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BOOK REVIEW

LEGAL AID IN THE UNITED STATES, By Emery A. Brownell, The Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Company, Rochester, N. Y., 1951, pp. 331.

Emery A. Brownell, a graduate of the Syracuse University School of Law, has since his admission to the Bar in 1926 been actively connected with legal aid. In preparation for this report he visited 123 legal aid organizations collecting information and personally observing the services rendered.

In 1876 in New York City the German Society of New York with the help of Edward Saloman, a practicing lawyer in that city and a former governor of Wisconsin, incorporated the "Deutscher Rechts-Schutz Verein" whose purpose as stated in its constitution was "to render legal aid and assistance gratuitously to those of German birth who may appear worthy thereof, but who from poverty are unable to procure it." Thus began the first organized system for legal aid in the United States. However, this was not legal aid as now conceived as its clientele was restricted to a special group.

Commencing with this first society the author has reviewed and evaluated the growth of legal aid in the United States for the past seventy-five years. It is a rather complete report in that it touches on every aspect of the problem of bringing legal assistance to all in need. In presenting his survey Mr. Brownell makes generous and skillful use of tables, charts and appendices.

This book is of undoubtable value to those actively engaged in the problem of legal aid. It not only reports on the scope of legal aid but effectively demonstrates the absence of sufficient legal aid in all too many areas. Members of the Bench and Bar in every community might make valuable use of this book in measuring the need for and effectiveness of the assistance now rendered to the needy in their communities.

William Francis Harth