

# The Social Front

## Youth

**T**HE American Friends Service Committee has announced the selection of Cooperstown, N. Y., as the location of its first experiment in providing an alternative service for those who cannot conscientiously perform military service. Working with the Otsego Forest Products Cooperative Association, made up of about 300 farmers, each of whom owns ten or more acres of woodland, the Quakers will establish a year-round work camp. The camp will afford opportunity for constructive service to a rural community, similar in program to a summer work camp held at Cooperstown which included painting, carpentering, landscaping about the sawmill, making time studies of efficiency in the mill, doing demonstration clearing of young timber. The cooperative is under the advisory direction of the New England Experiment Station of the U. S. Forest Service.

**Youth Against War**—A call has gone out for the fourth annual National Youth Anti-War Congress, to be held in Madison, Wis., December 27 to 30. The congress "calls upon all young people who are opposed to America's participation in the war and who are against totalitarianism all over the world to meet together during this Christmas season of 1940." The meeting is sponsored by the Youth Committee Against War, affiliated with the Keep America Out of War Congress. Further information from the committee, 22 East 17 Street, New York.

The War Resisters League, 171 West 12 Street, New York, has prepared a leaflet of advice for those answering Form 47, the special form to be filled out by conscientious objectors registered under the Selective Service Act. It also had prepared a pamphlet outlining the provisions of the act, and the rights it grants "persons with conscientious scruples against war."

**Public Affairs**—In the effort to make young citizens "more sensitive to their civic responsibilities," the Committee on Public Affairs of the National Board of the YMCAs is furthering a program of study and discussion through YMCA Citizens' Study Centers. The committee prepares and publishes material which presents all sides of current issues, with lists of suggested material for further reading. One recent release, for example, dealt with conscription, outlining American experience and quoting speeches, editorials, and other statements for and

against compulsory military service in this country. An early fall release discussed election issues, and included copies of the Republican, Democratic, and Socialist platforms. Local programs of the study centers include forums and discussion groups on specific subjects, systematic inquiry into local municipal government, study of campaign literature, and so on. Further information from J. E. Sproul, National Council of the YMCAs, 347 Madison Avenue, New York.

**CCC**—Specific training for non-combatant defense service has been added to other forms of education in all CCC camps. As its contribution to the national effort, the CCC proposes to furnish: 90,000 trained truck and dispatch-car drivers every six months; 7,500 to 10,000 truck and automobile maintenance men every three months; 3,000 skilled mechanics a year; 6,000 cooks and bakers each six months; 100,000 first aid men equipped with the standard Red Cross course, every six months; 3,500 skilled dispensary attendants and medical orderlies every six months; 1,000 competent welders in like period; 1,000 airplane motor mechanics in the first year; not fewer than 75,000 reasonably competent road, bridge, and telephone-line workers; 2,000 men with knowledge of map making and map reading every six months; 10,000 men reasonably competent in basic photography every six months; and 20,000 men reasonably familiar with sending and receiving code and with elementary radio repair skill, every six months.

The CCC has announced a compulsory savings plan for enrollees under which \$7 of their pay will be set aside monthly in a special fund to be paid them in a lump sum on discharge. Men in the CCC receive \$30 a month, plus maintenance and instruction, of which \$8 now is paid to them in cash and \$22 goes to their dependents. Under the new plan, to take effect January 1, dependents will receive only \$15. The requirement that CCC enrollees must come from families on relief has been dropped.

**The Blind**—An NYA project in Norman, Okla., the only one of its kind in the country, is making it possible for a group of visually handicapped boys and girls to be self-supporting while receiving social and educational guidance as an aid in their adjustment to society. The project is directed by Dr. C. B. Minner who is himself visually handicapped. Among the group of fifty are eight sighted members included to read to the others who are totally or partially blind.

The visually handicapped work 160 hours a month transcribing braille catalogues for the state public library, and making rugs, brooms, and similar objects for use in state institutions. The project is housed in a remodeled church building furnished by interested local persons and kept in repair by the blind boys. All of the group take turns at meal serving. All keep their own rooms tidy, thus learning to become self-reliant. For entertainment they go to the movies, dance, give musical programs, and listen to the radio.

The project members pay no cash rent. A committee of interested citizens contracted with the government to provide food, housing, and utility bills for 64 cents per capita per day. The NYA allows each of the handicapped young persons \$1 a day for the work they perform. After 64 cents is deducted for expenses, the remainder goes to the boys and girls for spending money.

## Relief and WPA

**S**OME people may be surprised to learn that "shovel leaning" can produce more than 517,000 miles of roads, 25,000 new buildings, 64,000 bridges or viaducts, 18,000 miles of sewers, 15,000 flood control dams—facilities which represent only a portion of the WPA construction work completed during the past five years. The figures are taken from a statistical summary of WPA accomplishments up to July 1, 1940, recently issued by the Federal Works Agency. Among numerous other tangible accomplishments were the production of 222,683,000 articles of clothing, the canning of 42,203,000 quarts of food, the renovation of 67,364,000 library books, the transcription of 3,909,000 pages of braille. Mosquito control, medical and dental clinics, literacy and naturalization programs are only a few of the projects whose accomplishments cannot be measured by material assets.

Almost simultaneously with the federal report on WPA accomplishments appeared a similar report from the New York City office. Among the achievements in the city are enough new or improved road to cover the distance from New York to Denver—nearly 1,700 miles—391 new public buildings, 29 new parks, 310 playgrounds, 19 bridges and viaducts. Outstanding feat was the construction of La Guardia Field, largest airport in the country. Other projects produced 16,000,000 garments for relief recipients, 631,191 toys for underprivileged children. New York's WPA

workers also filled 1,100,000 teeth, X-rayed 234,000 chests, immunized 102,924 children against diphtheria.

**Effects of Defense**—Those who regard the draft as a means of reducing relief rolls are due for a disappointment, if the case load of the St. Louis Bureau for Men is typical of the country's total case load of single men on relief. According to a report in a recent issue of the bureau's monthly bulletin of information, *Men of St. Louis*, unattached men on relief fall mainly into two age groups, those between sixteen and twenty-one and those between thirty-five and forty-five, men either under or over the draft age. The younger group, says the bulletin, is largely comprised of "graduates" of children's agencies with whom the bureau is attempting to work out programs of self-support. The older group is made up of men who require vocational retraining because of some physical disability.

Rather than expecting a reduction in case load, the St. Louis Bureau for Men sees a trend in the younger group toward a lengthened period of dependency. The recent government publicity relative to the need for skilled workers has increased the requests from referral agencies and from the boys themselves for further schooling, thus lengthening the boys' time under public care. A similar trend is in evidence among the older, handicapped men, many of whom formerly were content with the possibility of obtaining light jobs. Warns *Men of St. Louis*: "There seems to be no end of money provided for the training of people, but the funds necessary for their complete maintenance are stringently limited."

