

3. The spiritual life of the child is not overlooked. That the soul may be kept from starvation, that fewer may drift away from Judaism, *Friday evening services have been instituted.* These are generally attended by a spirited group of boys and girls, a large number of whom constituted themselves into a choir.

4. That the old friendships may be furthered and old ties strengthened, *the House maintains in regular settlement fashion a Social Center for the alumni.* It aims to set up a wholesome environment for recreation, exercise and social intercourse. Under this heading I may briefly mention the following activities: Four adult and three junior clubs are in full swing at the present time. A stenography class; talks on "Parenthood," on "First Aid to the Injured"; frequent entertainments, numerous outings; a baseball team, a tennis circle and a glee club are the activities instituted during the short existence of the House. A recent addition is a bank, which already holds over \$200 of the children's savings.

A feature which the Society is very much interested in developing is the democratic administration of the House. Already there is a House Committee, consisting of only a few members of the Society, the head worker and a large representation of delegates from all the clubs. Here all matters pertaining to policy are discussed and passed upon. All these various activities of the House are under the direct supervision of the head worker.

Thus Fellowship House tends to help the child in every possible way to adjust itself to the new environment and new conditions by providing it with a friend, giving it a good start with a suitable position and affording it an opportunity for wholesome recreation; at the same time they are made to feel that, when time is ripe, they will be called upon to assist in the same way their little brothers and sisters.

Fellowship House Society may rightfully claim some degree of success in its undertaking. The increasing attendance, which has already outgrown its present quarters, is a hopeful sign. A greater and more varied system of recreation will be introduced in the more spacious quarters

the Society is about to move into. If possible a basketball court will be set up. Intersettlement games of all kinds will be especially encouraged. At the same time a systematic attempt will be made to help them to better their material conditions. Advanced commercial courses, civil service, advanced mechanical drawing and kindred subjects will be gradually introduced; and an active co-operation with evening trade and high schools will be maintained, where this is deemed to be the wiser course.

Thus carefully watched and wisely directed through one of the most important periods of their lives, these children cannot fail to respond promptly and to develop into a stronger and nobler manhood and womanhood.

EXCHANGE BUREAU

WANTED—Two trained workers for Jewish Hospital Social Service and family rehabilitation work. General Social Service Bureau, 516 North Fourth Street, Philadelphia.

Jewish Charity Organization in large city wishes mature Jewish woman for position of visiting housekeeper. Write, stating age, experience and qualifications. Jewish Aid Society of Chicago, Frances Taussig, superintendent.

The General Social Service Bureau of Philadelphia announces that it has two scholarships to offer for the Philadelphia Training School for Social Work. One of these scholarships is filled for the current year, but the other is still vacant, and is open to a Jewish young man or woman who will make an acceptable candidate. Requirements are fitness for Jewish social work, particularly in the field of hospital social service and case work. The trainee is expected to devote his or her field work to the organization supplying the scholarship, as is customary. Address applications until October 1st to the General Social Service Bureau, 516 North Fourth Street, Philadelphia, Leon Stern, Director.

MUNICIPAL DESERTION BUREAU.

Below will be found a report recently submitted to Commissioner Drummond of the Department of Public Charities, in reference to the establishment of a Desertion Bureau by the City of New York. It is interesting to note that this is, perhaps, the first effort made to induce the establishment of such a bureau by the city authorities. The success of the National Desertion Bureau, conducted under the auspices of the National Conference of Jewish Charities, paved the way for the attempt in New York.

Report

In accordance with the following resolution adopted at the Fourth New York City Conference of Charities and Correction, held on May 15, 1913, a committee composed of Walter H. Liebmann, chairman; Victor F. Ridder, Hon. Robert C. Cornell, Hon. Edward J. Dooley, Mrs. S. Elkeles, Ralph K. Jacobs, John A. Kingsbury, and Monroe M. Goldstein, secretary, was appointed to carry out the purpose of the said resolution:

"Resolved, That the president appoint a committee to urge upon the city authorities the establishment of a bureau in connection with the Department of Public Charities to deal with the problem of family desertion."

