that of quotations from the best authorities."

The first chapter on the philosophy of the court considers to what extent it is of chancery and of criminal court origin. Its history in the United States is given since its beginning in 1899. A footnote names countries in all parts of the world which have enacted juvenile court laws, following their inception in the United States. The jurisdiction is considered, both as to subject matter, age limitation, area, jurisdiction over adults in certain cases, and its relationship to other courts.

A chapter deals with the organization of the court including that of the probation staff and detention home. Matters of process and procedure are taken up in detail as are also detention of children, social investigation, physical and mental examinations, informal adjustments of cases, the nature and method of court hearings, methods of treatment of children, probation, home placement, commitment to institutions, the question of restitution and reparation and money penalties. An appendix gives the Juvenile Court Standards which were adopted in 1923 by a conference held under the auspices of the Federal Children's Bureau and the National Probation Association, based on the report of a committee appointed by the United States Children's Bureau in 1921 to formulate such standards.

The committee consisted of eminent judges, psychologists, psychiatrists, a chief probation officer and others, fourteen in all. The appendix then gives the text of a Standard Juvenile Court Law which was prepared by a committee of seven judges, a juvenile court referee, an attorney and the secretary of the National Probation Association, the committee having been appointed by the National Probation Association in 1923 to prepare an act to conform in general with the "Juvenile Court Standards" and the Act adopted by the annual conference of the Association in 1925.

An understanding of the subject of juvenile courts in the United States requires a careful reading of Dr. Lou's comprehensive book.

JOSEPH E. CORDES\*

**Handbook of Federal Jurisdiction and Procedure.** Hornbook Series; Armstrong M. Dobie, Professor of Law, University of Virginia.

The author has, within the space of a single volume, given a very succinct yet thorough survey of the subject of federal procedure. In the introductory chapter the history, make up and general functions of the Federal Judicial System are briefly presented, giving the reader a foundation which makes the subsequent chapters more intelligible. The procedure involved in, and the jurisdiction of, the various branches of the Federal Judicial System are discussed in the following chapters, divisions being made according to the branch of law involved.

Since the passage of the far-reaching Act of February 13, 1925, there has been a need felt for an interpretation of its effect upon federal procedure. Mr. Dobie's text fully outlines the changes made by this Act and numerous references are made, in many places in the book, to the radical changes made by it. On all points about which grave controversy rages the author has supplemented his own views with the opinions of other authorities, thus making his work a reliable source of information. The black type paragraph headings facilitate the use of the book as a reference work.

Both the law student and the active practitioner will find Mr. Dobie's work an invaluable aid in federal procedural work.

L. A. O'CONNOR

**The Art of Argument**, by Harold F. Graves and Carle B. Spott, both of the department of English Composition, Pennsylvania State College. Prentice-Hall, New York, publishers.

This text, embracing 280 pages, exclusive of index and appendix, offers information of much value to the law student, whose success in a large measure will depend upon his ability to argue in a clear, logical, and effective manner. Written in elementary style, Part I opens with definitions, and enlarges on the fundamentals of argument as we progress through the pages. Part II presents specimen outlines, showing, in the concrete, the practical application of the theory of part one. Illustrative arguments are offered the reader. The closing chapter is confined to contest debating, proceeding from the definition down to the method of judging. A résumé of debate principles valuable to the collegiate debater, is contained in this last chapter.

T. E. GARRITY

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