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## Book Review

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## BOOK REVIEW

### THE ITALIAN IMMIGRANT AND OUR COURTS

By JOHN H. MARIANO

The Christopher Publishing House, Boston.

Dr. Mariano has made an earnest defense of the Italian immigrant. In his defense he cites figures to show that Italians are not inherently criminal. The second generation, the children of the immigrant, indeed, are the ones most responsible for this popular misconception. Just what reason may be assigned to this moral failure of the second generation is rather difficult to ascertain. The problem, however, seems to be one in which social workers, our priests, and friends of Italy should be interested.

Lawyers will be interested to learn of the reactions of the Italian mind to the workings of our civil courts. The Italian is impatient with our delays, the machinery of our courts puzzle him, frequently he is too credulous, and the airing of personal affairs in court appears to him to be improper. He also finds lacking that authority and wider discretion which is possessed by a judge in Italy.

Another hindrance is the Italian's distrust of lawyers. In this connection the author views as a hopeful sign the growing number of Italian lawyers. He concludes "the members of this profession have it in their power to do more constructive service than any other group in smoothing out difficulties of adjustment, in leveling out disagreements caused by misunderstandings, and in helping along proper interpretation which at times is sadly lacking."

To those lawyers who list Italian immigrants among their clientele the work by Dr. Mariano affords a helpful psychological study.

J. A. D.