

**THE SOCIAL WELFARE  
LIBRARY. COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATION**

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The Social Welfare Library. Community Organization by Joseph Kinmont Hart

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**JOSEPH KINMONT HART**

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## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

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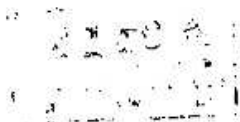
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JOSEPH KINMONT HART

AUTHOR OF  
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## PREFACE

**T**HIS book is the outgrowth of ten years of work in educational and social lines in Western States, together with six months' experience with the War Camp Community Service in intensive study of the problems of community life and organization under reconstruction conditions. The backgrounds of the discussion may be found in the educational and sociological literature of the recent past and present; in the actual work of social construction and reconstruction now going on in the world; and in the community programs of many individuals, groups, associations, and communities.

It is an effort to approach our social problems from the standpoint of the community as a whole. We are attempting to discover some of the laws, biological, psychological, and social, within which human association goes on and in terms of which more or less satisfactory communities have been built up. We are attempting to develop means by which community thinking of a higher order may be brought to bear on the problems of the community in order that our democracy may have the fullest possible use of all its latent resources of enthusiasm, intelligence, and good will. We are attempting to point out the larger community ways in which volunteer energy and co-operation may be made to bear fruit in programs of health,

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## PREFACE

happiness, and social understanding. We are attempting to work out natural social motivations that will bring the common masses of people together in firmer bonds of mutual understanding and helpfulness in order that our democracy may become real, substantial, and humane.

The field here outlined is still largely open country. This is not a final guide book, it is a sketch of certain high points from which the whole country has been more or less dimly descried. May it stimulate many others to exploration in the same field!

I am greatly indebted to a host of friends and students for inspiration to undertake this task, and particularly to the members of the "Social Service Publishing Company," for providing the leisure that has made the work possible.

I am indebted to innumerable individuals and groups who have enabled me to come into intimate and concrete contact with the realities of community life in many parts of the country.

I am indebted to Mr. Ray F. Carter and Mr. Tam Deering of Seattle for many helpful suggestions; and to my secretary, Miss Adelaide Morey, for continuous helpfulness in the selection of materials and for stimulating criticism.

My thanks are also due to the editor of the series, Dr. Devine, and to Miss Lilian Brandt and Mr. H. S. Braucher, for illuminating criticisms upon the completed manuscript.

J. K. H.

## INTRODUCTION BY THE EDITOR

DURING the past ten years social workers have been at school in technique. Processes of diagnosis and of specialized treatment have been persistently pressed upon their attention. Such broad facts of our common economic life as had been effectively presented in Professor Patten's *New Basis of Civilization* have been allowed to sink into a secondary place, when not altogether ignored. The training schools for social workers have not unnaturally emphasized the technical aspects of investigation and treatment; and special periodicals devoted to one or another department of social practice have further favored this tendency.

Within limits this is a necessary and beneficial development. Knowledge of procedure which has proved to be successful, mastery of technique, critical analysis of experience, familiarity with case records, are essential in social work as in every vocation. The danger is that we may become so absorbed in the particular manner in which a group of chosen individuals are to be treated—in their reactions, favorable and unfavorable—as to lose altogether the larger view of the conditions under which they live, the social forces which are operating upon them independently of our intervention, the motives which do in reality determine their general course of action. Similar over-specialization may occur in those forms of social