

THE JUVENILE COURT AND THE COMMUNITY

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The juvenile court and the community by Thomas D. Eliot

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THOMAS D. ELIOT

**THE JUVENILE
COURT AND THE
COMMUNITY**

AMERICAN SOCIAL PROGRESS SERIES

THE JUVENILE COURT AND THE COMMUNITY

BY

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“Seek not to be judge,
Lest thou be not able to take away iniquity.”
— WISDOM OF BEN SIRACH, VII, 5.

FOREWORDS

BOOKS are increasingly a social production, especially in the field of social economy. I beg to acknowledge my deep indebtedness to the hundreds of persons who have given me generously of their time and experience but whom space prevents me from enumerating. I acknowledge especially the advice and assistance of Mr. Roger Nash Baldwin, of the Civic League, St. Louis, Mo., formerly instructor in Washington University and Chief Probation Officer in the St. Louis Juvenile Court, to whom I owe my interest in the subject and many of the ideas expressed, as well as personal inspiration; to my teachers at Columbia University and elsewhere, especially Professors Samuel McCune Lindsay, Franklin H. Giddings, and Edward T. Devine, whose help and counsel have made the work possible; to Professor Willard E. Hotchkiss, of the Northwestern University School of Commerce and Finance, for access to questionnaires prepared by other courts for his committee of investigation in Chicago; to Miss Julia C. Lathrop and others in the Children's Bureau at Washington, for advice and

FOREWORDS

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Social work is a field so rapidly changing that time creates errors faster than it can correct them. For these I must accept the responsibility, preferring this to rendering my work less serviceable by useless delay in publication. Most statements of fact will be found reliable through September, 1913.

INTRODUCTION

It is not the purpose of this book to portray the reform of boy gangs, nor to describe in detail standards or practice of courts and probation officers. Its object has been to treat the juvenile court in its relation to other social institutions, as a problem in social economy. The time has come to study the movement in its perspective, and judge its results and prospects in a broader way than is done in most books on the subject.

Just because so much was expected of the juvenile court, it has recently been the object of criticism. How widespread this criticism has been is known only to the few in close touch with the several courts. Not only the Denver and Chicago courts, conspicuous because of their position as pioneers, but those in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Columbus, Cincinnati, Louisville, Indianapolis, Chicago, Milwaukee, Denver, Salt Lake City, and other localities have undergone criticism ranging from serious disapproval among local social workers to open attack. Many a court is