

be centered primarily in the child himself rather than in the agencies.

To carry on the varied activities of the new Bureau a number of permanent committees were created. The chairman of each of these committees is a member of the Board, the secretary usually an executive of one of the child caring agencies and the members either members of the Board or members of the community interested in that particular phase of child care. There are now committees on After Care, Report and Research, Budgets, Religious Welfare, Placement, Foster Homes, Visitation and Summer Camps and Vacation Homes. So varied and important have the activities of these committees become that the professional staff of the Bureau will have to be increased, probably by securing a trained personnel for research work.

I want, before closing, to describe, with as little detail as is commensurate with clarity, the work and accomplishment to date of one or two of these committees. Since the function of placement still continues to be a major function of the Bureau, it may be well to describe first the work of the Placement Committee. Besides, this is the committee in which the greatest changes were effected, for, in reality, it has now become a committee not only for placement, but for transfer and discharge. Originally the committee in charge of placements consisted of a group of twenty odd people, all appointed by their respective agencies; the present committee is limited to a group of nine, appointed not by the agencies as representatives, but by the Bureau's Executive Committee on a basis of their thorough knowledge of children's problems. On particular

cases the committee has the power to invite to conference any one in the community who is interested or has something to contribute to the discussion of that child's problems and in every case the worker who made the family investigation (in transfer and discharge the worker who knows the child while in care) presents the case to the conference, thus giving the group the benefit of direct knowledge of the family and of the child. This single change in our work has been of tremendous value in that those who decide the fate of the child are given a truer picture of the family situation and a knowledge of all the efforts that have been expended by the family agency before placement is finally recommended, while, on the other hand, the family case worker realizes the care with which placement decisions are made and becomes more interested herself in the details of the child's behavior and reactions. With cases clearing through this committee, not only for placement, but for subsequent transfer and discharge, the community now has a control not only of the intake of the agencies but also of the outgo. Unsuccessful original placements can be changed and each child is assured a period of care dependent not on the availability or lack of availability of bed space and funds in the agencies but on his own particular needs.

The survey, in recommending the amalgamation of all the children's agencies into one society, included in that society a department of foster home care, which would provide boarding homes for all the agencies in the community needing such homes. Although the major recommendation was not accepted there was still a feeling that some central-

ized boarding home bureau would be helpful in the community. The Study Committee felt that this work should eventually become a Bureau function and appointed the Foster Home Committee, with a view to studying the use of foster homes by other agencies than our Juvenile Aid Society and of determining the advisability of establishing a central boarding home bureau for the use of all agencies and individuals requiring such service. In a preliminary study made by this committee it has already been revealed that there are at present eight or nine agencies in the community, not including the Juvenile Aid Society, that use foster homes in connection with their work. The two orphanages naturally have need of such homes for children, who at the age of graduation cannot return to their own families. The agencies working with unmarried mothers occasionally need homes where these girls can live with their children or where, for short periods of care, they can place their children. The family case agency occasionally seeks a home where a widow or widower can board with her or his child. The Working Girls' Home occasionally wants to place a girl in a boarding home and so with several other agencies in the community. As a matter of fact, in the course of a year these agencies made 145 such placements, whereas the Juvenile Aid Society itself, in the

same period, placed 142 new cases. The study further shows that there is no uniformity in method of making these investigations or of recording the information obtained, nor of experience or training on the part of the worker. Each of these agencies has expressed its interest in some form of a community home finding service and the committee is now formulating plans for the creation of such a service.

If time permitted, the work of the other committees might also be explained but perhaps the few details given will serve to show the various new types of work that the Bureau is undertaking. Its present activities far exceed those of mere placement and discharge. It is reaching out in many directions in its efforts to create a complete program of Jewish Child Care in Philadelphia and to coordinate the work of all the existing agencies in such a scheme. How much of this is due to the recent survey and how much to the interest of the community itself it is difficult to say, but the fact remains that Philadelphia's Jewish Child Care workers, lay and professional, are together striving to overcome the deficiencies of which they have become conscious and to establish a full, well rounded program of work in the children's field.

ZENA J. BLANC.

Nov. 16, 1926

GROWING PAINS OF A LARGE CITY.

A LETTER FROM TORONTO

IN writing of Toronto I am afraid we cannot enter upon the heights of moral exaltation so feelingly expressed, regarding his own city, by our friend from Denver. But we can match expressions. When he, in his peroration, asks "is there another city like unto Denver?" we too, in

all humility, can ask is there another large city like unto Toronto? We can, however, take compensatory comfort in the thought that whereas our friend has already entered into the "Kingdom of Heaven," we have before us the prospective joy of striving onward, of overcoming obstacles, of attaining our goal, until we too shall stand upon the mountain tops overlooking the "Promised Land." Then we shall be prepared to die.

