

sion case of long standing, as hopeless, and even in such cases we try to follow some plan, however indefinite, for ultimate rehabilitation. In order to work at all constructively with our pensioners, we must make their mode of living approach as nearly as possible that of a self-supporting family. This necessitates living not only in good sanitary houses, but in neighborhoods where there is as little as possible of congestion, and of the many other evils which accompany the herding together of any group of people.

"While the advantages of your plan outlined in your article are undoubtedly great, in my opinion they would be overbalanced by the disadvantages of the plan. Community life, in which the only bond would be that of mutual dependence upon relief organizations, would certainly not work for self-respect on the part of the pensioners, and would make it impossible for the second generation to grow up and assume their normal places in the community without being to some extent affected by this very clearly defined dependence upon charity.

"As far as the advantages of the plan to the social worker, the physician and the nurse are concerned, it has been with us an easy matter to district our work in such a way that no one person needs to cover more than a comparatively few blocks.

"I shall be interested to hear whether you put this plan into operation, and, if so, what results you achieve from it."

FROM MR. BORIS D. BOGEN

"Your letter is quite timely. There has been an experiment in Detroit where they tried to place widows on pension in separate houses. I, personally, do not think it advisable to start a pauper district. I had some plan of this kind in view for some time and attempted to put through a plan of placing tuberculous patients in similar to the George Junior Republic Association arrangement, but even that did not work out so far. There is no doubt that people living in these homes can be better supervised and be given better opportunities, but this will be likely to stamp them as paupers, and their children would have to carry the burden of this distinction, and I think that few dollars more spent under the present

arrangement is not altogether wasted. However, if you should decide upon this plan, it would be an interesting experiment, and I, for one, would be very anxious to see results."

FROM MR. M. D. WALDMAN

"I have your favor of the 24th instant. I have read your article on 'Better Housing for Pensioners' in JEWISH CHARITIES with much interest.

"The proposition made to your board by one of your directors has been submitted to our Board of Trustees a number of times, with the result uniformly that the plan was disapproved. The advantages you emphasize are unquestionably true, but our objection to the scheme has been the fear that the close contact of a considerable number of such pensioners would tend to pauperization. The families would probably get together and compare notes, and because of the difference of treatment and relief allowance received (necessitated by the difference of the individual families) becomes dissatisfied. Moreover, a congregate dwelling of this character would be known to the neighbors as the home of dependents, and our families would be exposed to the humiliation of such publicity. The effect upon the children, too, would be exceedingly bad, and we fear that children of such families would be ostracised by the children of neighboring families. It does not require much imagination to realize the demoralizing effect upon our families in the handicap the children would suffer.

"You probably have heard of the 'Home Hospital' for the tuberculous families, conducted by the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor of this city. One of the model Vanderbilt tenements in the Yorkville section of our city was rented by that association and a score or so of their families were moved into this house, under the direct supervision of a resident nurse and visiting physician. It is not necessary at this time to go into the details of that plan and the results thus accomplished, but when I was up there recently I inquired of the resident nurse whether she had noticed that the children of these families had suffered socially as a consequence. She told me that they were looked upon 'askance' by

neighboring children in the beginning, but that eventually the neighboring children grew accustomed to them and there seemed to her that no discrimination was exercised against them now. This would argue against the fears apparently, but I should not be prepared to relinquish my objection because of this very limited experience, for these reasons:

"Firstly, that the families in the Home Hospital are a selected class, considerably above the average of dependent families, both in refinement and former wage-earning capacity; secondly, that what might apply to non-Jewish families will not necessarily apply to Jewish families; and, thirdly, I am not ready to accept the nurse's statement as altogether accurate.

"It seems to me that it would be a dangerous proposition publicly to label the families who, for the most part, are self-respecting and anxious to become self-supporting."

CARING FOR MISFITS

Elsie Levy Pfaelzer

Fourteen years ago a meeting was called by the New Century Club of Philadelphia to protest against the imprisonment of juvenile delinquents, and to urge radical changes in the manner of dealing with them. At that time Philadelphia had no juvenile court, no probation system and no house of detention. The only attempt at probation work was undertaken by the College Settlement in a district peopled largely by Italians and Russian Jews. To this meeting were invited all charitable agencies of all denominations which were working with children.

