

generality of things the relief organizations often need intelligent guidance; the immigrant problem is often pressing; the need for the unification of the different charitable organizations is often present, and some cities, like mine, have the additional problem of Jewish prostitution. We are making some strong attempts to clean it out, but the work is hard, tedious and often disagreeable. Yet it has to be done and, nilly-willy, it is the business of the rabbi to take the foremost part. If the paid workers would appreciate the efforts, trials and toils of the minister, and if the minister would appreciate the sincerity and the tribulations of the social worker, a sympathetic bond between the two would be created, which occasional jealousies and bickerings could not easily break down. There is a story that a little brother of a bride had painted and nailed upon the carriage bearing the couple to the train the following inscription: "I am his, he is mine, and each is each's." After all, isn't the work of the minister that of the Jewish social worker? And isn't the work of the worker that of the minister's, and in the end, isn't the work of each, each's?

NEW BOOKS

CHILDREN'S PLAY AND ITS PLACE IN EDUCATION. By Walter Wood. New York: Duffield & Co.

Mr. Wood reviews the various theories regarding the play spirit, but finally confesses himself unable to analyze and define it satisfactorily. He has the hope that "some great philosopher, examining the problem in the light of the kindred sciences of psychology, sociology and heredity, * * * will come forward to tell us the meaning and purpose of play. Then we may picture some educational reforms * * *." The remainder of the book contains chapters on "Juvenile Literature," "The Playground Movement in America" and "Play and Civilization."

The book presents an Englishman's observations of the present-day development of systematized play, particularly in this country.

C. S. B.

LABOR AND ADMINISTRATION. A new book of interest to all students of public affairs by John R. Commons, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Wisconsin, formerly director of the Milwaukee Bureau of Economy and Efficiency and member of the Industrial Commission of Wisconsin. Macmillan.

Professor Commons is also the author of *Races and Immigrants in America*, a very widely quoted work.

The table of contents of Professor Commons' book reads as follows: Utilitarian Idealism, Constructive Research, Standardizing the Home, An Idealistic Interpretation of History, Economists and Class Partnership, Class Conflict, The Union Shop, Unions of Public Employees, Restrictions by Trade Unions, Unions and Efficiency, European and American Unions, Labor and Municipal Politics, Milwaukee Bureau of Economy and Efficiency, American Shoemakers, 1648 to 1895, The Longshoremen of the Great Lakes, The Musicians of St. Louis and New York, Wage-earners of Pittsburgh, Tariff and Labor, A State System of Employment Offices, Industrial Education in Wisconsin, The Industrial Commission of Wisconsin and Investigation and Administration.

QUESTIONS OF PUBLIC POLICY. (Page Lectures.) 12mo., cloth binding, gilt top. 150 pages, index. Price, \$1.25 net; postage 10 cents extra. Yale University Press.

Four topics, about which public interest is at present peculiarly awakened, are discussed in this volume. The contents include: "The Character and Influence of Recent Immigration," by Prof. J. W. Jenks, Ph.D., LL.D.; "The Essential and Unessential in Currency Legislation," by Mr. A. Piatt Andrew, formerly professor of economics in Harvard University; "The Value of the Panama Canal to this Country," by Prof. Emory R. Johnson, Ph.D. of the University of Pennsylvania, and "Benefits and Evils of the Stock Exchange," by Mr. Willard V. King of New York City.

WORK OF UNITED HEBREW CHARITIES

The annual report of the trustees of the United Hebrew Charities contains many interesting features. Among the important topics reported on are those given below. Mr. Morris D. Waldman is superintendent of the association.

In part, the report is as follows:

"Reference was made in our last year's report to the plans proposed by the Society for the abolition of pushcart peddling in the streets of this city, and the erection of suitable shelters in the congested quarters of the city for pushcart vendors. The late Mayor Gaynor, whose untimely taking away we mourn, in conjunction with the great body of citizens of New York, keenly realized that proper provision ought to be made for pushcart peddlers and was deeply impressed with the general plan submitted to him by our organization. He appointed a committee of citizens to investigate the matter thoroughly, whose final recommendations were in accord with the plans proposed by us. These recommendations, calling specifically for the erection of suitable shelters in various parts of the city, to cost approximately \$625,000, were submitted to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment by the late mayor a few days prior to his death and are now before that body. It is expected that the investment of the above amount will yield the city a substantial revenue, without involving the vendors in larger expense than they are put to at the present time for the rental of their pushcarts. It is hoped that the plans thus submitted will be approved before the end of the present administration. When this is accomplished, not only will the condition of the streets in the crowded sections of our city be freed from dirt and obstruction, but new opportunities will be afforded to handicapped persons to become self-supporting.