**Stones for Bread** — "The Brown family with six children lives on one fourth a minimum diet." So begins the devastating report on the Missouri relief situation recently prepared by the Missouri Association for Social Welfare, Brown Hall, Skinker and Lindell Boulevards, St. Louis, Mo., price 50 cents. A beautiful job in layout and illustration, "Stones for Bread" presents facts and figures which are anything but beautiful—statistics and case stories from every section of the state pointing up the human privation caused by the inadequacy of the state's relief appropriation. There are stories of the hardships undergone by unemployed city families refused relief because they were "employable"; stories of rural families refused certification to WPA because they operated farms, refused farm aid because they were miners, refused direct relief because they were physically able to work; stories of zinc miners in the Ozarks, "marked out of the mines" because of silicosis, trying to support tuberculous families on WPA wages; stories from the cotton

area of families turned migrant because of their inability to receive relief or WPA jobs after descending the scale from farm tenant to sharecropper to farm laborer to unemployed under the pressure of mechanized agriculture; a story from a WPA nursery school revealing that 43 percent of the "relief" children were underweight, 36 percent were underheight, 29 percent showed evidence of beginning rickets; 36 percent had abdominal pouches indicating malnutrition. The story behind these stories is not new, has been told time and time again to state legislators: Missouri's general relief expenditure per inhabitant is only one third that of the nation as a whole; its average relief allowances are little more than one half the national average.

**Two Communities**—Grundy County, Tenn. and San Antonio, Tex. were two objects of recent scrutiny on the part of the American Public Welfare Association. The results and recommendations of both studies, published in two thick mimeographed volumes, promise to produce widespread reforms in the respective areas.

Grundy County is a coal mining area turned agricultural only since the decline of its main industry in the early days of the depression. In the past four years scarcely any turnover has been apparent on the relief rolls which include over 60 percent of the county's families. Although there are eleven relief programs administered by six different public agencies, the county's only general relief is issued to one "pauper case." Federal funds account for 85 percent of relief expenditures embracing such programs as WPA, NYA, CCC, the categorical assistances, farm aid. The APWA report estimates that the monthly \$23,944 spent in the county for relief is insufficient by \$17,000. Among the recommendations are suggestions for fundamental changes in the public welfare and health administration and county finan-

cial management, the use and conservation of natural resources, agricultural planning. Already the county is enlisting the aid of federal, county, and community agencies in an effort to carry out the association's recommendations.

More disturbing because of their existence against a backdrop of plenty are the conditions described in the San Antonio report. Center of an area of "untold potentialities" in the livestock, citrus fruits, chemical and oil industries, the city is of no small importance as a wholesale and retail trade center. It has a lively tourist "industry," and benefits from the payrolls of the largest army post in the country. Yet 12 percent of the total working population are unemployed; more than half the families live in substandard homes; the city's infant deathrate is twice that of the country as a whole. The 20,000 to 25,000 families receiving relief are hardly an indication of the extent of need, as the eligibility standards shut out many with submarginal incomes. As in Grundy County, the only general public relief program is the distribution of surplus commodities. Even these are fewer than in other communities because of the city's refusal on several occasions to provide storage for foods. The community's only categorical program is old age assistance. The City-County Family Welfare Agency which certifies families to the various federal programs has an average of 1,250 cases per worker. These conditions have wrought havoc with the private agencies, which, no matter what their intended function—as health agency, settlement house, children's protective organization—have attempted to shoulder as much of the pressing economic burden as possible, even to the point of setting up soup kitchens.

The remedies prescribed by the APWA for curing San Antonio's ills are specific and include the establishment of a direct relief program to be financed jointly by municipal and state funds; the establishment of programs for aid to depend-



CHARLES E. HENDRY

Hardy pioneer among group workers is Charles E. Hendry, last month appointed director of the research and statistical service of the Boy Scouts of America. Formerly on the faculty of George Williams College, Chicago, and recently director of program and personnel training for the Boys Clubs of America, Mr. Hendry long has been engaged in trail-blazing in group work methodology and group therapy. Among his many "extramural" activities is the chairmanship of the American Association for the Study of Group Work and authorship of many influential publications.

ent children and aid to the needy blind; the setting up of a Food Stamp Plan; the reorganization of the City-County Welfare Agency into an adequately staffed department of public welfare to embrace all relief and child welfare functions; the establishment of a social planning council to coordinate the work of public and private agencies; the reorganization of private welfare agencies to eliminate confusion and duplication. Indication that the report has not fallen on deaf ears is the news that the staff of the City-County Welfare Agency has been nearly doubled within the past month.

**Milk**—Beginning the fifteenth of this month relief families in New York City may have a pint of milk per day for each child under sixteen in addition to their regular relief allowances, under plans recently worked out by the cooperation of municipal, state, and federal governments. Unlike the famous Pennsylvania plan [see *Survey Mid-monthly*, September 1939, page 286] the New York City milk plan is not mandatory. It affects only the families who wish to participate, and does not divert part of the regular relief allowances to specified channels. The program is designed to "put to the best possible use" the surplus milk being produced in the New York milkshed. The families will buy the milk at retail stores through coupons issued by the Department of Welfare. The milk companies will receive 5 cents from the department for each quart of milk sold through the plan. The difference between this price and the total cost of distribution will be paid by the Federal Surplus Marketing Administration.

## Education

**EFFECTS** of the world situation are seen in recent figures on language study in New York City's public high-schools this year. Fewer students are enrolled in German classes than in any year of the last decade. At the same time, interest in Spanish has spurted, and study of Spanish is second only to study of French, which still holds first place. The registration in German classes has been dropping ever since Hitler came to power. In the spring of 1934, there were 22,550 pupils studying German. Two years later, the figure had dropped to 16,000; last year it was 12,000; at present, 10,241—with more than 60,000 pupils in French classes and nearly 39,000 in Spanish. In 1917, before the United States entered the war, German stood first by a wide margin among all foreign languages studied in the New York schools. With the declaration of war, an immediate reaction set in and continued until 1920, when only sixty students were

enrolled in German classes. German slowly regained part of its popularity, but the trend was reversed by Hitler. Dr. Theodore Huebener, acting director of foreign language study in the New York City schools, urges that "emotionalism" be kept out of the situation.

**A College Program**—A five-fold program to help prepare women for a part in national defense has been organized by Russell Sage College, Troy, N. Y. The college has established an Institute for the Defense of Democratic Principles Among Women, the work of which will include student-faculty forums, forums for special community groups, general community forums, and radio programs. By "pointing up" its regular courses in such fields as nursing, home economics, foreign languages, business education, the college hopes to furnish "highly trained aides or potential leaders in special fields." To prepare women for effective volunteer service, Russell Sage College is offering intensive training to women of the college and community in elementary nursing, nutrition, and clerical work. A fourth type of activity will be health training for women of the community. Lastly, the college proposes to cooperate with other community agencies in setting up a clearing house which will include the name of every woman in the community who desires to render volunteer service. Russell Sage students are required to attend faculty-student forum meetings. All other defense courses are elective. Of the more than 700 women in the college, the largest number of students and teachers (142) are enrolled in the course in everyday mechanics, which includes instruction in automobile driving and maintenance. The next largest group (138) is studying emergency nursing. To make way for the defense program, students, in agreement with the faculty, eliminated fifteen of the usual extracurricular activities at the college.

