

G O S S I P: of People and Things

A. A. S. W. Changes

PHILIP KLEIN, executive secretary of the American Association of Social Workers, has resigned to become director of research, New York School of Social Work, effective September 1. His successor has not been appointed. Dorothea deSchweinitz has brought to a close her work with the A.A.S.W. and is spending the summer at the University of Wisconsin. Henrietta Lund, formerly director of the State Children's Bureau, North Dakota, and prior to that on the staff of the American Red Cross in the Central West and Northwest, joins the staff on August 1 as assistant executive secretary. Louise Odenrantz, who has blazed the trail for the Association in job analyses in family, medical, and psychiatric social work, has resigned to take charge of the newly organized Joint Bureau for the Handicapped in New York City. Job analysis will be carried on under the direction of Margaretta Williamson, who has done a number of investigations for the United States Children's Bureau.

Maxwell in Pittsburgh

REFERRING to the item published in *The Survey* for June 15 to the effect that Wilbur F. Maxwell, of Harrisburg, has gone to Pittsburgh for work in connection with a proposed community chest, William S. Moorhead, of the Pittsburgh Committee of Fifty writes: "The Committee of Fifty of Pittsburgh has arranged to make a study of the situation here with a view to recommending the form of organization best adapted to meet local conditions and has engaged Mr. Maxwell to conduct this study. Whether or not any plan for the joint financing of social agencies here will be approved and an organization effected will depend upon the outcome of this study and upon the action taken with regard to it upon the expiration of the time required to make the study."

Junior Month at the C. O. S.

FACTS first; then theory!" is the watchword of twelve college juniors representing the leading eastern colleges who are studying social conditions under the auspices of the New York Charity Organization Society. Courts, hospitals, and prisons are their textbooks and the city's tenement neighborhoods their "campus" for four weeks. Clare M. Tousley, assistant director of the C.O.S., has charge of the Junior Month group. The students are expected to take back to the colleges they represent a picture of actual social conditions, so that facts and theories may jibe. One junior comes from each of the following colleges: Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Connecticut, Elmira, Goucher, Mt. Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Swarthmore, Vassar, Wellesley, Wells.

Home Economists Meet

OVER 1,000 home economists attended the annual conference of the American Home Economics Association, in Asheville, N. C., June 21-24. The program indicated an increasing shift away from the technical aspects of sewing and cooking toward a broader teaching, covering more truly the profession of "homemaking." Child care, health, social service, the use of services rendered by commercial institutions, budgeting on the basis of actual conditions—all were discussed as part of a recognized program of work. The aims of the Department of Education to "train the potential homemakers to care for the thirteen million pre-school children in the country" alone represents a service which will call for the best thought and effort from this field.

Jewish Center Secretaries Meet

THAT the Jewish community center must serve all age groups, both sexes, and the various elements of the community, was the consensus of opinion of the Jewish Community Center Secretaries at their annual meeting in Atlantic City, May 31 to June 4. The secretaries expressed a cordial desire to cooperate with the National Conference of Jewish Social Service, but recognized that there were distinctive problems to be worked out by the centers for themselves. It was agreed by the secretaries that they continue to meet in separate conferences for the analysis of these problems but that their time and place of meeting might well be arranged so that they would coordinate with the National Conference of Jewish Social Service.

Prizes Offered Public Health Nurses

THE Public Health Nurse offers three prizes of \$50, \$30, and \$20 for the three best stories submitted by September 15, 1927, about public health nursing. Stories are wanted which will portray public health nursing not in terms of definitions or mechanics, but which "will show the warmth of service which enkindles the nurse but which she keeps altogether too much to herself." Any individual concerned with public health nursing is eligible. The judges are Haven Emerson, M.D., Edna Foley, Julia C. Lathrop, Florence Patterson, James Rorty, Elizabeth Fox. Details may be had from The Public Health Nurse, 370 Seventh Ave., New York.

Nutrition Prizes Awarded

NUTRITION CLINICS, INC., of which Dr. W. R. P. Emerson is chairman, and Mabel Skilton secretary, announces the awarding of its prizes for this year for especially satisfactory demonstrations of what can be accomplished by the use of

its nutrition programs: First prize (\$50): Frances Lawrence and Nellie Russell of Honolulu (jointly), for a demonstration of work with pre-school children in the Free Kindergartens of Hawaii.

Second prize (\$30): Joan I. MacMullen, for her work at Dartmouth College.

Third prize (\$20): Helen M. Sanderson, for results secured at Camp McWain, summer camp for girls at East Waterford, Me., and at Birch Rock Camp for boys.