REMOVAL OF FAMILIES TO OUTLYING BOROUGHES

"Whenever our funds have permitted, we have removed families from insanitary quarters to more habitable apartments. In addition to these sporadic cases, we determined last year to move thirty families from the lower East Side to the Bronx, in

order to afford them better homes in less congested quarters. The housing conditions of these families have perceptibly improved. The buildings in which they live are fire-proof, windows open to the free light, and they have the luxury of a bath and hot water. The neighborhoods are not congested, and the better environment has a marked influence for good. A few, with gregarious instinct, still long for the crowded East Side and their 'landsleute.' Ninety-five per cent., however, are happy because of the change, and they feel that their removal was a blessing in many ways. This has entailed an increased expenditure for relief of \$154 a month, or an average of \$2.66 per family.

DIFFICULTY OF INFORMING PUBLIC

"Because our relations with the poor are of a semi-confidential character, we cannot publish in graphic form or with specific details the conditions under which they live and the stories of the misfortunes with which they are afflicted. Other institutions, like the hospitals, child-caring institutions and educational institutions, harbor their charges in buildings open to inspection and the good work they do is patent to all. Our labors are chiefly performed behind the closed doors of the tenement home. Indeed, we discourage our beneficiaries from coming to our offices to avoid subjecting them to the humiliating gaze of the public. The conditions under which they live frequently beggar description, and we therefore can only hope that the mass of our comfortably situated people will accept our statements as accurate and respond to our appeals for additional support.

COST OF ADMINISTRATION

"When attempting to enroll members, your trustees meet with various excuses from those unwilling to contribute. Occasionally it is argued that private giving is preferable to giving through organized charities because every dollar goes to the poor, whereas, it is alleged, a large part of the funds secured by organizations is expended in salaries of employes and for other administrative needs. Sometimes even absurd exaggerations are indulged in in respect to them. We have always been

very careful to present in our annual reports a detailed financial statement, properly audited, so that those interested may be in the position to know how the moneys entrusted to us are disbursed. The statement submitted to you by us shows that 10.8 per cent. of the funds expended last year was disbursed for salaries, and 6 per cent. for other administrative purposes.

"The relief granted to the poor in cash, clothing coal, milk and other supplies aggregated \$246,583, whereas the income from membership dues and donations amounted to \$192,568, conclusively proving that every dollar secured from our last year's contributors reached the poor, and that even additional funds were drawn upon for their relief.

TRAINED SERVICE NECESSARY

"But even if these other funds were not available, it would be fatuous to expect that 6,498 needy families could be cared for without administrative cost. The time is long past when the relief of the poor can be effected by mere charitable doles. The physical labor of visiting them, performed by eleven field workers; of investigating their conditions and their own resources; of interviewing them in our offices when necessary; of supervising and directing the work of our investigators; of recording histories of every family from day to day, and of conducting the subsidiary activities of the organization requires a large staff of employees. And when it is further considered that the problem of each family is usually an intricate one, requiring intelligent, tactful and judicious consideration for its solution, it must be conceded that well equipped and highly trained service is necessary.

AID TO SELF-HELP

"Relief work means more than merely discovering whether a family is actually in need of aid or not. This, though important and often difficult, and invariably the first function of the relief workers, is not nearly so arduous and important as the rehabilitation of the family that has fallen into distress. Of the principles underlying effective relief work, the paramount one is aid to self-help. How to make the dependent family independent is

the task we try to perform, and the records of the organization show that we succeed to a gratifying degree. We employ various means to accomplish this, such as our Self-Support and Self-Help Funds (entirely supported by contributions from Mr. Jacob H. Schiff); our workroom for women, the employment bureau for the handicapped (conducted by the *Kchillah*, toward which we contribute and whose work we help to direct); the National Desertion Bureau, and others of a less comprehensive or less permanent character."