**Negro School Salaries**—Denial of the petition of the Board of Education of Norfolk, Va., for review of the Alston case was announced by the Supreme Court of the United States on October 28. This action has the effect of sustaining the lower court, which held that to fix salaries of Negro teachers at rates lower than those for white teachers of equal qualifications, experience, and duties, on the sole basis of race or color, violates the "due process" and "equal protection" clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. The original suit was lost by the Negro teacher who brought it. He carried the case to the Circuit Court of Appeals which unanimously reversed the trial court. It was from that decision that the Norfolk school board appealed to the Supreme Court. Mr. Alston was joined in his suit by the Norfolk Teach-

ers' Association, an organization of the Negro school teachers of that city. The salary schedule submitted as evidence in the case and quoted in the opinion of the appellate court showed that, during the 1939-40 school year, the salary range for Negro teachers holding a normal certificate was from \$597.50 to \$960.10; for white teachers, \$850 to \$1425. For Negro elementary teachers with a college degree, the range was \$611 to \$960; for white teachers of the same qualifications, \$937 to \$1425. For Negro highschool teachers (men) the range was \$784.50 to \$1235; for white highschool teachers (men) from \$1200 to \$2185.

**Record and Report**—Of timely interest and usefulness to adult education classes, forums, and discussion groups is "Freedom or Fascism?" a handbook prepared by a committee of the Connecticut League of Women Voters, and published by the Yale University Press. Price 25 cents from the league, 130 Washington Street, Hartford, Conn. . . . The much discussed findings of a special committee of the American Council on Education on the secondary school curriculum is now available in a pamphlet, "What the High Schools Ought to Teach." Price 25 cents, from the American Youth Commission, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C. . . . In a new publication, the research division of the National Education Association brings down to date a study of teacher salary schedules made by the Committee on Tenure in 1936. The report includes abstracts of minimum salary laws, and a bibliography. Price 25 cents from the association, 1201 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington.

**Income and Opportunity** — How far family finances determine the opportunities of able young Americans today is indicated by a recent study, "Parental Income and College Opportunities," by Helen Bertha Goetsch. (Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University. 157 pp. Price \$1.85, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.) The report is based on a study of 1,023 graduates of twelve Milwaukee, Wis., public high-schools. Only students with a range in I.Q. between 117 and 146, presumably able to do college work, were included. Of these, 35 percent were full time college students, 4 percent part time students. About 19 percent were in "minor schools, that is, schools of nursing, vocational schools, business colleges and the like." Of the 61 percent who discontinued full time schooling when they graduated from highschool, 77 percent dropped out because of "lack of finances, need of help in supporting the family, or need of help with the work at home." Miss Goetsch comments: "It is obvious that many young people with excellent mental endowment, for pecuniary reasons are not attending a higher school. This means



that the bright sons of the poor cannot compete with the sons of the well-to-do for the most professional and remunerative positions in life."

## Jobs and Workers

ON the second anniversary of the Fair Labor Standards Act, Katharine F. Lenroot, chief of the Children's Bureau, announced that during the two-year period between October 24, 1938, and October 1, 1940, a total of 1,738 children under sixteen years of age were found employed in violation of the child labor provisions of the act. During the last fiscal year, the industrial division of the Children's Bureau inspected 1,298 establishments in thirty-four states with some 235,000 employes, and made re-investigations in 223 plants. During the two years since the act went into effect, twenty-six court cases, including seven criminal and nineteen civil suits for flagrant child labor violations, were closed. None of these were contested by the employer. Miss Lenroot states that the general picture in the child labor field is one of progress, which she attributes in large part to "the excellent cooperation received from state and local labor and school officials."

**Job Seekers**—An analysis of the "multi-million dollar private employment agency business in California," made public last month by George G. Kidwell, director of the state department of industrial relations, 515 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, shows that fees charged job seekers may run as high as 120 percent of a month's salary. The 35-page report, prepared by M. I. Gershenson, chief statistician, discloses that in 1939 California jobless paid more than \$830,000 to 204 private employment agencies in the state for obtaining temporary and permanent positions in the commercial, domestic, hotel and restaurant, nursing, teaching, and general industrial fields. In addition, fees amounting to approximately \$5,000,000 were paid to theatrical and motion picture employment agencies. The study does not include fees paid agricultural labor contractors who in many instances function as employment agents. Rates for commercial and clerical jobs range from 10 to 75 percent of the first month's salary. For permanent jobs as household, hotel, or restaurant workers, the applicant is usually charged 10 percent of the first month's earnings, though in southern California many agencies charge 15 to 50 percent. School teachers usually pay 5 to 10 percent of the annual salary, equivalent to 60 to 120 percent of one month's earnings. The common practice of motion picture agencies is to charge 10 percent of all earnings in this field. In California, fee-

charging agencies must be licensed by the labor commissioner and bonded by a reputable surety company, but the law does not permit the regulation of the size of the fee.

Placements of workers in private industry by the U. S. Employment Service rose to 305,000 during September, just under the all-time high established in October 1939, according to a mid-November statement by Paul V. McNutt, federal security administrator. The number of men and women seeking jobs through the state employment offices dropped to approximately 4,900,000 in the same month, and the number of workers drawing unemployment insurance benefits declined for the second successive month.

**Workers' Schools**—A trend away from the six weeks' summer session to intensive one- and two-week courses is noted in an analysis of the 1940 session of the School for Workers at the University of Wisconsin, prepared by E. E. Schwartztrauber, director. At Wisconsin, where a six weeks' session has been held each year since 1925, the enrollment has dropped from a "high" of 62 in 1930 to 12 in 1940. Mr. Schwartztrauber finds this due to "the growing sense of insecurity of the worker," plus the reluctance of local unions to furnish scholarship funds and guarantee wage losses of workers chosen to attend. In 1937, the school began to experiment with short courses at the request of the United Auto Workers International. In 1940, the school arranged several short courses for members of specific unions, and also a two-weeks course open to all workers. The enrollment last summer totaled 143. Mr. Schwartztrauber analyzes the summer's experience and concludes that in spite of the increase in costs and administrative problems involved in the new plan, the short courses are justified by the quality of work done by the students as well as by the increase in the number served by the Workers' School.

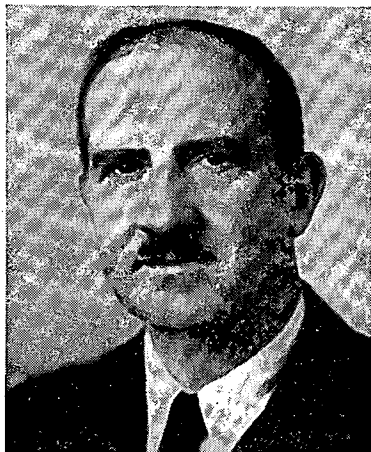
**Exemption for Journalists**—Declaring that application of the Fair Labor Standards Act to newspaper employes threatens the freedom of the press, Dean Carl W. Ackerman of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism urges in his annual report that journalists be exempt from the provisions of the act. He states: "If the newspapers of the United States concede that any administrator in any governmental department has the power to set the minimum wage which a newspaper can pay any particular group of its employes, then he can set any minimum he pleases, even to the extent of making it utterly impossible for a newspaper to have any employes at all." Dean Ackerman also holds that journalists are entitled to exemption as professional workers, pointing out

that more than seven hundred schools and colleges teach journalism as a professional subject, and that the Census Bureau classifies those engaged in journalism as "professionals."

