Introduction

DURING the last decade the expansion of interest in all aspects of child development has been encouraging. A number of highly productive and exciting research projects throughout the country testify to the vigor and enthusiasm currently promoting work in this area. Many disciplines within the behavioral sciences are making important contributions to our general understanding of children and the effect of the early years on later stages of development and adjustment. One manifestation of impressive progress now being made is the increased understanding of personality development in children. Advances in research methodology and conceptualization of the general problems involved in personality development have resulted in several highly successful programs of research in this area.

In recognition of the importance of this topic for both the disciplines involved and for the general public, the University of Texas, as part of the activities undertaken in celebration of its Seventy-Fifth Year, made available funds for a lecture series on "Personality Development in Children." An inter-departmental committee sought to bring to the campus out-

standing representatives of various approaches to this subject. The lectures delivered in the fall of 1958 offered an excellent sample of current research and thinking in the area. Because of their timely significance, these lectures are presented in printed form in this volume.

In the process of preparing the lectures for publication, a few minor changes seemed desirable. These changes occurred, primarily, in the deletion of words or phrases which would remind the reader that these essays had been presented originally as lectures, and which thus might divert his attention from the material itself.

Another matter concerning the preparation of the lectures for publication has to do with annotation. Numbers supplied parenthetically in the text refer to sources listed serially in the separate bibliographies following the papers.

The committee wishes to express its gratitude to Dr. Harry Ransom, Vice-President and Provost of the Main University and to Dr. L. D. Haskew, Vice-President of the Main University and Chairman of the Seventy-Fifth Year Committee, for their generous support in the planning of the lecture series and in the publication of this volume.

As chairmen, we wish to acknowledge also the excellent cooperation of the committee members, both in the initial planning stages and in the presentation of the program, on the innumerable details associated with such a venture.

IRA ISCOE *and* HAROLD W. STEVENSON
Chairmen, Interdepartmental Committee

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