

ness world without any fixed purpose and previous training.

This vocational direction has been taken over by the Board of Education since the first of the year. It is therefore now a recognized part of the program of the School Board and should therefore gradually be extended until it reaches all the school children needing this valuable assistance.

Another movement sponsored by the Chicago Woman's Aid during the past five years has become an important activity of the Board of Education since the first of January. Recognizing the need for wholesome, well-planned recreation for adolescents, the club carried on very elaborate experiments in the use of a school house during the evening periods. Regular social center work, modestly carried on by the Board of Education, was enlarged upon by the supplying of special leaders for many attractive activities. Civic and social events were scheduled, Saturday evening dances were conducted. Meanwhile the movement has become so popular not only in this one neighborhood but also throughout the entire city that the Board of Education has adopted a very liberal policy in the granting of school houses for community work and has set aside the sum of \$50,000 to be used during the year in the conduct of community centers. Within the last month the idea of combining the night schools and social-center work in one building, which the Chicago Woman's Aid demonstrated to be quite feasible by an actual experiment a year ago, has been accepted by the Board of Education. For, upon the completion of the regular night school term, instead of closing the work, all classes were transferred to the nearest social center.

The club has been no less successful with the one municipal undertaking which it sponsored. Recognizing the need for public comfort stations in our city, a committee from the organization began a study of the cost, plans and possible location of such convenience stations in the central district of our city. The most available place at which to begin was found in connection with the public library. It took three years of constant agitation among the city officials

to have the site approved, the money set aside for the purpose and the station built. Today Chicago may boast of at least one very handsome, centrally located public comfort station, which the committee hopes will be but the beginning of a number of such places, for the City Council, having recognized the need of them, has appointed a special committee to cover the entire city in an investigation of the subject.

The club has also sponsored the formation of a central "Committee on Scholarships for Jewish Children." This work has hitherto been carried on in an efficient but modest way by the club itself, by several other women's organizations, as well as by the Conference of Jewish Women's Organizations. It is now the hope of the new committee to concentrate all the efforts in behalf of scholarship work and to enlarge greatly upon what has been done in the past.

To this program of work successfully consummated may be added one new feature. A year ago the club set aside, as a memorial to a past president of the organization, the sum of \$500, to be known as the "Fannie R. Adler Memorial Loan Fund." From this fund small loans are made, without interest, to persons in need of temporary assistance, persons whose circumstances are such that they could not secure the assistance from any other source. This fund has been administered through the Woman's Loan Association of Chicago and is subject to all the regulations of this association. It is used in those cases where the usual guarantors demanded upon the ordinary loan cannot be secured and yet the parties asking for help are trustworthy and deserving. It has therefore opened a new avenue of service to the Loan Association.

The winter's experience has thus been a satisfactory one. It has again demonstrated to the club the need for a very definite program of work from year to year, if final results are to be attained. One complaint against women's club work is that it is vague and indefinite, flitting from one program to another. The Chicago Woman's Aid may congratulate itself upon the fact that it has escaped this danger and may once again point with pardonable pride to the successful completion of some of its greatest undertakings.

THE TEXAS CONFERENCE OF JEWISH CHARITIES

George Fox
Fort Worth

When the writer became president of the Texas Conference of Charities and Corrections it occurred to him that a Jewish section of this Conference would be advisable. Texas is a very large state. Its Jewish communities are not as highly developed along organized charity lines as are the Northern communities. The distances are great and the schnorrers who make their way to the state put a very obstinate imposition upon the communities which they visit. Besides this, every winter brings its army of wanderers to the South land. Texas gets an army of tubercular patients bound for South and West Texas in search of health. The country immediately surrounding San Antonio and San Angelo is noted for a climate favorable for consumptives and this fact is well known now over the North. The result has been, as is easily seen, that the communities of Texas have been taxed rather heavily and the fact that the Jews in the smaller towns are very easily imposed upon has not remedied the situation. The section idea did not suit several of the leaders in the state and on November 17th, pursuant to a suggestion made by Rabbi Zielonka, of El Paso, Mr. Jules K. Hexter, one of the best known of the communal leaders of the state, held an informal conference, at which a number of rabbis and laymen were present and the preliminary steps for the organization of a State Conference of Jewish Charities were taken. Mr. J. K. Hexter was chosen president and Mr. H. S. Scheline, president of the Federated Jewish Charities of Dallas, was chosen secretary.

Some forty letters were sent out by Mr. Hexter to different communities in Texas and out of these about twenty were received that were favorable to the movement. The larger cities which contained charity organizations were enthusiastic, while in the smaller cities where there are no relief organizations the officials of the congregations replied favorably. Needless to say, the rabbis were also in favor of it. If the present plans of the officers and those who are interested in the movement work out a conference will be held, probably in

connection with the Texas Social Welfare Conference in Houston or Galveston in the spring, when a permanent organization will be formed and the problems incidental to Jewish charitable work in Texas will be discussed.

Among the questions that the leaders in the proposed conference expect to discuss are those of the education of communities to the appreciation of the work of organized charity; the passing on problems and the dumping of transients into the larger towns; that of taking proper care of the dependent who lives in the smaller towns without pauperizing him; the question of handling tubercular patients and the educating of communities outside of South and West Texas to the value of out-door treatment at home. The loan fund feature will be emphasized and the question of just how Jews in both large and small towns may be made to meet their obligations to the poor will be taken up. Two other matters that will receive attention are the colonization possibilities in Texas for immigrants and the disposition and care of immigrants after the war in Europe shall have been over.

Those who are taking a leading part in this movement believe that it is necessary and timely. Whether here in the Southwest a Jewish Conference can exist is a question. Some of us believe that it can.

Ninth Biennial Meeting

OF THE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
JEWISH CHARITIES

Indianapolis, May 7-10

SEVEN SESSIONS

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Delegates intending to go will please
send names to "Jewish Charities"
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