**Record and Report** — "Administrative Problems of Employment Services in Eight States," by Oscar Weigert is based on firsthand study of the work of more than 100 local offices. Price \$1 from Public Administration Service, 1313 East 60 Street, Chicago, Ill. . . . The report by the Secretary of Labor to the seventh National Conference on Labor Legislation held in Washington in mid-November, has been published as a Division of Labor Standards bulletin, "Recent Progress in State Labor Legislation." Price 10 cents from the superintendent of documents, Washington, D. C. . . . Of special interest to workers' education groups is the pamphlet, "Organized Labor and Consumer Cooperation," by James Myers, industrial secretary of the Federal Council of Churches, recently published by The Cooperative League. Price 25 cents from the league, 167 West 12 Street, New York, N. Y. . . . "The Pecan Shellers of San Antonio," by Selden C. Menefee and Orin C. Cassmore is the very illuminating report of a WPA study of the workers in an industry with "a low capital investment and an extremely low wage structure." Price 50 cents from the superintendent of documents, Washington, D. C.

## Among the States

OLD AGE assistance measures were brought before the electorate in four states last month—California, Washington, Colorado, Arkansas. Voters of California passed two propositions: the first "releases all liens, mortgages, and other encumbrances heretofore taken by counties as security for aid granted aged persons, and all claims of state counties and state agencies against them or their properties based thereon or on agreements not to transfer or encumber real property without consent of board of supervisors, and cancels all such agreements"; the second, "releases all liens, mortgages, and other encumbrances taken by counties as security for aid granted to aged persons under Old Age Security Act or Old Age Security Law." Up until 1937, county boards of supervisors could effect a lien on the property of recipients of aid to the aged by the mere recording of such aid, but no liens have been taken since the state supreme court ruled this practice unconstitutional three years ago. By accepting the second proposition, California voters have cleared the property titles of recipients who received aid prior to the ruling. In 1940 the legislature repealed a 1939 amendment to California's Aged Aid Act



CHARLES F. ERNST

The capricious winds that blow upon public figures in an election year have removed Charles F. Ernst from the Washington State Department of Social Security of which he has been the liberal and progressive director since its organization in 1937. It was no ill-wind, however, for the American Public Welfare Association, which promptly attached Mr. Ernst to its staff even before his "release" became official.

requiring recipients of old age assistance to sign an agreement not to sell, transfer, or mortgage real property without the consent of the county board of supervisors. The acceptance of the first proposition, which was opposed by the Property Owners' Association of California, backs up the legislature's more recent action.

In the state of Washington voters also abolished liens on the property of old age assistance recipients. Through the same initiative they raised assistance grants from \$30 to \$40 a month. Beyond the raising of grants the new law liberalizes eligibility requirements, and exempts from deductible resources the ability of relatives or friends to contribute; insurance policies to the value of \$500; the recipient's homestead; intangible property to the value of \$200; personal belongings including an automobile; foodstuff, livestock, fuel, light, or water produced by the recipient or his family for his own use. The law includes no provision for obtaining the additional funds—estimated at \$28,000,000 a biennium—necessary to carry it out other than making it mandatory upon the legislature to "levy such additional taxes and appropriate from the general fund such additional taxes as may be necessary to pay the grants." Many persons in the state doubt whether the federal Social Security Board will continue to match the state grants under the new conditions. If not, the state will have to meet the entire expense, a biennial \$80,000,000, at least for the two

years an initiative constitutionally must remain on the statute books.

In Colorado an attempt to lower the present \$45 a month old age assistance grants—which never have actually been paid in full—to a "guaranteed" \$30, met with failure when the voters rejected a new amendment to the constitution. In Arkansas the Rotenberry amendment which has been hanging fire for eight years, twice having been kept off the ballot by court action, was defeated when it finally came to a vote. The amendment would have set up an entirely new old age assistance system while reducing the age of eligibility from sixty-five to sixty. Prior to the election, the Social Security Board, on query from the state commissioner of welfare, had indicated doubt as to whether the federal government could match state funds under the proposed system.

**Merit Systems**—Big block in the way of states rushing to complete their merit system plans in conformity with Social Security Board regulations [see "The Waste of Too Much Haste," *Survey Midmonthly*, March 1940] has been the reluctance of county authorities to give up jurisdiction over county welfare workers. Recently the Supreme Court of Colorado ruled that employees in county welfare departments were not state employees and therefore not subject to state civil service. However, the court held that jurisdiction may be conferred upon the State Welfare Department to set up a merit system for such workers. . . . In California the County Supervisors Association has threatened to carry to Congress its fight to retain control over the county welfare workers. Warned by the state director of social welfare that failure to employ welfare workers on a uniform merit basis might cost the state its federal grants, the association authorized a committee to urge California congressmen to amend the Social Security Act. . . . New Mexico begins putting its merit system into effect this month. Last month all written examinations were completed except those for a few highly technical positions. South Dakota begins holding examinations this month for 400 jobs in the social security and health departments. Tests for clerical workers will come first.

**In Print**—"Report of the Joint Legislative Fact-Finding Committee on Employment" contains the account of the California legislative inquiry made last spring on the operations of the State Relief Administration, and the recommendations of the committee, among them the return of relief to the counties. Within the pages are evidence of much waste and inefficiency on the part of the SRA. However, the report contains only excerpts from the testimony and this fact plus the revelation of the type of question

asked witnesses gives the impression of one-sidedness and an unscientific attempt to prove a preconceived idea. Says the minority report of one legislator: "I know from two months' experience in touring the state as a member of this committee that efforts of its members have been devoted primarily to unearthing scandal, isolated instances of incompetence, and what the committee report terms evidence of 'subversive influences'. . . . No effort has been made to interview and commend any of the thousands of employees in high and low positions who are working long hours to serve efficiently the state of California." . . . A recently published four-year report of the New York State Department of Social Welfare reviews the operations of the department since its reorganization in 1936 and describes the function of the state in a program involving the effective cooperation of state and county through state planning and supervision and local administration of relief and public assistance.

## The Public's Health

**L**ARGE quantities of a newly discovered influenza vaccine will soon be available to war-torn Britain for the asking, according to plans of the Rockefeller Foundation. So far the vaccine has never been tested under epidemic conditions. However, experiments involving the injection of a hundred volunteers from the foundation's staff have shown definitely that the vaccine raises the number of protective antibodies against influenza. The foundation, which will ship the vaccine abroad only upon formal request, is preparing a million doses to be made available to Great Britain should the need arise.

**Recognition**—Increased attention to rheumatic heart disease in public health reports and medical publications indicates that the disease is beginning to receive recognition as a major public health problem. "Public Health Aspects of Rheumatic Heart Disease," by Dr. Homer F. Swift, recently published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, points to the lag in attention given to rheumatic heart disease and its first cousin, rheumatic fever, in comparison to other diseases of less prevalence and less disastrous effects. The article compares the 693 infantile paralysis deaths in New York City in a ten year period, including two epidemics, to the 958 deaths from rheumatic heart disease and 147 from rheumatic fever in the one year, 1938. It also sets the 1938 total of 1,105 deaths from rheumatic heart disease and rheumatic fever beside the total of 247 for six communicable diseases: diphtheria, measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever, epidemic meningitis, infant



tile paralysis. The author estimates that during 1938 there were between 7,000 and 8,000 persons in New York City suffering from the rheumatic diseases. According to figures for the whole country, those states with large urban populations have the highest deathrates from the disease, with deathrates in the Negro population far exceeding those in the white. The latter fact Dr. Swift attributes to economic rather than racial factors. The whole article is a plea for the expansion of facilities for the care of rheumatic children, including the establishment of central registries in municipalities and adequate provision of cardiac sanatoriums. . . . Two October issues of *Public Health Reports*, weekly bulletin of the U. S. Public Health Service, report on a study of 4,653 cases of rheumatic heart disease and closely related diseases in Philadelphia. Statistics showed the disease occurring with the greatest frequency in areas occupied by low income families.

