social workers who know both the city of the poor and of the rich.

Merton Oyler.

*University of Kentucky.*

**Negro Child Welfare in North Carolina.**

The Sanders study is a very useful and instructive piece of work. It represents the collaboration of numerous persons, including public officials and practical workers in various social service fields and members of the University of North Carolina faculty. It sketches the history of Negro welfare work in the state, describes nine institutions now operating, and gives detailed pictures of Negro children in juvenile courts, prisons, homes, and schools. It is essentially a document of self-revelation and we may hope it will receive wide attention not only in its native state but throughout the South. While supplying little new in principle, it does give chapter and verse, thus disposing of "general impressions" and "make-believe." It is rich in practical and sensible suggestions for improvements all along the line of social advance. While objective in tone, it is written with the sympathy and understanding of a broad humanism. There is also a tactful regard for the emotional sensibilities involved in the Negro question. While it condemns in outright terms the whipping of Negro delinquents as unnecessary and brutalizing, the report refrains from publishing the results of a survey of the attitudes of county officials in thirty-seven counties. These replies are tabulated and the report on them placed on file with the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare. Students of the Negro family, illegitimacy, and education will find the later chapters useful.

Frank H. Hankins.

*Smith College.*


This very timely volume, prepared under the sponsorship of the Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching, is a distressing portrayal of "the creakings of the machinery of the law." Sixty-five pages of the book are required to reprint the existing laws against lynching, but these statutes are so evaded, set aside, or ignored that, according to the author, "only about eight-tenths of one per cent of the lynchings since 1900 have been followed by conviction of the lynchers." (p. 13.) As usual, when the law and the mores are in conflict, the mores win.

The principal part of the volume deals with the advantages and defects of the various procedures which have been used in preventing or punishing mob violence. Although the author is a lawyer—a professor of law, in fact—he shows a commendable insight into the inadequacy of legislative formulae and juristic ritual when unsupported by public opinion. The layman will be surprised to find this member of the bar referring to overly exact legal definitions as "vain and scholastic verbal quibbles" (p. 32.) and describing a judge's statement as "an unfortunate pursuit of that familiar wisp—the majesty of the law." (p. 106.) Shortly after, however, the author inconsistently advocates, among other devices, the securing of an injunction against the leaders of an incipient mob in order to deter them by the force of this same "majesty of the law" and by the danger of trial for contempt of court without the protective services of grand and petit juries. But isn't any lynching open or covert contempt of court?

The moot question as to the precise definition of a lynching is avoided by recommending that this crime be defined as "the killing or aggravated injury of a human