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Progress in International Organization, by Manley O. Hudson

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This very readable little book presents "in essentially their original form," the series of lectures delivered by Professor Hudson at the University of Idaho, September 24 and 25, 1931, upon the occasion of the inauguration of the William Edgar Borah Foundation for the Outlawry of War. That fact explains both the limitations and the merits of the book.

Designed to convey to a lay audience, within a very limited time, an outline of the world forces which give rise to an ever-increasing need for international organization, of the early steps in the development thereof, and of the remarkable advancement since the war in the methods and machinery of international cooperation, the lectures are necessarily too general and summary in their treatment of a vast and highly complex subject to be of much value to the scholar interested in the minutiae of international government. This is readily understood when one considers that within the brief compass of 117 small pages there is included a review of the developments in international organization from the middle of the nineteenth century to the outbreak of the war; a discussion of the establishment, organization, structure, functions, strength, weaknesses and potentialities of the League of Nations, the International Labour Organization, and the Permanent Court of International Justice; a consideration of the extension of international law by the modern processes of international legislation and judicial interpretation, and also of past and current efforts at codification of international law; an evaluation of the machinery developed since the war for the preservation of peace, and a restrained criticism of the United States for its failure to participate fully and frankly in the post-war international cooperative efforts.

Covering thus hurriedly so much material, it may well be that at times Professor Hudson creates the impression of being unduly sanguine in his estimate of the results achieved or achievable under the League of Nations and the other new institutions of international government. Closer reading, however, reveals that Professor Hudson's is not the optimism of the impractical idealist or wishful thinker; it is, rather, the considered confidence of the man of wide actual experience in international affairs who knows that the germs of progress often lie in what for the moment looks like retrogression. Professor Hudson can, for example, admit the comparative failure of the Hague Conference of 1930 for the Codification of International Law without concluding that successful codification is forever doomed or that League conference methods deserve to be discarded. Realistically he comments that "a whole generation of effort is needed, if we are to have a real renaissance of international law. Not one but many conferences will be required; not one but many failures may be anticipated. Yet I believe the effort is worth while." (P. 86.)

In a final chapter Professor Hudson considers the contribution of the present generation to international organization, and finds it of much greater value than anything achieved within a hundred years before the war. We have founded new and vital institutions which, however imperfect may be the results which we have been able to achieve through them, contain possibilities for international cooperation as yet unthought of. They are a real heritage for future generations, and "a century hence people may be as grateful to us for the League of Nations and the Permanent Court of International Justice

as we are now grateful to the generation of Washington and Adams and Jefferson and Madison for the Congress and the Supreme Court of the United States." (P. 120.)

Although, as stated, it is without especial value to the advanced scholar, the book has, because of its very brevity, distinct usefulness aside from the purpose which it was primarily intended to serve. It offers an extraordinarily lucid, interesting, concise and authoritative survey by one of the outstanding scholars of the field of the many and varied problems of international relations and of the various agencies developed to cope with them. As such it should be most valuable to the person who wishes to acquire a background of general information before pursuing a more detailed study of international government, or to the student already acquainted with the subject who desires to refresh his memory with a brief but general review thereof. It could be read with profit at the beginning and at the end of a college course in international organization.

The text is supplemented with appendices (33 pages) containing the Covenant of the League of Nations, a list of the members of the League as of October 1, 1931, and the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice. There is also an index of five pages.

Urbana, Ill.

VALENTINE JOBST III.