**For Tenants**—Vladeck Houses, on New York's lower East Side, last month became the setting of the first prepayment medical care plan in the country for tenants of a public housing project. The plan, which has the approval of the county medical society, is administered by the neighborhood medical association. Two neighboring hospitals are participating as well as most of the physicians in the community. Subscribers, who pay \$3 a year per person or \$12 a year for a family of four or more, are entitled to physician's care, consultations, hospitalization, laboratory tests, X-rays, visiting nurse service. Choice of physician is left to the patient.

**Crippled Children**—The names of more than 255,000 crippled children are now on state registers, according to a report in a recent issue of *The Child*, monthly bulletin of the U. S. Children's Bureau. During 1939, activities under the crippled children's program of the Social Security Act included 193,000 visits by children to diagnostic and treatment clinics; 42,000 hospital admissions; 6,500 admissions to convalescent homes; 2,500 arrangements for foster home care; 207,000 home visits by public health nurses; 172,000 visits by physical-therapy technicians; 4,000 referrals to state vocational rehabilitation agencies. Five suggestions for improvement of the program have been made by Dr. Robert C. Hood, director of the bureau's crippled children's division: emphasis on the quality of care; more service to children crippled with other than orthopedic and plastic impairments and for children in migratory families and minority groups; more provisions for reexamination, follow-up treatment, coordination of state and local services; improved fa-

cilities and more adequate medical supervision in hospitals and convalescent homes; universal adoption by state health departments of standard birth certificates with provision for reporting birth injuries and congenital abnormalities.

**Approved**—Certification of seven group health plans last month marked the beginning of the accrediting program of the Group Health Federation of America. The certified plans, which comply with standards set up by the federation last winter [see *Survey Midmonthly*, March 1940, page 111] are: the Civic Medical Center, Chicago; the Farmers' Union Cooperative Hospital Association, Elk City, Okla.; the Greenbelt Health Association, Greenbelt, Md.; Group Health Association, Washington, D. C.; the Ross-Loos Medical Group, Los Angeles; the Trinity Hospital, Little Rock, Ark.; the Wage Earners' Health Association, St. Louis, Mo. Said Dr. Kingsley Roberts, the federation's chairman, in announcing the certifications: "It is not our purpose to standardize the types of service and the fees. . . . But no plan will be accredited unless it has the facilities and medical staff necessary to serve its subscribers well."

**Costs**—The all-inclusive cost units in group practice medical care plans serving large indiscriminate population groups tend to be lower than those programs for small selected groups with limited services, according to a study prepared by Dr. Franz Goldman of Yale University for the Joint Committee of the Twentieth Century Fund and the Good Will Fund, New York. The study compares the costs and scope of service of five group practice plans—two consumer cooperatives controlled and managed by the potential patients; two group clinics operated by private physicians on a combination fee-for-service and prepayment basis; one plan for industrial employees and their families with all expenses paid by the employer. The report also indicates that those plans with the largest memberships tend to offer the widest variety of services.

**White Cross**—New England's first prepaid group health plan, Health Service, Inc. of Boston [see *Survey Midmonthly*, January 1940, page 18] has a new name, the White Cross, as well as a new director, Charles A. Gates, formerly director of the division of social relations, Massachusetts Association of Personal Finance Companies. The service embraces two plans, one for subscribers who join individually, and one for subscribers who join in groups. Charges for Plan I are slightly higher than for Plan II. In the latter they amount to \$1.25 per month for subscribing member, \$1.25 for husband or wife, \$1.25 for each adult dependent, 50 cents for each dependent

under eighteen years of age. Services under both plans, however, are the same: general practitioner and specialist examination, diagnosis, and care; surgical operations; periodic check-ups; accident and emergency service; clinical and laboratory tests; ambulance service. The first two home calls made to a patient each month involve additional charges of \$1 each if made by day, \$1.50 by night. X-rays will cost from \$1 to \$5; obstetrical and infant care, \$40.

## Concerning Children

A FITTING follow-up to last winter's White House Conference on Children in a Democracy [see *Survey Midmonthly*, February 1940] is "Children in a Depression Decade," November issue of *The Annals*, bi-monthly publication of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. Here top-ranking social workers and authorities in child welfare present an outline of the effects of ten years of depression on child welfare programs throughout the country. "It was the season of Light . . . it was the winter of despair," says Katharine F. Lenroot, chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau, in the introduction, quoting from Dickens in an effort to describe the paradox which in a decade of unprecedented stress and strain brought about raised standards in health protection, child labor regulation, care of dependent, neglected, and delinquent children. Other experts discuss the progress in specific areas in papers grouped under five heads: the changing mathematics of child welfare; the changing social background; the changing family background; changes with some general problems of child welfare; a decade of dealing with special groups. Under a final grouping, "By Way of Perspective," Dr. James S. Plant, director of the Essex County Juvenile Clinic, Newark, N. J. discusses Objectives for Children in a Democratic Society; defines them as tolerance, leadership, capacity for defining values, capacity for growth, conformity to law. With its thirty-one articles, short, pertinent, and non-technical in language, the issue qualifies as an excellent introduction to the child welfare field. Price \$2 from the Academy, 3457 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

**Institutions**—Evidence that good training schools are the exception rather than the rule keeps piling up with each succeeding report from the Osborne Association on its nationwide survey. [See *Survey Midmonthly* April 1939, page 124 and May 1940, page 173.] Volume III of the "Handbook of American Institutions for Juvenile Delinquents," just released, reports on seven institutions in the Pacific coast states—California, Oregon, Washington. Two, California's



**BRYAN J. McENTEGART**

Last month at its annual meeting in Chicago, the National Conference of Catholic Charities elected the Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart as its president. For the past twenty years director of child care for the Catholic Charities in the Diocese of New York, Father McEntegart is a nationally known figure in the child welfare field. He is a member of the advisory committee to the U. S. Children's Bureau and has been a delegate to the last two White House Conferences on Children. He was president of this year's New York State Conference on Social Work.

Preston School of Industry and Washington's State School for Girls, stand out for the excellence of their programs. Strangely enough, California with one of the best schools also has the worst in the group—the Ventura School for Girls, characterized by a repressive, regimented program. The other four schools, measured against the training schools in the preceding studies, are reported as “neither very good nor very bad” though “they fall short of an acceptable standard of training school practice.” The report attributes their shortcomings to the superintendents’ lack of understanding and administrative ability. Price \$1.25 in paper; \$1.75 in cloth from the association, 114 East 30 Street, New York. . . . An independent study of the Boys Industrial School at Lancaster, Ohio, made last year by a staff appointed by the state director of public welfare, revealed conditions based on a philosophy that the first duty of management is punishment; the second, economy. The findings are published as Monograph Number 24 of the Bureau of Educational Research, Ohio State University, Columbus, price \$1.50 in paper; \$2 in cloth. Before publication of the report reorganization of the school was begun and many of the outmoded practices were eliminated. . . . *Children's Institutions*, a new monthly published by the Atkins

Publishing Company, contains descriptions of well-run institutions, discussions of specific institutional problems such as nutrition or a library program, news in the institutional field. Subscriptions are \$3 a year from *Children's Institutions*, 152 West 42 Street, New York.