An especially urgent appeal was made to the Jewish people for representation. The worker from the College Settlement was meeting with great obstacles in her work among a people of whose language and customs she was ignorant. In response to this invitation, a number of Jewish women, members of the Day Nursery Committee of the Young Women's Union, were sent as representatives of the Jews of Philadelphia. At this meeting the Jewish people were urged to make good their boast and "care for their own."

The Jewish people prepared to make good their boast. The Juvenile Aid Committee

MR. LEONARD'S VIEWS

"I fully agree with those who object to the plan proposed in my article on 'Better Housing for Pensioners.' I wrote the article so as to give the author of the proposal a chance to hear the opinions of other social workers. I objected to the plan from the beginning. I object to it now on the same grounds that all other social workers object to the plan. I promised, however, not to influence anyone by showing my attitude in the article. I am glad we have had the discussion. I know it will do a great deal of good. It also demonstrates the fact that social service is no more guesswork than is medicine. For, just as physicians agree on fundamentals, so do social workers.

"In fact, the gentleman who brought up the plan feels now that 'all social workers are of the same mind.' To which I respond, 'so are physicians, doctor, occasionally.'"

of the Young Women's Union. Philadelphia's Jewish settlement house, was organized to care for Jewish delinquents. This committee immediately began its work of caring for the young Jewish delinquents and of preventing delinquency among the Jewish children. Arrangements were made with the committing magistrates of the city to inform the Juvenile Aid Committee of the arrest of all Jewish juvenile offenders, and valiantly this committee, consisting of some dozen earnest women, did their pioneer work in home finding and placing, and in friendly visiting. Meanwhile, they worked earnestly and unceasingly with the New Century Club and with the other agencies present at the meeting called by the New Century Club, for the establishment of a juvenile court, a probation system and a detention house. These efforts were rewarded in 1902; a juvenile court was established, but no provision was made for a probation system. The Juvenile Aid Committee of the Young Women's Union supported two Jewish probation officers for the service of the court for eight years, after which time the city assumed the support of the probation officers.

In 1911 the Juvenile Aid Committee's work had grown to such vast proportions and was of such acknowledged importance in the Jewish community and in the city at large that it was deemed necessary and wise to make it a separate organization. Accordingly it was granted a charter by the State, and was accepted as a beneficiary of the Federation of Jewish Charities.

While the work of the Juvenile Aid Committee of the Young Women's Union dealt chiefly among delinquent children, the probation system has reduced so materially the number of delinquents that the larger proportion of children with whom the Juvenile Aid Society deals are dependents. Today it cares for all the little misfits of society, for whom no proper provision is made, either in their own homes or in existing institutions, and the number of dependents far exceeds the number of delinquents among their wards.

Firstly, come those little misfits of society known as juvenile offenders—those poor, little ones who, because of unfit parents or a too greedy society, have broken the moral laws of the State. Too often their delinquency is the result of environment. Immediately, one of the twenty-five women, who conscientiously devote most of their time to the work of the Society, or one of the Society's able trained workers, visits the child's home and endeavors to rehabilitate it. It is one of the Juvenile Aid Society's fundamental creeds that no child can be helped without helping the family; that the moral level of the child is usually no higher or lower than the moral level of the home. Many are the lessons in clean living, in child culture, in good citizenship and education given by the Society's visitors. The child and the family are often visited daily or weekly, and always bi-monthly. The child's progress in the public schools, and frequently the progress of the other children of the family, are carefully watched, and the child and his brothers and sisters are entered in a religious school. If all efforts at reforming the child in the home fail, then, and only then, is the child taken away from his home and placed in another home, which has been carefully selected with a view to the fitness of the foster parents and the home atmosphere. These homes are, whenever possible, located in the country.

The child now becomes the legal ward of the Juvenile Aid Society, the custody having been given that society by the Juvenile Court. The child is regularly visited; his education, moral and secular, and his physical health are carefully supervised; and the Juvenile Aid Society, as his foster parent, endeavors to supply that measure of happiness and healthfulness which is the rightful heritage of childhood.

