

## BOOK NOTES

*The Child and the State*, Vols. I and II. By Grace Abbott. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1938. Pp. xxiii, 679; xvii, 701. \$3.00 each.

This book, although primarily written for use in schools of social service administration, contains invaluable collateral reading material for law school courses on family relations. Courses in this field have traditionally shunned those topics which play a larger role in the daily work of the legal aid official or the social worker than in the work of the attorney working for a fee. A law school, however, which intends to train its students not only for the immediate needs of the practicing attorney, but is, also, undertaking to introduce men of future public influence to the burning issues of our society has to pay attention to the problems of child welfare; especially to child labor, illegitimacy, adoption, juvenile delinquency, care of neglected and dependent children, mothers' aid, and organization of child welfare services.

On all these topics, Professor Abbott's work contains the richest and best selected source material so far assembled. The reader is presented not only with a complete picture of present day problems and solutions but also with a detailed survey of the historical development of child welfare services in the United States from earliest colonial days. One becomes fascinated in looking over these materials which range from statutes and decisions of courts to reports of official and non-official investigating bodies, resolutions of partisan groups, memoirs of social reformers, town records, reports of factory inspectors and social workers, indenture or apprenticeship contracts of colonial and later days. These materials not only deal with the legal and organizational problems, but they unfold a startling, living picture of human suffering, social responsibility, actual and imagined difficulties of reform, and the struggles that had to be fought at every step of attempted improvement. They, also, reveal how wide a field there is for much needed collaboration between social workers and lawyers.

If anything is left to be desired for future editions of this standard work, it might be an enlargement by the inclusion of occasional comparative materials and a more complete and more systematic treatment of the rather sketchy chapter on "The Legal Status of the Child in the Family."

MAX RHEINSTEIN

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*Istituzioni di diritto commerciale*. Reprint. By Tullio Ascarelli. Milan: Dott. A. Giuffrè, 1938. Pp. xix, 474. L. 45.

The book is the most recent and up-to-date short treatise on Italian Commercial Law. It is written by one of the most outstanding legal scholars who was until recently professor of commercial law at the University of Rome. The author informs us with admirable skill about the general principles of commercial law, the various business units, the different commercial contracts, and the parts of procedure pertinent to commercial law, such as bankruptcy. The book in its concise statements will well serve as an orientation on theoretical and practical problems of Italian commercial law for the American legal profession. The main value of the book, however, for Americans