**New York Truants**—Truancy in New York City has dropped 40 percent in the past decade, according to figures from the Board of Education. The board attributes the decrease to the adoption of a social work program within the attendance bureau, supervised and administered by persons with a case work background. During the decade there was a decided shift in the age of truants. While formerly 72 percent were under fifteen, today the ratio is reversed, 72 percent now being over fifteen. Chief among the reasons for truancy is “dislike” for school, brought on usually by school failures.

**Adoption**—A recent review of state adoption laws by the American Public Welfare Association discloses that only twenty-eight states authorize social investigation before the adoption of children. Twelve make investigation mandatory upon the courts; twelve upon the state welfare departments; four leave it up to judicial discretion. A residence period in the prospective home before adoption is mandatory in twenty-four states. In only three states do the laws clearly require the consent of the parent in all adoption cases except where parental rights already have been terminated by previous court action. About 16,000 children a year are adopted in this country, most of them white; more than half girls. Girls were requested in about two thirds of the 500 applications received last year by the New York State Charities Aid Association from families seeking to adopt a child. The majority asked for children under two years old. . . . In Wisconsin, representatives of various public and private social agencies recently formed an Adoption Council concerned with legislative and interpretative programs. At present the council is preparing a chapter on adoptions for the State Department of Welfare's “Handbook on Child Welfare Problems.”

**Small Refugees**—As soon as the pre-school refugee child overcomes the language difficulty he adjusts to a group as easily as any other child, according to the observations of Margaret B. Pierce, director of the Manhattanville Day Nursery, New York, member agency of the National Association of Day Nurseries. Located in a neighborhood where refugees are concentrated, the Manhattanville Nursery has found that most of the problems brought by refugee children are problems of intake rather than

of the handling of the child, who is too young to be shaken by the uprooting to which his family has been subjected. Refugee parents, under the stress of job-hunting, have swamped the nursery with applications for their children and find it hard to accept the fact that facilities are limited. When the question of refugees first came before the nursery, there was some talk of setting a quota for them. This idea was abandoned in favor of considering each child's application on the same basis as that of any other child—economic or social need. Miss Pierce believes that the nursery's refusal to recognize differences at the very beginning is responsible for its success in integrating the refugee children with the rest of the group.

**In Court**—“Conservation—The Child and Family in Court,” the recently released annual report of the New York City Domestic Relations Court, emphasizes the role of the court in prevention of social breakdown. Brief case histories illustrate the manner in which the court's bureau of adjustment nips the bud of delinquency in many children through case work treatment rather than court action. Other histories illustrate the work of probation officers in effecting rehabilitation where court action has been taken. The whole is a picture of a court far more concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of individuals than with issues of law.

## Group Work

**CONCERN** over the contribution to be made by educational and recreational groups to the defense of American democracy prompted the American Association for the Study of Group Work to set up a committee on an emergency program last summer. The recently issued “Group Leadership in the Present Emergency” summarizes the results of the committee's deliberations thus far. [Price 15 cents, less in quantity from the association, 690 Lexington Avenue, New York.] Not surprising is the conclusion that group work's defense function is largely in the area of morale. The channels are the groups served, the agencies, the communities, national and local emergency planning groups.

In discussing a leader's responsibility to his group the report emphasizes the necessity of training the group to an appreciation of democracy. Other responsibilities include the conservation of freedom of speech through emphasis on “the necessity of responsible utterance”; conservation of perspective under emotional stress; help in adjustment to new disciplines. Agency executives and supervisors, according to the committee, must combat the dangers of relinquishing normal to emergency services while remain-

ing alert to the needs for emergency adaptation. Professional group workers must impress the community with the necessity of maintaining the essential social services, help to relieve tensions between nationality groups; place their specialized knowledge at the service of communities, particularly those closely affected by the industrial and military defense programs. In working with emergency planning groups they must conserve insofar as possible the principles of effective concerted action, of self-discipline and self-control, of free group discussion, of voluntary participation.

Throughout the report the recognition of the necessity of emergency sacrifices in individual and group freedom is coupled with a plea that these be kept at a minimum. The report ends with a call to group workers to "generate faith" in an eventual international organization for peace.

**Development**—A real group work success story is "Democracy in Evolution," by Charles Seldon Thompson. Highlights from a leader's ten-year experience with a club of thirty boys, heterogeneous in race, creed, and intelligence, illustrate the gradual development of social consciousness within a group, many of whose members in the beginning "were engaged in anti-social activities," all of whom today "qualify as acceptable members of society." Copies, printed under the auspices of G. Howland Shaw, are available in a limited amount from Sanford Bates, 9 Lindbergh Place, Crestwood, N. Y.

**Guidance**—The place of a guidance program in a group work agency is carefully scrutinized in "A Primer of Guidance Through Group Work," edited by R. G. Davis and published by the Association Press, 347 Madison Avenue, New York, price 50 cents. Though the authors as a rule focus their discussion around a "Y" program, their reasoning has enough perspective to be applicable in any group work agency. Five papers make up the whole. In the introduction, K. E. Norris of Sir George Williams College, Montreal, points out that there are two types of guidance demanding the attention of a group work agency: guidance *in* and *through* the group work process and guidance *arising from* the group work process. In a discussion of "personality guidance" J. D. M. Griffin of the Canadian National Committee for Mental Hygiene debunks the importance of "types," stresses the need of describing personality in qualitative rather than quantitative terms, gives a simplified description of the causes of maladjustment, offers some suggestions to guide the guidance leader in conducting interviews and planning advice. In a paper outlining the various aspects of a well-rounded guidance program J. S. Kopas of Fenn College, Cleveland, attempts to clear up the

misunderstanding between two schools of thought—that which insists that all guidance work should be conducted by a specialist in guidance and that which believes that it should be conducted by regular staff members or leaders—by pointing out that they refer to two distinct services, one remedial, the other preventive, both of which "have their place in the field of working with people." In the concluding paper Mr. Norris briefly discusses four methods available in a group work agency for studying the individual: general observation of the individual, the interview, the case record, psychological testing.

**Job Descriptions**—Four booklets describing various positions in the YWCA are available from the National Board, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York. The descriptions include clear statements of the duties attached to each job, the essential qualifications, the conditions of work. The positions are those of secretaries for health education, for work with younger girls, for work with industrial women, for work with business and professional women.

**Scouting**—The nationwide movement to bring the "underprivileged" into scout programs, backed by the national headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America, has met with considerable success in Cleveland, according to an announcement from the Greater Cleveland Boy Scout Council. There, scout enrollment in "less chance" areas has increased from slightly over three hundred to more than a thousand in the past four years.

