

# THE CHILD IN INDIA

A Symposium  
Commemorating the Coming of Age  
of The Society for the Protection of Children  
in Western India

EDITED BY  
CLIFFORD MANSHARDT

WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY  
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*Ex-Governor of Bombay*

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## INTRODUCTION

By HIS EXCELLENCY

THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRABOURNE, G. C. I. E., M. C.,

*Governor of Bombay.*

Of all kinds of social service there is none more important than the protection of children and none more worthy to be performed: important because the neglected child, as he grows up, becomes increasingly unprofitable to society; worthy to be performed because, while not everyone is willing to admit that the adult offender is in every case more to be pitied than blamed, yet none will deny that the child who offends against society is the victim and society itself the true offender.

A neglected child is a bad bargain, as any reasonable person can see; but how bad a bargain can only be truly computed by taking into account not only the immediate unprofitableness of a potential or actual juvenile offender, but also the subsequent loss of a sound and useful citizen. The immediate loss to society is perhaps slight, but the subsequent loss is grave indeed. In this respect the work of protection of children has a peculiarly high value, in that the chances of reclaiming a neglected child are comparatively good, but when that neglected child has become an adult criminal the process of reform is greatly prolonged and the chance of ultimate success more remote.

From the merely mercenary point of view, therefore, the protection of children is a worthy work, and it is in this aspect that the State, being by nature a soulless institution, must necessarily be most interested. The other aspect, the humanitarian, probably appeals more to the many persons who voluntarily engage themselves in this work, the persons who see first of all the pitifulness and the injustice of the situation of neglected children, the persons who realise most keenly that in the very nature of things a neglected child, having had no opportunity to learn to distinguish between

good and evil, cannot be condemned, who realise that it is up to them as members of society to right, so far as they can, the wrong which society has done.

I have distinguished these two aspects of the work, only, as it were, to join them again, in emphasising that the best work is done by those who are moved to action by both. The Society for the Protection of Children in Western India has kept both objects equally clearly in view, to profit society by preventing the wastage of its children, and to cleanse society by righting a grievous wrong. As the Knight of old in the days of chivalry considered no reward for his success in a difficult enterprise more meet than to be entrusted with one even more difficult, so I feel sure, in congratulating the Society for the Protection of Children in Western India on its coming of age, that it will desire no better wish from me than that its successful labours in the past may be but the prelude to even more laborious and even more successful days in the future.

BRABOURNE  
*Governor of Bombay,*  
14th August 1937.

## PREFACE

The Twentieth Century has been hailed as the Century of the Discovery of the Child. Certainly there has in recent years been a new appreciation of the child and an earnest attempt to understand his nature and his needs. It is eminently fitting that one item in the programme for the celebration of the Coming of Age of the Society for the Protection of Children in Western India should be a volume devoted to the child and his welfare.

On behalf of the Society, the editor desires to thank His Excellency the Right Hon. Lord Brabourne, G. C. I. E., M. C., Governor of Bombay, for his kindness in contributing an introduction to this volume, and the able staff of contributors who have given so generously of their time in preparing the materials presented in the various chapters. If the study contributes in any way to a new appreciation of the Indian child and his problems and opens new fields of thought for parents and educators, it will have served its purpose.

The Sir Dorabji Tata  
Graduate School of Social Work  
Bombay. 15 August. 1937.

CLIFFORD MANSHARDT

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