

DEBATERS' MANUAL

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Debaters' manual by Edith M. Phelps

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EDITH M. PHELPS

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· DEBATERS' MANUAL ·

Compiled by
EDITH M. PHELPS *Brown*

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

In this volume have been brought together materials that will be of use to the student or individual wishing to know how to prepare a debate or how to organize a debating society or league of debating organizations. While conforming to The Handbook Series in that it is largely a reprint of articles taken from a large number of sources, effort has been made to select those articles that describe the subject most clearly and concisely and, at the same time, give a fairly well-connected account of the various processes.

For convenience the work has been divided into two parts. In Part I have been put all the articles relating to the preparation of the individual debate. The articles have been selected so as to describe, in logical order, all the steps through which the debater must go: Selecting the question and defining the terms; analyzing to determine the main issues; collecting and recording evidence; selection and proper use of evidence—this includes a description of the forms of reasoning and fallacies; drafting the brief; preparing the argument from the brief; and practical suggestions for delivery and for the division of the work among the members of the debating team.

Part II is devoted to the organization and management of the debating society. In the articles included in this division are conveyed brief and valuable suggestions for organizing a society and drawing up its constitution; the management of the society, including a brief description of the more important rules of order; selecting of the teams; the coaching and judging of a debate. The latter half of Part II is given over to a description of various forms of inter-society debating organizations, with model constitutions.

For the benefit of those wishing to read more extensively on the subject, a list of books on debate and public speaking is appended to the book. There is also included, as Appendix B, a subject index to a large number of books and pamphlets containing bibliographies, briefs, arguments pro and con, reprints of selected articles, or reports of entire debates on questions of

importance. An effort has been made to include in this the bibliographies put out by the High School Debating Leagues, as far as these are available. Most of these books and reports are completely indexed, others for important subjects only. The object has been to get an up-to-date usable subject list rather than a complete one.

This subject index ought to be especially helpful to high school debaters in selecting topics for debate, and after having selected them, to obtain helpful material for the debate itself.

The compiler wishes to acknowledge her indebtedness to the authors from whose works material has been drawn for this volume, and to thank the publishers for their kind permission to reprint the selections.

E. M. PHELPS.

July 15, 1915.

EXPLANATORY NOTE FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

With this edition the Debaters' Manual has been transferred to The Handbook Series, since the series in which it was formerly included will eventually be discontinued. Parts I and II of the book are unchanged, but the Appendices have been thoroly revised, out-of-print material has been dropped except where still useful and to be found in many libraries, out-of-date subjects and references have been, in many cases, deleted, and much good recent material has been added.

September 5, 1922.

E. M. PHELPS.

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