## Professional

**PUBLIC** welfare and protective activities engage 16 percent of all state employees, according to information from the U. S. Bureau of the Census. The proportion varies in different sections of the country. Next to highway construction and maintenance, state hospitals use the largest proportion of state employees, the percentage amounting to 20 percent for the country as a whole. Regional variations show hospital workers comprising 31 percent of state employees in the northeastern states and only 12 percent in southern and western areas.

**In Britain**—"British Social Services," by A. D. K. Owen, recently published in London by Longmans, Green and Company, Ltd., presents a brief history and description of the long time health and welfare services in Great Britain. The services fall into four types: constructive community services including education, public health and medical services, care of the handicapped; forms of subsidized consumption such as hous-

ing; social insurance; social assistance services. The author takes cognizance of the war as an impediment to any immediate progress in the development of these services, particularly in the fields of housing and education. On the other hand, he sees some important social service developments arising out of the war, especially in the organization of welfare facilities for industrial workers.

**For Supervisors**—In "The Supervisor's Job in the Public Agency," recently published by the American Public Welfare Association, Eva Abramson discusses the administrative aspects of the job in terms of specific techniques as well as general principles. The author points to the paradox confronting the public agency supervisor who is "charged with a primary responsibility which emphasizes case work, essentially a process of individualizing," and with the necessity of adopting the point of view of the administrator who must "view her field from the level of mass operations and see her responsibilities in large outline." The monograph goes on to present practical suggestions, based on tested experience, through which these viewpoints can be made to converge. Price 50 cents from the APWA, 1313 East 60 Street, Chicago.

**Periodicals**—Dedicated "toward a better understanding" *Louisiana Welfare*, a quarterly issued by the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare, made its first appearance this fall. Its issues are to be devoted to "an informative discussion of facts and ideas relating to public welfare," through comments, news notes, and special articles. The first issue contained articles on "Public Welfare Objectives" and "Intake and Certification Services." There were also statistics concerning Louisiana's public assistance expenditures and sources of revenue. . . . *Studies in Philosophy and Social Science*, which had its first issue last summer, will be published three times a year by the Institute of Social Research, 429 West 117 Street, New York, price \$1 a copy. The new periodical takes the place of the former *Zeitschrift fuer Sozialforschung* which contained articles in German, French, and English. The institute decided to change the form of the journal, adapting it to American academic life, because "philosophy, art, and science have lost their home in most of Europe, and only in America is it now possible for cultural research to find the conditions without which it must perish."

**Golden Jubilee**—Last month the Indiana Conference on Social Work celebrated its fiftieth anniversary at its annual meeting in Indianapolis. The meeting also marked the completion of the first year of the conference's full time



executive secretary. During the past year the conference has held nine regional meetings with a total registration of more than 2,000. The conference's president for 1941 is Judge Dan Pyle of the St. Joseph Circuit Court, South Bend.

**For Defense**—Leaves of absence are to be granted to all civil service employees of Pennsylvania's Department of Public Assistance who join the United States armed forces "whether through selective service, enlistment, or call to active duty." The department is awaiting a ruling from the state's attorney general before making any "binding regulations," but in the meantime is granting leaves to all men requesting them for this purpose.

**Fellowships** — Economics, history, political science, social psychology, sociology, cultural anthropology, statistics, and social aspects of related disciplines are the fields in which the Social Science Research Council offers post-doctoral research training fellowships, pre-doctoral field fellowships, grants-in-aid of research for the academic year 1941-42. Application blanks must be secured before February 1, 1941. For further information write Laura Barrett at the council, 230 Park Avenue, New York.

## People and Things

**ACHIEVEMENTS** in social work and philanthropy, in the theater and in the field of opera won the 1940 American Woman's Association Award for Eminent Achievement for Mrs. August Belmont, long-time friend of *Survey Associates*. The award was presented in New York last month at the association's annual Friendship Dinner. . . . The Clement Cleveland Medal, annually awarded by the New York City Cancer Committee for outstanding work in cancer control, was presented recently to Dr. James Ewing, director *emeritus* of Memorial Hospital, New York.

**Moving About**—Bart Andress, well-known publicist in the field of social work, has ventured into the business world as an associate of Your Secretary, Inc., New York public relations firm. . . . The Minneapolis Society for the Blind has a new executive secretary in Byron M. Smith, formerly personnel director of the Minnesota Department of Social Security. . . . Merrill Krughoff, until recently director of social studies for the Los Angeles Council of Social Agencies, has become executive secretary of the Council of Social Agencies of Dallas, Tex. . . . The Family Welfare Association of America has just lost two of its regional field secretaries: Rosemary Reynolds of the Great Lakes re-

gion, who is taking some post-graduate social work at Bryn Mawr College; John B. Middleton of the Middle Atlantic region, who has gone to the Family and Children's Bureau of Columbus, Ohio, to become executive secretary.

With work for the 1941 Social Work Yearbook "all over but the shouting," the Russell Sage Foundation has lent its editor, Russell H. Kurtz, to the National Social Work Council for two months. Mr. Kurtz is working with the council's program committee on the formulation of a statement of the problem facing citizens and agencies concerned with the human and social aspects of the national defense program. . . . David W. Armstrong has been granted a leave of absence as managing director of the Worcester (Mass.) Boys Club in order to take over duties as acting executive director of the Boys Clubs of America.

**Elected**—Last month the Massachusetts Conference of Social Work at its annual meeting elected a president, Arthur G. Rotch, state commissioner of public welfare. . . . George Evans of the Pittsburgh Housing Authority has been elected president of the National Association of Housing Officials to fill out the term of C. F. Palmer who resigned when appointed Defense Housing Coordinator. . . . Mrs. J. Horton Ijams recently was elected president of the National Association of Day Nurseries. Mrs. Ijams is president of the Virginia Day Nursery in New York.

**Settlement Workers**—New direction comes to four settlements through recent staff changes: the South Side Community House, Des Moines, which has appointed Marie McCormick, formerly of the Sophie Wright Settlement, Detroit, as its headworker; Friends Neighborhood Guild, Philadelphia, headed by Herbert C. Bergstrom of Bedford Center who now administers both settlements; the University Settlement, Cleveland, which has promoted Herman A. Eigan, former director of boys work, to its directorship to succeed Wilbur A. Joseph, now director of the Brashear Association, Pittsburgh; the School Settlement Association, Brooklyn, where Mary G. Burch has become director succeeding Norma King McLaughlin.

**Dates**—February 5, 1941 is the date set for the fifth National Social Hygiene Day. Emphasis will be placed on guarding our defense forces from the social diseases. . . . "Help the Youngster Around Your Corner" will be the slogan for the "Fight Infantile Paralysis Campaign" to culminate at the President's Birthday Balls on January 30, 1941. Keith Morgan again has been appointed national chairman of the Committee for

the Celebration of the President's Birthday which will conduct the campaign. . . . The next meeting of the Group Health Federation of America will be held in Los Angeles toward the end of June. The exact dates have not yet been set.

**Red Cross Nurses**—Heading the staff of fifty American Nurses at the Red Cross-Harvard Hospital now being established in England [see *Survey Mid-monthly*, October 1940, page 300] are two nurses from the Herman Kiefer Hospital in Detroit, Patience L. Clarke and Gertrude Madley. Miss Clarke has been named chief nurse of the new hospital; Miss Madley, assistant chief nurse. . . . Last month Alta E. Dines, director of the nursing service of New York's Community Service Society, flew to Chile to the Pan-American Red Cross Conference to represent the Nursing Service of the American Red Cross. Miss Dines is chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Red Cross Nursing.