Negro Social Workers Named

THE Division of Negro Work, North Carolina State Board of Charities, has started a new and more extensive statewide social welfare program. Announcement is made by Lieut. Lawrence A. Oxley, director, of the appointment of C. Clenn Carrington and A. Marie Crawford as members of the staff of the Division of Negro Work. Mr. Carrington, a graduate of Howard University and the New York School of Social Work, will give special study to Negro crime and Negro child welfare in North Carolina. Miss Crawford will be assistant to Lieutenant Oxley and have charge of case-records.

Memorial Fund for Pittsburgh Welfare

MORE than \$15,000,000 was left by Henry Buhl, Jr., president of the Boggs and Buhl Department Store, Pittsburgh, to found the Buhl Memorial Foundation of Pittsburgh; a permanent fund for social welfare, the income and part of the principal, if necessary, to be applied from time to time where most needed.

Miscellaneous

THE SIXTH ANNUAL SUMMER Training Course of the New England and Middle Atlantic Division of the Boys' Club Federation will be held in Palisades Interstate Park from August 19 to September 2, 1927.

"SHARE YOUR FLOWERS," is the slogan on a poster designed by James (Continued on page 431)

LITERATURE

CHILD HEALTH IN SMALL COMMUNITIES—Bulletins describing the Commonwealth Fund child health demonstrations—two in small cities, two in rural counties. No. 1, Program and Policies. No. 2, Marion County, Ore. No. 3, Athens, Ga. No. 4, Progress Report. Mailed free on application to Director of Publications, Room 1648, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York.

FOURTEEN IS TOO EARLY: SOME PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF SCHOOL-LEAVING AND CHILD LABOR—by Raymond G. Fuller, published by the National Child Labor Committee, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York City, price 35 cents.

UP-TO-DATE CHILD LABOR PUBLICATIONS—Child Labor Facts, 1927; Selected Bibliography on Child Labor (1920-1927); Children Working in Missouri, 1927. Price 10 cents each. National Child Labor Committee, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON PSYCHOLOGY—by Helen G. Estey, Gardner, Mass. 69 pages, \$1.00 a copy. Obtained of author at Gardner, Mass.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Poverty and Growth

TO THE EDITOR: The article in your issue of April 15, What Makes Children Grow, by Mary Ross, based upon the study, Poverty, Nutrition and Growth, under the Medical Research Council of Great Britain, has just come to my attention. Miss Ross hails the study as bearing on the age-old question, Are the poor the cause or the result of the miserable conditions which mark their lives? and infers that the conclusions drawn by the authors tend to point toward the first alternative and to "upset some of the generalizations on which social workers, nurses and physicians have hoped to rest comfortably."

Before we cease to "rest comfortably" on these generalizations I submit there are several points which social workers should not ignore. On page 6 of the introduction to the report on which the article is based the authors state: "Its purpose was not to demonstrate what was already known, viz, that the town child of the poorer classes is on the average less well-grown and less vigorous than the child of the well-to-do or than the country child, but to study the influence of the various parental and environmental conditions of the slum child and try to ascertain why some slum children remain puny and small while others are large and strong." This seems an important fact to keep in mind before considering the statement that "there was little evidence of a direct relation between the size or nutrition of the child and the income of the family per person."

Again (I quote from Miss Ross' article): "Slum children between the ages of one and five were found to be about 10 per cent lighter than country children, age for age, but there is evidence that this difference is at least in part an inborn characteristic: the town parents were smaller. More and more the towns are ceasing to draw recruits from the country and are breeding their own population." Is it not possible to take the second sentence of the above quotation as explaining the first and to suppose that adverse environmental conditions may have affected the size of the parents as well as that of their children?

The study of Poverty, Nutrition and Growth is indeed a painstaking effort to discover the relation of different environmental conditions to the physical growth of children, in which child health workers will find much food for thought. But should we not be careful not to generalize too broadly from its very tentative conclusions, in considering so complex a subject as the relation of environment to growth?

NORA L. REYNOLDS

New York City

TO THE EDITOR: The surprising finding of the investigation reported in my article was the inability to find a correlation between the physical development of the 11,000 British slum children studied and the environmental conditions—housing, family income, food and the like—which commonly have been accepted, as determining factors in children's growth. The only constant correlation discovered lay between good development and maternal "efficiency," though as the report and my article pointed out, the fact that no others were disclosed does not prove that they did not exist; they may have been masked by more powerful factors. I endeavored merely to quote or paraphrase the findings of a group of responsible scientists and do not feel competent to pass on the interpretations suggested by Miss Reynolds, which exceed the scope of their data.

MARY ROSS