An investigation made by the committee shows the following:

1. That dependency due to family desertion is a heavy drain upon the public and private charities of the city of New York; that there are at the present time about 8,000 abandoned children toward whose maintenance, in child-caring institutions, the city is paying approximately \$1,000,000; that, in addition to this, the institutions are required in many instances to supplement the allowances granted by the city for the children's maintenance. Moreover, thousands of abandoned children are maintained in their own mothers' homes by private relief agencies.

2. That the Domestic Relations Bureau, connected with the Department of Public Charities, is doing excellent work and is helpful to the Court of Domestic Relations in determining the facts in such cases as are referred to it for investigation by the

magistrates, but it does not make efforts to locate husbands whose whereabouts are unknown, or prosecute those known to be residing outside the city jurisdiction. The statement of those in charge of the Bureau to the effect that they have never been able to secure the indictment of an offender, under the Child Abandoned Law, in a case where the husband has been known to be in another State, clearly indicates that the Bureau, as constituted at the present time, is unable, comprehensively and effectually, to deal with the problem. Private agencies in this city, like the United Hebrew Charities, the National Desertion Bureau and the Legal Aid Bureau of the Educational Alliance have experienced no difficulty in securing the co-operation of the District Attorney and have secured, through extradition proceedings, the rendition of deserters from nearly every State of the Union, as the records of the District Attorney will show. In most of these cases, exemplary punishments were meted out to the defendants, and the result of the energetic efforts of these agencies has been the reduction by nearly half in the number of desertion cases entertained by them, with a corresponding decrease in the amount of relief found necessary for the families.

In order that the Domestic Relations Bureau may be enabled to do this work effectively, our committee urgently recommends that a special department be established as part of the Bureau, whose function it shall be to trace missing husbands, reunite them with their families, if possible, and failing in this, arrange for the support of the family on the part of the deserter. Where this is impossible, to bring about the man's punishment. Such a department should be operated under the guidance of a trained lawyer, who shall be assisted by an assistant attorney and five competent investigators, three of whom shall be police officers, whose duty it shall be to conduct careful and diligent inquiry as to the whereabouts of the deserters. Such a department, because of its very existence, would have a reforming effect upon "intermittent" husbands and fathers, and deter them from leaving their homes. In short, it would

minimize an evil which is demoralizing to society and a burden to the community.

The committee recommends that the Commissioner of the Department of Public Charities embody in his budget a request for the sum of \$27,000 to cover the cost of operating the department, in accordance with the following itemized statement:

Attorney in charge.....	\$ 4,000 00
Assistant attorney	2,000 00
3 police officers (detectives detailed and directly responsible to the Desertion Department) .	6,500 00
2 investigators (one male, one female)	2,400 00
2 stenographers	1,800 00
1 office boy.....	300 00
Publicity and office expense.....	10,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$27,000 00

The Landlord

Pesach Frumkin worked in his little shop for fifteen years or more. half-raised a large family, then took sick and died. His wife, Esther, was prostrated by the death; she flung herself on the plain wooden coffin and cried to Heaven. What was she to do with six children, none of whom could earn a penny?

The period of mourning was over, her grief subsided to human proportions, her friends went about their business, and she took up the problem of earning a living.

"She is lucky in one thing," her friends said. "Pesach left her a house."

Now, it was not a house in New York, but in a much smaller city. There were six rooms in it; two on each floor. There was a large mortgage on it, for Pesach had only paid \$100 on the purchase, and he killed himself trying to meet taxes and the dues in the building association.

Esther soon saw the necessity of renting out some of her rooms, and the two on the top story went to an old fish peddler with a sick wife. It helped a little. But times were hard and six children take a great deal of money, and soon Esther began to consider whether she should not rent out the rooms on the second floor, too. At last she moved all her things into the rooms on the first floor, and on the second another widow and three children found refuge.

Taxes were a heavy load to bear, and repairs to the house were simply out of

the question. Even the dues of the building association could not be met; but for the time the association was content to receive the yearly fixed charges on the house and interest on the mortgage. Esther took work into the house, Joseph sold newspapers, coal was gotten from the society and the family hungered through the winter.

Sorry as was the condition of the Frumkin family, Nettie Margolis on the second floor had even a harder time. She was weak and sick; her husband had died of tuberculosis, and she feared for herself.

Nettie received attention from numerous agencies. The society had to send food, another sent milk, nurses came and took her temperature, the truant officer wanted to know why Benjamin did not go to school. A housing committee came and went away indignant.