**Public Service**—Called back to active duty in the Army Engineer Corps, Lieut. Col. Brehon B. Somervell has resigned as Work Projects Administrator for New York City. During his four years in the WPA position Colonel Somervell has supervised the spending of nearly a billion dollars. . . . E. S. Draper, former director of the department of regional plan studies of the Tennessee Valley Authority, recently was appointed assistant administrator of the Federal Housing Administration.

## Deaths

**CHRISTINE McLEOD**, for twenty years associated with the Home for the Aged Men of Boston. Miss McLeod was among those Massachusetts social workers whose recommendations helped to embody the theory of individual care into the state's Old Age Assistance Act.

**MRS. HENRY WEIL**, at her home in Goldsboro, N. C. Mrs. Weil, long a valued member of Survey Associates, Inc., was deeply concerned with many aspects of community life and tireless in her efforts in behalf of the welfare of people. Three generations of her family have been identified with the University of North Carolina.

**NATALIA GREENSFELDER**, for the past nine years a part of Illinois' social work, first with the children's division of the Illinois Department of Welfare, later as secretary of the Chicago Chapter of the American Association of Social Workers, more recently as secretary of the Chicago Committee for the Care of European Children.

# Book Reviews

## A Starting Place

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL CASE WORK, by Josephine Strode. Harper. 219 pp. Price \$2.50, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

CHEERFULLY and competently, Miss Strode has rushed in where many a brave soul has hesitated to venture. Undergraduate courses in social case work are generally frowned on by social work educators; textbooks on the case work method have been discouraged. Students acquire their professional preparation by a combination of technical, scientific, and philosophical studies accompanied by gradual induction into practice under specialized supervision. Miss Strode knows all this, but she also knows out of hectic experience that the growing public welfare field is drawing to itself large numbers of young people without special preparation, and that supervisors are hard pressed for introductory "literature" suitable for their guidance. Furthermore, she believes that courses in the principles of social case work have a place in college curricula whether or not students anticipate a career in social work.

And so, in collaboration with her sister, Pauline Strode, a counselor in a New York City highschool, Miss Strode has written "Introduction to Social Case Work," designed to meet the needs as she has seen them of beginning practitioners and their supervisors, of college students and their teachers. The text is notable for its lack of technical terminology and for its simple, lucid style. Each chapter is accompanied by questions for group discussion, suggested activities related to the subject matter, and a list of selected reading. All these as well as the whole plan of study have been tested in Miss Strode's course in social case work at Cornell University.

Miss Strode has organized her material into three parts: In the first, Historical Perspectives, she traces the development of social case work from friendly visiting to social diagnosis, through individual therapy to mass relief, and describes the growth of federal participation in relief and security services. In the second, Social Case Work Practice, she discusses basic considerations of emphasis and definition; the social case study, including criteria for analysis; social resources, their location, use and development; the significance in practice of knowledge from related fields; the case work process as a science of social adjustment. In the third part, Areas of Service, she outlines the "case work approach" in such matters as unemployment relief, child welfare, youth adjust-

ment, assistance to the aged and the blind, and so on.

Miss Strode would be the last one to suggest that the plan of study she presents would turn out a full-panoplied case worker. Her purpose is not to offer a substitute for professional training, or a short-cut to treatment skills. Rather it is to present essential principles, first steps in understanding as a preliminary to growth. The methods of group and individual study which she proposes are based on sound educational theory and are as stimulating as they are realistic and practical. To hard pressed supervisors, aware of their responsibilities for staff development and faced by a paucity of professional literature suitable for busy workers of limited training and experience, this book would seem to be an answer to prayer. GERTRUDE SPRINGER

## The Cheerful View

THE AMERICAN COLLEGES AND THE SOCIAL ORDER, by Robert Lincoln Kelly. Macmillan. 380 pp. Price \$2.50, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

FOR fourteen years president of Earlham College and for twenty years executive director of the Association of American Colleges, Dr. Robert Lincoln Kelly has brought together in this volume the fruits of his long experience, wide contacts, and many studies in the field of liberal arts education in the United States.

The first ten chapters sketch the history of higher education in this country from 1636 to the present time, with some special emphasis on the rise, vicissitudes, and triumphant survival of the liberal arts colleges. The remaining fourteen chapters deal with various current movements and problems, including such topics as academic freedom, publicity and propaganda, the development of the individual student, the improvement of college teaching, experimentation in the colleges, the growing influence of the fine arts, and the relationships between the colleges and the churches and between the colleges and the state.

In one respect Dr. Kelly's book is strikingly different from nearly all the rest of the voluminous current literature dealing with the liberal arts college. Nearly the whole of that literature is controversial; nearly all the authors thereof think the liberal arts college is in a bad way, in danger of early extinction, or at any rate of going to the dogs in some horrifying fashion. They begin by denouncing weaknesses and shortcomings, and usually proceed to more or less drastic programs of reform. Dr. Kelly, on the other hand, is quite happy about

the American college. He thinks it has rendered a notable service in the past, that it is doing a pretty good job right now, and that it can be confidently counted upon to do even better in the future. He notes minor flaws here and there, but thinks these can and will be amended without serious difficulty. In short, this book gives the patient a clean bill of health: no major operation necessary. Which makes it cheerful reading in these days.

New York University MAX MCCONN

## In Favor of Homework

INDUSTRIAL HOMEWORK, by Ruth Enalda Shallcross. Industrial Affairs Publishing Company. 257 pp. Price \$2.75, postpaid by Survey Associates, Inc.

IN spite of an imposing bibliography, and the evidence of great industry on the part of the author, the sum total of this volume is negative. Dr. Shallcross would have us believe: That there is no proof that low wages and child labor are concomitants of industrial homework; that the abolition of homework or its control by minimum wage laws would result in serious unemployment; that those who have opposed homework through the years are a sentimental lot of reformers, or else selfish trade unionists only anxious to get the work inside the factories for themselves; that those who wish to see homework abolished or regulated are not interested in the plight of the homeworker herself or of the "small struggling homework employers" or of those seasonal manufacturers who "cannot afford to meet as continuing fixed charges items such as rent, cost of heating and lighting, which the peak season necessitates."

Dr. Shallcross produces no data to support her contention on wages. Since the publication of her book, the federal courts, not likely to be accused of sentimentality, have handed down a number of consent decrees under the wage-hour law in cases involving homework, which indicate low wages as the rule, rather than the exception. In the case of a Chicago manufacturer of hairpins, the wage restitution of \$103,000 to homeworkers amounted to more than the total wages which had been paid.

On the basis of the economic reasoning running through the book, no improvements in methods of production, no raising of industrial standards by law should be encouraged, because they might cause unemployment among marginal workers. This is an argument frequently advanced in legislative hearings; it is surprising to find it in a 1939 doctor's dissertation. In the same defeatist vein is the comment on the question vexing an inspector who discovers child labor, "whether children are better off working than starving." Does the author think that these are the only alternatives, under our American economy?

Even more surprising is the serious