

**THE BOY PROBLEM:
A STUDY IN SOCIAL
PEDAGOGY**

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The boy problem: a study in social pedagogy by William Byron Forbush

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WILLIAM BYRON FORBUSH

**THE BOY PROBLEM:
A STUDY IN SOCIAL
PEDAGOGY**

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

THE
BOY PROBLEM

A Study in Social Pedagogy

BY

WILLIAM BYRON FORBUSH

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY G. STANLEY HALL

Fourth Edition

UNIVERSITY

BOSTON

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BY WILLIAM BYRON FORBUSH

INTRODUCTION

The author, who is both a clergyman and a Doctor of Philosophy, has been among boys and done work with them that I consider hardly less than epoch-making in significance. Dr. Forbush understands the natural boy and how to approach and handle him, and has also put himself abreast of the new psycho-genetic and pedagogical literature.

The great fact of adolescence with all its multifarious phenomena and its stages of transformation might almost be called nature's regeneration. For a few years before this, boys live with their mates and adjust themselves as best they may to the will and way of the adult Olympians about them in the persons of teachers and parents, whose lives and ideals seem strange and alien to them. But when the ephebic reconstruction begins, one of its most radical changes consists in opening the soul to influences that come to it from riper years. Instead of a horizontal expansion of interests in boy life, the soul now reaches upward and is intensely sensitive to what the coming years are to bring; so that this age is the golden period of adult influence, provided it is wise enough not to offend.

For one, I am profoundly convinced that a new day is dawning in the work of the Church for the young; that we must pause, reconsider, and take our

bearings anew; that there is a light about to break forth from genetic psychology and pedagogy that will show things in new relations and will convict some of our best ways and means in the past of error and bring a wealth of new suggestions. The Church, the Sunday-school, teachers, and those who labor for the neglected classes are now coming to see that they must study and understand better those for whom they work; and that everything must be adjusted to their nature and needs. I welcome, therefore, this little study, render thanks to the author that he has presented here in meaty and compact form what many would have expanded, and am glad of an opportunity to heartily commend it to all lovers of boys.

G. STANLEY HALL.

CLARK UNIVERSITY,
Worcester, Mass., Nov. 1, 1900.

PREFACE

There is a time when a boy emerges from the narrow bounds of a dependent self-life and from the limits of the school and the home, and seeks the larger social world of the street and the "gang." The instinct is legitimate and masterful and full of possibilities of danger or help. Its recognition is recent and literature upon it is slight. It constitutes the most pressing problem of adolescence.

The solution of the problem may be sought from three sources: from a study of boy life, from a study of the ways in which children spontaneously organize socially, and from a study of the ways adults organize for the benefit of boys. Such studies are the contents of the first four chapters. Following these are some conclusions and suggestions.

The matter of the training of the individual boy in the home and the school is aside from the purpose of this inquiry, whose aim is to discuss the boy as dealt with in his social relations in the institutions of the community and the Church. To the science of this sort of education I have given the name social pedagogy.

The importance of these modest and hitherto unclassified instrumentalities has seemed so great to those engaged in this work that a general fellowship of workers with boys, to which has been given the

suggestive name, "The Men of Tomorrow," was formed in 1895 for the single purpose of studying boys and their needs, and of becoming a bureau of information upon the subject. This alliance has, through its conferences and by means of the monographs which it has published, quietly done much to stimulate interest in the movement for boys. To the men and women in the alliance, of which the author is president, acknowledgment must be made for their contributions of information and help without which this study would have been impossible, and to them he dedicates the results.

The author welcomes letters of inquiry and criticism. The membership and facilities of "The Men of Tomorrow" are also open to all who desire to institute or improve instrumentalities for work with boys.

Special thanks are here rendered to Drs. G. Stanley Hall and Graham Taylor for permission to reprint portions of this book which have appeared in the *Pedagogical Seminary* and *The Commons*.

WILLIAM BYRON FORBUSH.

Winthrop Church, Boston.

NOTE TO THE THIRD EDITION

The author has taken advantage of the call for another edition, to go over his material again carefully, and has made about two hundred changes and additions. The sections on the Sunday-school and Decision Day, and the Bibliography have been entirely rewritten.

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