After these little social misfits come the physical misfits—homeless children for whom no existing institutions care—the children of tuberculous parents, a large and constantly increasing class, who need shelter for varying periods; the tubercular children (and there are always more of these than the sanatoriums can care for); the cripples and defectives; the physically unfit orphans, who cannot be accepted by the orphanages; the children who are too old or too young for the existing institutions—all these little homeless ones come to the Juvenile Aid Society for homes. Before they are placed in carefully selected Jewish homes these children are given a thorough physical examination by a competent physician; their teeth are examined by a dentist, and, if there is an doubt as to their mental fitness, they are taken to a psychologist. All defects are corrected before the children are placed in their foster homes, the children staying during this period in a shelter which the Society maintains. These wards are immediately entered at schools, both secular and religious, and the Juvenile Aid Society is kept informed monthly of their progress by means of blank questionnaires, which are regularly sent to their teachers. These children are visited at least once a month, even when they are placed on remote farms.

Many of the children committed to the Society's care have grown to working age; some of the children are already of working age when they are committed, and their wages are saved for them. For these children the Society acts as trustee of funds, and there is at present \$2,800, in forty-three individual accounts, in its trust funds.

During the last ten years of its activity, 404 children have been committed for home placing to the Juvenile Aid Society by the Juvenile Court of Philadelphia, and 1,875 children have been supervised in their own homes. More than 100 children have been

committed to institutions through the Society's efforts.

The Juvenile Aid Society extends its activities to include all agencies which work for the betterment of children and childhood. It has established and supports a penny lunch in one of the city's largest schools, which is attended largely by Jewish children; it has been instrumental in having established three large and successful troops of Jewish Boy Scouts; it has constantly worked for the betterment of the Juvenile Court laws; it co-operates with the Home and School League in all of its activities; it is in intimate co-operation with the city's Bureau of Compulsory Education, for which it handles all of the difficult cases of Jewish truancy, and the department attributes the decided decrease in Jewish truancy to the earnest efforts and successful supervision of the Juvenile Aid Society.

The Juvenile Aid Society is composed entirely of women, many of whom have worked in its interests since its beginnings. A no more earnest group of women can be found anywhere than this group of twenty-five, who give unceasingly of themselves and their time for the care and happiness of their wards, and for the betterment of the condition of all poor children. At their head work Mrs. Solomon Selig and Mrs. Morris A. Kaufman, the president and vice-president, two noble women, who unceasingly have labored to perfect the work of this society. In their great-hearted love of children they have given each child who has had the good fortune to know them some of the love and the kindness that the child should have known in his own home. Only by their splendid example and by their hearty encouragement has it been possible to develop this little band of women into a strong organization, which works unceasingly and earnestly for the betterment of the Jewish children of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Pa.

EXCHANGE BUREAU

WANTED—A trained kindergarten and settlement worker desires work in settlement or fresh-air home during summer; has had experience in that line. WORKER.

Meeting of National Hospital for Consumptives

The fourteenth annual meeting of the National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives was held at the Jewish Orphan Asylum in Cleveland, Sunday, January 4th. The meeting was one of the largest ever held by the trustees of the Hospital and one of the most enthusiastic. Mr. Samuel Grabfelder, who has been president of the Hospital since its inception, was re-elected and was given a great ovation by the members present. He announced in his report that on account of his advancing years he would not again accept the presidency. He was, however, induced by the great appreciation and great love shown him by the members of the Board to again accept the office. Other officers elected were: J. Walter Freiberg of Cincinnati, first vice-president; David S. Lehman of Denver, second vice-president; Dr. Wm. S. Friedman of Denver, third vice-president, and Mr. Herman August of Cleveland, fourth vice-president; Mrs. S. Pisko of Denver, secretary; and Mr. Benjamin Altheimer of St. Louis, treasurer. Messrs. Martin A. Marks of Cleveland, L. D. Shoenberg of New York and the Rev. Dr. J. Leonard Levy of Pittsburgh on the Executive Board.

The financial report of the Hospital showed \$131,000 in the Endowment Fund. It is the intention, in the near future, to make a campaign for \$1,000,000 endowment for this institution. One enthusiastic friend of the Hospital has already promised to start the fund with a \$10,000 donation. No charity institution that is dependent on the voluntary subscriptions of people from all over the country, as is this institution, can be considered on a solid financial basis until an endowment fund of this size has been obtained. Most generously has the Hospital been supported during all these years, and the management bespeaks the continued interest of its many friends for the years to come. The management of the Hospital reported a better percentage of cures than ever, and as the work of the Hospital grows more and more proficient, it will occupy even a greater place in the affection of the Jews of the United States, through whose bounty its existence has been made possible.