And there was much to feed their indignation. The stairs were in a rickety and dangerous condition, the walls were damp, the windows small and difficult to open, the toilet left much to be desired.

The housing committee held a number of meetings, and the question of moving Nettie was discussed and all sides considered. The rooms would not have been objectionable if they were dry and ventilated, and a little money would supply these deficiencies.

"It is poor work to move them," said Mr. Burger, who was an efficiency engineer and knew whereof he spoke, "because the rooms will be taken by another family and we shall have the trouble all over again. Such rooms ought not to be permitted."

"It is the most tumbled down place I have ever seen," remarked Mrs. Blumberg, who had experience among the poor.

"The city is to blame for allowing this condition," said Mr. Eichberg. "If we had a decent administration such things would not be. That's what comes of putting our affairs in the hands of the politicians."

"There is one person and one person only responsible for this condition," said Mr. Burger. "One person who can remedy this matter and should be made to do it."

"And that is?"

"The landlord!"

Everyone felt that Mr. Burger had hit the nail on the head.

"The landlord, the landlord!" they said. "Let him beware."

WHAT ARE OUR CHARITIES FOR?

It is perhaps true that all our charities were created to meet the needs of the hopeless dependent—old men who could not work, helpless children, and that lively and diversified class sometimes impatiently called *schmorrers*, and who, among other people, would be classified as "paupers." These classes cannot take care of themselves; they are economically unproductive, and they are a charge upon the community. They are still cared for by the charities, and in not a few cities they alone absorb the funds raised for charitable purposes.

To the man in the street they are still the people he has in mind when he sends in his contribution. He will pride himself over the fact that he collected \$3.50 on the spot when an old man appeared and begged assistance. He will also tell you that he helped on that very day an expert accountant who braced him on the street, and who had not even enough to buy a collar; and a Ph. D. of a German university, who was uncertain where he would sleep that night.

In other words, the down-and-out man can get a hearing at any time, and the idea is no doubt widely diffused that for such persons mainly Chicago gathers a half million of dollars a year and other cities in proportion.

The hopelessly dependent cases have to be handled, to be sure, and they will not for the most part permit themselves to be neglected without letting the city know that they are unprovided for. But if, except in the case of children, and the aged, all the money that is gathered from generous contributors is to be applied to the hopeless and helpless crowd, to the tramp, the malingering, the deserter and his family, to the feeble-minded, to those who would rather be helped than help themselves, then charity work is the most dismal of human occupations and should not engage the attention of any man or set of men who have real blood in their veins and who feel they can be of positive social use.

To concentrate upon the classes named would be not only to engage in a perfectly sterile occupation, but would also do a tremendous injustice to many men and women who, by intelligent and well-timed help, can be made into productive citizens

instead of declining into the category of the helpless. This would be preventive work of the best kind, and furthermore prevention that prevents; and no community ought to rest satisfied until it sees that a substantial part of its contributions is devoted to such uses.

To be more specific, the question of housing might be taken. There are hundreds of independent families in every large city, who do not ask "charity," who are not regarded as coming within the purview of the old relief association, but who cannot pay sufficient rent to procure decent housing facilities. They crowd into few rooms, in unventilated places, and develop sick and weak children. There are cases where insufficient food has led to anemia in the whole family. Yet the family stands pat. The fact that it does not ask shows how worthy of assistance it is. But precisely these cases are neglected, until there is a hopeless breakdown and it is discovered that the family is now ready to become members of the helpless squad. Then charity steps in.

The food question and the preparation of food, housing, sanitation, the physical care of children, developing the social resources of the family, bringing home the facilities of the city to the uninformed family, the care of the teeth, eyes and breathing passages—these and like service can and should be rendered to people who by subnormal living can avoid asking for relief for the time, but who will bring a whole legacy of evil in a few years.

It is the reproach of philanthropy, especially among the Jews, that these worthy and helpful people have to be neglected for the man who haunts the society's office and does his best to come within its rules. Nothing could be more wasteful than the patient and calculated waiting until a family is broken enough to be economically useless. But that is what is done. There is not a city which, if it had the choice between helping a vagabond or helping to house a self-respecting family decently, would not choose the former, if he asked, while the other was silent.

The trouble is not with the societies; it is rather with the contributing public.