January 1934

Review of “La Desobediencia,” By Dr. Diego Vicente Tejera

L. L. Bernard

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discusses the advantages and the disadvantages, the application and uses of this judicial guardianship, and especially as a substitute for the English habeas corpus, in some detail. The insight into Mexican constitutional history and law afforded by this little book is considerable.

L. L. BERNARD.

La Desobediencia. By Dr. Diego Vicente Tejera (Hijo). La Habana: Jesus Montero, Editor, 1933. 156 pp.

Dr. Tejera is one of the ablest modern students of sociological jurisprudence. His productivity is remarkable. Furthermore, his outlook is not merely theoretical, but his aim is highly practical. He combines the concreteness of the searcher of codes and cases with the broad outlook of the legal reformer who wishes to make his vast learning—for Dr. Tejera's learning is both vast and profound—useful in constructive legislation and in the socialized administration of justice. The present work is a study in the sociological aspects of the disobedience of officials engaged in the interpretation and enforcement of the law. In tracing the history of this type of crime he finds that it is a product of the régime of constitutional governments which followed the French Revolution. Recognizing the power of the recalcitrant or corrupted administrative officials and judges to nullify laws to the detriment of public interests, he presents digests of the laws of most of the leading countries covering the crime of disobedience, and particularly of the laws of Cuba, pointing out various effects of such disobedience and remedies therefor. An interesting section of the volume indicates when such disobedience in enforcement may have favorable public effects, especially in cases where lawyers and criminals sabotage the laws by means of formal overt compliance, but insidiously pervert law and justice under the pretense of conformity. In such cases he would give some leeway to courts and administrative officials in order to allow them to enforce the spirit rather than the mere letter of the law. In his commentary on legislation and the codes, the author makes frequent and penetrating references to the social scientists of different periods and countries who have contributed to his theme.

L. L. BERNARD.


This volume by Messrs. Michael and Adler is one of the most significant books of recent times in the fields of social science and law. No one who is active in law or is concerned through some other discipline with the problems of human behavior should forego the authors' clear analysis of the related functions of the several branches of the social studies. In relation to criminal law and criminology the writers' appraisal of the work which has been done and their estimate of what is needed are essential to understanding a subject that has been enveloped in a fog of hazy concepts and misty emotionalism.