particularly to the science of law teaching is symbolic of the work that they
do and of their literary contributions. If this is true of Professor Edgar, Jr.,
it is of course everywhere present to all of his colleagues in the case of Senior.
Students return to tell us with great frequency that they never forget his
courses and the thing that impresses itself most firmly upon their minds is not
so much the legal learning which they acquire as the object lesson in sincerity,
devotion and single-minded attention to the duties which he is daily performing
in the classroom. It is not too much to say that Professor Edgar, Sr., regards
his vocation as a law teacher in the light of a ministry and that he propounds
the law of the land with the same zeal and earnestness that ministers of the
gospel employ in expounding the word of God.

We congratulate the authors upon this signal achievement and look forward
to many editions of this book and to similar achievements in other fields of law.

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THE FAMILY IN COURT. By Jonah J. Goldstein. New York: Clark Boardman
Co., Ltd., 1934, pp. xiii, 284.

Justice Goldstein, in this interesting volume, discards his "judicial cloak"
to chat intimately with the reader concerning the need for a tribunal even more
fully specialized and unified than the newly created Domestic Relations Court¹
with its two divisions, the Children's Court and the Family Court. He chats,
not from the point of view of a judge and lawyer, but rather as a tireless and
energetic social worker whose efforts are made solely in furtherance of "a
better to-morrow."

The author's ideas and convictions result largely from his experiences as
club leader, social worker, lawyer and justice of the Magistrate Court in New
York City. He makes a number of recommendations regarding procedure and
jurisdiction for the new court, that, in his opinion, will tend to effectuate its
usefulness. Many of these appear thoughtful and merit consideration.

The reason for consolidating the Children's Court and the Family Court,
as the author points out, is that the family may be treated as a unit. This is in
accord with the sociological view that delinquencies common among children,
and the ordinary troubles within the family, may be traceable, in many
instances, to disorganized and unwholesome family living. Belief is expressed
by the advocates of this new court, of which group the author is one, that this
more unified court will be a medium through which domestic problems will be
more happily adjusted.

But as the author further points out, mere consolidation of itself is not
sufficient. The new court should be conducted on a clinical basis, to be used

¹ Domestic Relations Court Act of the City of New York, Laws of
1933, c. 482 [in effect Oct. 1, 1933].
as "a laboratory for the study of human behavior in an effort to find cures for old ills." Consultations and conferences should replace the trial in a courtroom; judges should closely cooperate with medical, social, welfare and religious agencies. A thorough physical and psychiatric examination will often disclose the true reasons for the family discord or juvenile delinquency. In Justice Goldstein's court, the psychiatrist and vocational guidance counsellor are indispensable since by their training and experience they are best fitted to plan and arrange a program of behavior for the particular person who requires social adjustment.

It is apparent that this is a new type of court. The author states, "It is in a unique sense a social agency of the state." It necessarily follows therefore, that the judge and his advisers should be social-minded men and women who are deeply concerned with the welfare of society.

This reviewer was greatly impressed with the author's views which are suggested by him as salutary measures of reform for the new Domestic Relations Court. And so fascinating and absorbing is their presentation, that it is only when one has afterwards weighed them carefully in one's mind, that doubts, as to whether these views can be practically applied, appear. Doubtless, there is much that seems both logical and practicable. But the whole program would seem to entail an expense which society might find it burdensome to assume at the present time; and there is the further question whether it is possible to create such close cooperation between the court and the various clinics and other agencies which the author suggests.

However, such criticism should not detract from this volume any of the praise it well deserves. It is a distinctive and valuable contribution. Firstly, it is a means of stimulating public interest in so vital a social problem; and secondly, it stands as an ever-ready source of stimulating and thoughtful recommendations for the new Domestic Relations Court.

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