There is plenty of work ahead of us in Toronto. Our Jewish population of over 40,000, placing Toronto among the 12 largest Jewish communities of America, provides us with all the complex social, economic, religious and educational problems confronting other communities of similar size. But we lack their resources, we have not their background, we do not possess their wealth, and we are badly in want of their trained, experienced, tried-out civic leadership. Hence we find ourselves sadly lacking in facilities; our budgets are seriously inadequate; our institutions embryonic; and our social service programme sketchy and spotty.

Nevertheless we can take unto ourselves a few grains of comfort, that conditions today are somewhat better than a few years ago and that year by year we are getting better and better.

Toronto is essentially a new community. Twenty years ago over half of the Jewish population was still in Eastern Europe and the other half had only a scattered few boasting of more than one generation in Canada. When we consider that Canada, even today, has less than 10,000,000 population and that the Province of On-

tario, of which Toronto is both the capital and the chief city, with an area larger than the combined area of the thirteen original states or of all the northern central states, has a population of only 3,000,000, it can be appreciated that surplus wealth does not accumulate as rapidly as in the United States. What is true of the general population is particularly true of the Jewish community. Even today Jews of Toronto do not figure at all in banking, in department stores, in large manufacturing establishments, and not even appreciably in real estate. The Jew in Toronto is mainly a wage-earner, a retailer, a medium-sized jobber and wholesaler, or a small manufacturer. Hence there are few who can give largely or with ease. The wealthy few are still in the process of consolidating their wealth and therefore rather uncertain of their own potentialities.

Nevertheless there have been serious attempts to satisfy the various wants of the community. Toronto is blessed with a multitude of institutions and organizations, each one attempting to articulate the needs of its circle of friends and supporters, but each one fighting for its existence, in a veritable hand-to-mouth struggle. No one institution obtains the general and whole-hearted support of the entire community, but instead is zealously, oft-times jealously, cherished by its comparatively few adherents.

There is Mt. Sinai Hospital, a small 30-bed affair, founded four years ago by the Ezras Noshem against and despite the wishes of most of the responsible leaders of the community. The hospital is now being grudgingly accepted by the Baal-Habatim, and while its support, outside of a Fed-

eration subsidy, is still precarious, its future is practically assured. Sentiment is gradually crystallizing now for an even larger hospital. Hospitalization in Toronto is on a basis different from that prevailing in American cities. There are no free beds in our hospitals. If a patient cannot pay he obtains a city order, provided he is eligible because of citizenship or residence. The city then pays the hospital \$10.50 per week. If the patient is not eligible and is not a citizen of Canada, or as we term it, a British subject, he is subject to deportation if he applies to the city for a hospital order. Hence private agencies must undertake the financial burden of \$10.50 per week for such ineligibles. The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies in the last few years has expended several thousand dollars in hospital fees. Mt. Sinai Hospital, because of the grant made it by Federation, (\$5,000 in 1926) accepts Federation patients gratis.

Another of our important institutions is the new Talmud Torah, built at an expense of over \$200,000. A campaign for \$25,000 membership maintenance fund was held last September. Approximately 1,000 members, practically all Federation subscribers as well, support the Talmud Torah.

The Jewish Children's Home, the orphanage for Toronto, and the only one in all Ontario, was moved four years ago from crowded quarters in a highly congested and badly run-down neighborhood into a spacious building in a choice residential district near the outskirts of the city. An extension was built last year and it is now one of the best equipped of the smaller institutions of the city.

It houses altogether about 40 children but efforts are continually made to place children in foster homes.

The Federation is the largest and certainly the most important Jewish organization, yet there are five or six important philanthropies, normally within Federation in other cities, outside of Federation, calling upon the same community for support. The year 1926 is not yet over, yet there have been already a score of important campaigns, bazaars, theatre nights and charity dances, to which, in most cases, the same people contribute over and over again. As an editorial writer in one of the local Jewish papers expressed it, Toronto is over-organized, yet not organized sufficiently. Do I hear you whisper, "that's another ear-mark of a young, growing community?"

The philanthropic organizations outside of Federation comprise the Old Folks' Home, the "Mothers" Summer Cottage, the Free Loan with a capital of over \$7,000, the Volks Verein, representing to some extent the labor and radical element, and the Immigrant Aid Society. These organizations and institutions spend for maintenance and administration something over \$35,000. Two other large Jewish communal undertakings, are the Talmud Torah and the Keren Hayesod, both of which obtain in memberships and subscriptions over \$65,000 annually.

