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Isaacs: OATH OF DEVOTION

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OATH OF DEVOTION. By *Julius Isaacs*. New York: Dutton & Co., Inc. 1949.
Pp. 337. \$4.50.

This is a sociological autobiography written against a background of New York City, its court and its government. In part one, the author, a former New York City magistrate, describes his personal life from his boyhood on the city's east side until his marriage and graduation from New York University Law School; included in this part are accounts of his extensive travels abroad. The second part, entitled "The City as a Client," relates the author's experiences as legal counsel for the city. Judge Isaacs was appointed assistant corporation counsel after aiding Fiorello H. LaGuardia in the campaigns which culminated in his election as mayor of New York City. Because of this close association with LaGuardia, the author is able to present a revealing glimpse into the life of the former mayor. Part three of the book is devoted to the author's experiences after his appointment as a magistrate by LaGuardia, including a detailed account of the various city courts. Although most of the cases presented to Judge Isaacs were minor criminal cases, his keen insight into the social problems of those who came before him led him to seek the causes of their troubles. With the aid of specialists, such as social workers and psychiatrists, he attempted to rehabilitate instead of punish. The author concludes with some suggestions for the future, summarizing ideas fully presented elsewhere in the book, such as city planning and more personalized attention to the individual's problems in our courts.