

school came. The largest number of children were below 10 years of age. The smallest number were between 15 and 16. The subjects taught were dressmaking, sewing, manual training, basketry, crocheting, raffia, story hour, embroidery, games and kindergarten work. The kindergarten had a registry of 159. Percentage of Jewish children was 52, non-Jews 48.

On August 4th and 5th, exhibits of the work were held which were visited by hundreds of persons. On August 5th part of the exhibit was a luncheon served to teachers and visitors, the lunch being prepared by the domestic economy class. A number of prominent city officials were present. All who viewed the exhibit declared the work to be a success. The assistant superintendent of instruction, the superintendent being out of the city, delivered an address at the luncheon in which he declared that

the work was probably more successful than ever before in the history of grade manual schools. More than 600 garments were made by the girls in the sewing classes; hundreds of useful articles were made by the boys in the manual training classes. The shower baths, which were part of the curriculum, were as beneficial as anything that has been done in these five weeks.

The publicity that the work has stirred, we feel, will help arouse interest among the citizens so that the work may be taken up again by the Board of Education next year.

At the close of the school term, several hundred children signed a petition which was gotten up by some of the children themselves and in this petition they asked the school board to continue the grade manuals next summer.

PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS

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Chicago

The elemental supposition in a home for dependent children, is, that it shall furnish food and shelter; the quality of this food and shelter depending upon the character of the children housed, their ages and physical condition. During the last year, 25 per cent of the children admitted came from tubercular homes. The ordinary food requirements for the potentially tubercular person, is placed at twice the amount of the normal individual; adding to this the extra requirements for the growth of children long underfed, will show how abundant a diet is necessary for most of those in our charge. In the foreword of "A Standard Dietary for an Orphanage" written for the State Board of Charities and Corrections of California, Dr. Adele S. Jaffa says: "In considering the question of what constitutes a standard diet for the children of an orphanage, the first and the most important thing to do, is to forget that they are orphans, and the second is to remember it with renewed intensity.—The fundamental food needs of children, are the same regardless of where they happen to eat. It takes just as much

material to 'grow' the body of one little child, as it does that of another little child, regardless of the father's earning capacity, or whether indeed there be a father." To this end, our children's dietary has, during the last year, been brought up to a standard that is eliciting much favorable comment from dietitians who are studying the institutional care of children. At present every child whether potentially tubercular or not, receives a cup of cold milk during warm weather, and hot milk during the winter. Items in the diet which had no food value other than flavor, have been replaced by materials of real muscle building value, and the actual quantity of food served has been almost doubled. Again Dr. Jaffa says: "When considering the question of the inevitable and unavoidable cost, it is an appropriate time to again remember that these particular children are orphans; that as such they are the responsibility of the community, and that the community not only can afford to feed its children properly, but, that it cannot afford not to. If in the common equality of children there is one class who have greater need than

others of a sound constitution, of fine physical development, of resistance to disease, it is those children who must depend for their livelihood and success entirely upon their own efforts, and that, at an early age. From the selfish, as well as the altruistic point of view, the community cannot afford to allow 'dependent children' to grow up into anything short of their very best possibilities. The money which it is necessary to spend to accomplish this result, is in every sense a good investment." The attempt to reach and maintain this standard together with the actual increase in the cost of food materials supplied to the children during the year, are some of the factors to be reckoned with, in a discussion of our increased per capita cost.

Another item of increasing expense is that of additional general service due to the predominance of little children in our population, during the year; the number of children admitted from 16 months to 9 years were 82 per cent of the total admission; these little children of course, not only need a large amount of care themselves, but they can contribute nothing by way of service, which displacement also must be made up by salaried service.

Every precaution has been taken to safeguard the children's health. In a household such as ours, illness not only means suffering on their part as well as expensive additional service, but it means the closing of our quarantine, and the consequent annulment of the institution's value in the

community service. At our request, the Contagious Disease Division of the Health Department, has been kind enough to furnish us with a daily report of all communicable diseases, throughout the city. By daily reference to these reports, it is possible to delay the admission of children in whose families contagious disease is present, or in which the period of incubation has not elapsed, until such time as makes them safe in the company of other children. For the safeguard of the children in the main building, we added a night nurse to our service. Her work kept down the number of coughs and colds, tonsillitis, and other minor ailments that tend to fill up the hospital, to an almost unbelievable minimum. During the severely cold weather, the use of the tank for bathing was abolished, and all baths given under the showers on the dormitory floors. Throughout the year gingham dresses and blouses have been worn exclusively; with the result that we have had only one case of ring worm. Just what all these elaborate precautions have meant in an open quarantine and continued service to the community can be judged from the fact, that only three times throughout the year has it been necessary to close the latter, and in only two of these instances did the infection originate there. In October a case of measles closed it for fifteen days. In January, diphtheria was the cause of a ten day quarantine, and in March we found it necessary to close up for three weeks, in order to use the space for isolation purposes.

Proceedings of the National Conference of Jewish Social Workers

TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR JEWISH SOCIAL WORKERS

George Ellman

Memphis

Tonight's deliberations, circling around the focal points of the question, "Should Schools for the Training of Jewish Social Workers be Established," are destined to make history in American Jewry: Upon our discussions, whether for or against, will depend, in a large measure, not only the future mental status of the Jewish Social Worker, but also the entire gamut (flats and sharps included) in the scale of the Jewish Social and Charitable harmony. To me, Mr. President, this is a

question which touches the very essence of my existence as a Jew; and the solution of this vital question will decide whether we are justified, as we thought till tonight we were justified, to allow others to lead us in a field of endeavour in which we were, and are, born leaders.

Upon our decision tonight will also rest another very vital question: Do we agree, or do we disagree, with our non-Jewish friends in their contention that the Jew is a *Kopf-Mensch*, but not a *Hartz-Mensch*.