The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, organized only ten years ago, began its life-course with an income of less than \$25,000. In the next six years, with the exception of one year of unusual prosperity, its annual income did not exceed much over \$50,000. But in 1924, due to a

campaign of unusual force in the spring of that year, the Federation income was augmented to about \$70,000. That level was maintained the following year, but in 1926, through another campaign for increased subscriptions, held just a year ago, it was increased to almost \$90,000. At the time of writing of this paper, the Federation is preparing for another campaign, this time not for a given amount of money, nor for increased subscriptions from present members, but for an increased membership. The subscriptions for 1926 will be carried over into 1927. It is the hope of the Federation that from 600 to 1,000 additional subscribers will be obtained, augmenting the Federation income by another \$5,000 or \$6,000. At present the Federation membership is less than 1,500, only about four per cent. of the Jewish population. Our hope is to raise the percentage a couple of notches.

The budgeting of the Federation has kept pace with its increasing income. Ten years ago a sum less than \$13,000 was spent for relief. Even three years ago family welfare expenditures were under \$30,000. For 1926 over \$43,000 will have been so spent. Camp work for either boys or girls was a negligible factor even three years ago. This year the appropriation for camp work was over \$5,000. We have a separate boys' club and girls' club. In 1923 such work called for only about \$4,000. In 1926 these two institutions received from Federation over \$11,000.

In the twelve months ending October 31st, 1926, the Federation expended \$91,000 as compared with a little over half that amount four years ago.

Family relief work in Toronto has its own peculiar slant. For the general non-Jewish population material relief in the form of groceries and coal is supplied by the House of Industry, a private organization now over 75 years old, but practically subsidized by the city of Toronto, especially during the past 25 years. The City Council appropriates \$250,000 or more each year for relief purposes. Such relief is given to people eligible for a city grant, which means a family must be residents of Canada for 5 years or more and of Toronto at least one year. Failing in eligibility means "private" support, that is support by the private agencies, such as the Neighborhood Workers' Association, the Catholic Welfare Society, etc. Because of the large buying powers of the House of Industry the average cost per family for food supplies and coal during the year is only about \$45.00. Whatever other material relief is required, such as rent, medicines, clothing, etc., must be supplied by and through private sources.

The Jewish families, previous to 1922, were subject to the same conditions. We need not labor the point as to whether such a system is satisfactory, or not. It is sufficient to remark that about four years ago the Jewish Federation prevailed upon the City Council to allow it to grant to Jewish families such material relief as was necessary and for every family eligible for House of Industry supplies, the Federation was to receive from the City Council at the end of the year the same average amount which would have been expended by the House of Industry. Needless to say it costs the Federation far more than the

\$45.00 to \$50.00 which is the average for the House of Industry. Last year the Federation expended in material relief to such "eligible" families \$5,000 more than was received from the city. But there is no one on the Federation board who begrudges the extra cost.

Within the past year definite attempts have been made by the Federation to broaden the scope of Jewish social work. A Junior Federation of young people has been organized, an employment bureau, particularly for immigrants and handicapped, has been opened, the Jewish social and communal workers have been brought together and formed into a Social Workers' Club, and the labor unions, who heretofore have been rather antagonistic to the Federation, were met in conference recently and their co-operation obtained. There is now on foot the project of forming a council, not on the ambitious lines of Philadelphia, but to consist of representatives and delegates from all Jewish organizations, including synagogues, lodges, unions and societies. This council would meet once monthly to receive reports of the work of the Federation, to discuss and criticize this work and to make suggestions for its betterment and development.

While the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies has no organic connection, financially or in its work, with the Federation for Community Service, there is a close and friendly relationship between the respective boards. The President and Director of the Jewish Federation are on the Central Council of the Federa-

tion for Community Service. The President of the Jewish Federation was elected last year to the Budget Committee of the Federation for Community Service, an autonomous body and independent of the Central Council.

The Jewish Federation is represented on the board of the Neighborhood Workers' Association, while Jewish representation is also accorded on the Visiting Housekeepers' Association, the Child Welfare Council, Social Hygiene Council, the Children's Aid Society, and several other social service bodies. In the various surveys which the Federation for Community Service has recently undertaken the Jewish Federation has been asked to participate on the advisory committee. The question of financial relations has never been mentioned for the very good reason that the Federation for Community Service finds itself even worse off financially than the Jewish Federation. In proportion to population the Jewish Federation obtains twice as much from the Jewish community as the Community Federation from the entire city.

Through the membership campaign now under way the Jewish Federation hopes to have an income of \$100,000 for 1927. Its leaders are already discussing plans for a large money campaign in the fall of 1927 when every member, new as well as old, will be asked for an increased subscription. How successful that will be will depend largely on the industrial situation next year.

Nov. 26, 1926 JOSEPH A. WOOLF