

EIGHT WEEKS IN CAMP

Morris Gallas
Kansas City

The camp of the Jewish Educational Institute was conducted for a period of eight weeks, during which time about 200 boys and girls whose ages range from 9 to 16 years were accommodated. The children were divided into four groups, each group having the privilege of staying two weeks. Each camper was charged a fee of \$1 a week and in cases where this could not be afforded, the child was taken gratis.

The Camp was located on the grounds of the Progress Country Club, about fourteen miles south of Kansas City. The tents were pitched on the sides of a wooded slope overlooking a large lake of spring fed water.

The equipment was designed and arranged with an eye for health and comfort. It consisted of two large sleeping tents 20 x 40 feet, a dining-room tent 20 x 40 feet, a permanent kitchen and two small tents. All the tents were floored; the large tents were also provided with screen walls and doors and rolling storm curtains. To reduce the number of flies around the sleeping tents to a minimum, the kitchen and dining-rooms were placed about 100 yards from them.

Sleeping accommodations were excellent, as cots were used in the sleeping tents and each cot provided with a blanket, quilt, sheet and pillow.

Two baseball diamonds, a basket and volley ball court, quoit alleys and other equipment formed an attractive playground, while all sorts of athletic paraphernalia, indoor games, books and swimming suits were always on hand to meet the demands of every occasion.

The kitchen was conducted on a Kosher plan and a great quantity of milk, butter, eggs, vegetables, cereals, bread and fruit were utilized to make the meals both wholesome and nutritious. In addition to their regular meals, the children were treated occasionally to ice cream, candy and watermelon, provided by many of our generous hearted friends. That the food served was both beneficial and healthful, is evidenced by

an average increase in weight of three pounds per child.

The Camp was in charge of a director and two assistants, and the kitchen was ably conducted by a cook and her assistant, under the director's supervision. All the duties of the Camp, such as cleaning of the tents and grounds, making beds, dishwashing, serving in the dining-room and carrying water, was done by the boys and girls. Each tent had its captains and lieutenants, elected by the occupants of the tent. They controlled the assignment of various duties of the campers in the group. After all the duties had been performed, the captains and director graded each group. These grades were recorded and the group having the highest average for the week was given a prize. A great amount of effort was exerted to win the prize and the competition was strong. The effect of this competition was to impress the child with an esthetic taste, as well as to cultivate a desire of cleanliness and orderliness and generally beautifying his surroundings. Work in this was made pleasant and attractive.

The program was prepared in advance each day and was varied to hold the interest of the child. Bathing was the most favorite sport among the boys, and advantage was taken of this opportunity by giving lessons in swimming and diving. Most of the boys were able to swim and dive at the close of their stay. Amongst recreational games, the most popular were baseball, basket-ball, highball, volley-ball, dare-base, run-sheep-run, checkers and dominoes. Other forms of amusements were fishing, Indian wrestling, blind-fold boxing, cross-country hikes, field meets, marshmallow and corn roasts, and camp fires were utilized to add a touch of variety. In addition to these forms of amusement, our evening programs included vaudeville, shadowgraphs, plays, parties and selections on a Victrola. Lessons in weaving, sewing, crocheting, basketry, woodcraft, forestry, etc., were given by popular demand.

The Camp, taken as a whole, was in every way successful. The benefit derived by the boy and girl campers cannot be overestimated. It gave to the boys and girls their first conception of what is meant when a person refers to God's open country. It stamped the blush of health on faces that had not known it before. It taught the children to play agreeably,

honestly and energetically, and above all, it converted thoughtless children, ignorant of nature and many of the niceties of life to lovers of nature and well mannered boys and girls.

Miss Fanny Benjamin and Mrs. Henry Cohen, were instrumental in making the Camp a possibility.

NON-SECTARIAN SUMMMER VACATION SCHOOL

Oscar Leonard
St. Louis

For the past eight years the St. Louis Board of Education conducted trade manual schools for six weeks in various parts of the city. This work was really taken over by the Board of Education from private hands, such schools having been conducted by social workers and other interested persons before the Board of Education undertook to do this work. It was generally conceded that the work was necessary and beneficial. The industrial work was particularly enjoyed by the children, who were thereby kept off the streets five half days a week for six weeks.

Early in June of this year, it was announced that the Board of Education on account of lack of funds was retrenching and would discontinue the grade manual schools. Interested persons, in common with social workers and social agencies, sent their protests to the Board of Education. They urged that the grade manuals be continued.

The Jewish Educational Alliance officially sent a letter recommending that the work be continued. The Board of Education announced that it was impossible to do this work because of the financial condition in which it finds itself.

It was then that I felt it would be wrong on our part to allow the children of our district to roam the streets instead of having an opportunity to play and work under proper direction. Our President, Mr. Emil Mayer, called a meeting of the Executive Committee of our association. I placed the plans before the committee for starting such a school in our own building or if we might obtain the use of the nearest public school, Patrick Henry, we might do

the work in that school. The Executive Committee agreed that the work ought to be done. It then became a question of funds. The Jewish Charitable and Educational Union, which supplies the funds to this association, has incurred a deficit of about \$10,000 during the first six months of this year. The Union therefore argued that while the work was necessary, there were obligations which have already been incurred and therefore no appropriation for this work could be made. Permission, however, was given to the writer to collect funds from a limited number of friends who might be inclined to help in this work.

The funds came readily. The Board of Education gave us the use of the Patrick Henry School, about two blocks away from the Alliance, a teacher corps was organized and on July 6th we opened our summer school. We engaged teachers who had done that work in former years for the Board of Education. These teachers were selected by Mr. Philo Stevenson, who has been in charge of the grade manual schools for the Board of Education since their inception. He volunteered his services. The day we opened the school there was a registry of 150 children. They were brought to the school by the announcement in the press. The school was open to children of all denominations and nationalities, the ages ranging between 5 and 16. In the five weeks during which the school was kept open, the total registry rose to 651, 400 girls, 251 boys. During the twenty-four days of school, there was a total attendance of 10,956, an average daily attendance of 457. Children from seventeen public schools and one parochial

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

Ruth Berolzheimer

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*.