Emanuel Sisterhood

Mrs. Annie M. Palier, former superintendent of the Jewish Charities of St. Paul, is now resident director of the Emanuel Sisterhood of New York City, located at 318 East 92d street. Kindergarten, day nursery, lunches for school children, vocational training classes, music classes, library, religious schools, ritual services, employment bureau, workroom for unskilled women, social and educational clubs for mothers and young folks, country home for children and relief work are among the activities of the organization. There is also a thoroughly equipped playground on the roof of the Home for nursery and kindergarten children and for children after school hours. In conjunction with the employment bureau, the Sisterhood has a "Self-Support Fund," created and supported by Mrs. Jacob H. Schiff, identical to that of the United Hebrew Charities provided for by Mr. Jacob H. Schiff.

The organization was founded twenty-five years ago by Dr. Gottheil, and during this time has been closely identified with neighborhood activities. Mrs. William Einstein has been president of the Home for eighteen years. During last year \$48,000 was expended, \$26,000 of which was for relief work and \$22,000 for other activities of the Home.

On the 6th and 7th of December the twenty-fifth anniversary of the organization will be celebrated at the Temple Emanu-El. Features have been arranged by clubs and classes, and there will be an address by the founder, Dr. Gottheil.

SCIENTIFIC vs. HUMANE AND COMMON-SENSE CHARITY

Ever since my visit to an office of a charity organization in one of our largest cities, some four months ago, I have often thought (a very unusual thing for a superintendent of charities) which should be the dynamic force, the controlling power behind the charity worker. Should it be the so-called "Scientific" principle only; should it be the "Humane" principle only, or should it be the "Common Sense" or all combined?

I entered the office with my card in my hand which, with the usual preface and accustomed bow, I very politely had myself introduced to one of the four clerks who, also very politely, was very sorry to inform me that the superintendent was out, and the time of his return very indefinite. Wouldn't the visitor be seated and await the return of the superintendent? Of course the visitor would be only too happy to spend a little time in this office. He, the visitor, is always glad to learn, and such opportunities like a visit to such an office are rather rare and far apart in the experience of the visitor. And the visitor sat himself down in the nearest chair.

In the ante-chamber I noticed a number of applicants, men and women, waiting. Some talking, some sitting, some walking up and down the length and breadth of the room. Some women with babies in their arms, and some with more than one child. One woman, very young (she told me she was nineteen years old), with a small boy in her arms, standing and leaning against the wall, attracted my especial attention, by virtue of the beautiful Eastern type of her face and by the pitiful wailing of her child. I spoke to her and she answered me in both the Yiddish and the Russian, telling me she came to join her husband and father of her child, who left Russia four years ago, was supposed to be in this city, but failed to show up at the time of her arrival. It is three days now since someone took her over here, and "*Se mitichen mich and mitichen mich, ich weiss nit voss.*"

As the office was not a very large room, the chair I sat in occupied a space between a scientific bookcase, scientifically arranged

(I mean alphabetically, which means about the same), with a number of scientific drawers which, I took for granted, since I had no right to open them, contained the scientific reports of cases for future scientific reference. In short, the whole surroundings of the office bore ample evidence of the refined, up-to-date, scientific air (including the Spearmint odor emanating from the mouths of the four clerks, intermingled with either a strong kind of talcum or perfume) prevailing.

I did not remain over ten minutes in my seat when the door was slowly turning on its hinges and I saw the face of the young woman, the mother of the cry-baby, peeping in and saying: "*Mees.*" She was immediately interrupted by one of the clerks with: "You stay there until you are told to come in." The mother tried to remonstrate, whereupon another clerk, nearest the door, rose and scientifically, without any other words or show of anger, simply shut the door in the woman's face. I really admired it. It was so beautifully and politely and quietly done.

About ten or fifteen minutes later, in which time you could hear the cry-baby hard at it, the door swung open a second time and my friend, the mother, was allowed to say: "*Mein kind is mir krank, ot rachmonus.*" She was a second time informed "You stay there until you are called." The woman tried a second time to remonstrate, whereupon the clerk nearest the door rose, and a second time shut the door in the woman's face. This was even more scientifically done than the first time. Another ten or fifteen minutes—but why repeat? It was done a third time, and I have no doubt, if that foolish mother would have tried a dozen times she would have met the same scientific treatment at the hands of the clerks a dozen times.

All this time—nay, all these times—I mean every time when my friend, the clerk nearest the door slammed it in the woman's face his own would become bright with a self-satisfied smile and his eyes would say better than words could: "A good lesson in scientific charity for a provincial. *Seist du.*"