

# The Social Front

## The Insurances

**E**FFORTS were made by the Social Security Board to reach more than a half million workers with the news that they were eligible to draw their first old age insurance benefits on January 1. The 528,575 annuitants include those who reached the age of sixty-five in the early years of the plan and received lump sum payments; covered workers who reached the retirement age of sixty-five in the last three years but did not file benefit claims; workers who will turn sixty-five in 1940. About 178,000 persons received lump sum payments who, under the amended provisions of the Security Act, are now eligible for monthly benefits for the remainder of their lives. The amount of the lump sum payment will be charged against their benefit payments. John J. Corson, director of the Bureau of Old Age and Survivors Insurance, states that photostatic copies of the wage records of eligible workers have been distributed to the 400 field offices of the board to facilitate the task of informing covered workers that they can "come and get it."

**No Waiver**—Illinois officials announce that workers covered by the state unemployment compensation law cannot waive their rights to benefits. Even though a worker has signed an agreement with his employer excluding him from coverage under the law, he is entitled to benefits if he is partially or wholly jobless, provided he is otherwise eligible. The state agency has received letters from a number of workers who state that they desire to be excluded. Some say that they have signed the requests because their employers asked them to do so.

**New York Proposals**—A drive to secure a "merit rating" amendment to the state unemployment compensation law was launched at the New York State Employers' Conference last month. Other business groups are urging such a change in the law which is opposed by most social insurance experts and civic organizations. The Ives legislative committee on labor and industry is expected to bring in a report on the subject.

**Unemployed Seamen**—The Social Security Board has been requested by Paul V. McNutt, federal security administrator, to complete as soon as possible its studies, now in progress, relating to unemployment compensation for seamen. Mr. McNutt points out that old age

insurance was extended to seamen in the last session of Congress, and that the recent neutrality legislation has emphasized the need for unemployment insurance coverage. In its report of December 30, 1938, the board recommended a federal unemployment compensation measure "covering all maritime employment which cannot be brought under state laws."

**The Churches**—Several months of study by a special committee of the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church have resulted in the recommendation that social security benefits be extended to all the church's lay employees. At a meeting in New York last month the council voted to back some pension provision "for all lay persons retiring at the age of sixty-five from the service of the church" should Congress fail to enact an amendment to the Social Security Act "dealing specifically with the employes of religious or other non-profit agencies." But the trustees of the Church Pension Fund, an organization providing old age and survivors pensions for Episcopal clergymen, have taken issue with the council by reiterating their opposition to the inclusion of church workers within the Social Security Act, on grounds that "the fund might be seriously affected if taxes should be imposed upon the churches."

Down South the Tennessee Baptist Convention has approved a plan devised by the Southern Baptist Convention for old age protection for ministers and church workers. The program provides

maximum monthly payments amounting to half their average salaries for those who have served twenty-five years or more. Those with shorter service records will receive proportionately shorter benefits. Ministers will pay 3 percent of their salaries into a retirement fund. This will be matched by churches, and the state board will add 2 percent. A parallel plan for employes of the state board calls for 3 percent contributions from both employers and workers.

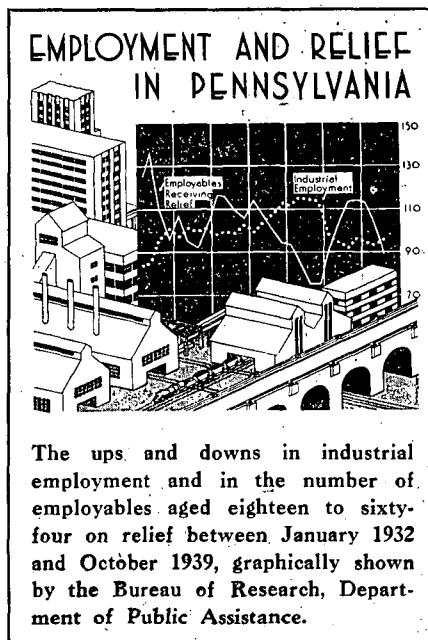
**Record and Report**—Prepared as "a tool for those seeking the facts about social security problems," the revised edition of the selected bibliography prepared by the industrial relations section of the department of economics and social institutions of Princeton University includes current titles on unemployment, old age, and health insurance. Price 25 cents from the university.

## Relief and WPA

**C**ONGRESS'S stipulation that localities must contribute a minimum of 25 percent to the whole cost of WPA projects within a state goes into effect this month but is not expected to cause any drastic upheavals. By the middle of December the local contribution in most states had already risen or surpassed this proportion. At that time there were 1,930,463 persons employed on WPA projects throughout the country, though the federal government had funds available for the employment of two million persons a month to the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1940.

There are now local work relief programs in thirteen states, most of them on the basis of the employe "working out" his relief allowance. Federal officials have urged localities where such projects are operating not to employ people at relief wages for maintenance work which should be a regular function of local government.

**Decentralized**—"Township financing of relief without outside assistance inevitably results in the poor helping the poor," concludes a report of the Wisconsin Public Welfare Department. The report points out that between 1935 and 1939 the number of units administering relief within the state increased from 364 to over 1000 because of the adoption by the counties of the township system of relief. The increase in local units began in 1935, but until 1937 the state reserved the right to insist on a minimum standard of



relief distribution and efficient administration. After 1937, entire responsibility for standards of eligibility and budgets was assumed by local officials. The report refutes the statement that local administration has resulted in appreciable reductions in relief costs by pointing out that such reductions as have occurred can be laid to the door of improved economic conditions, transfers to other assistance programs, or to "reductions of relief standards below a standard of decency and health."

**Single Person Costs**—Relief costs for single persons are way out of proportion to the cost for family cases according to a recent study in *Men of St. Louis*, monthly bulletin of the St. Louis Bureau for Men. In a comparison of costs in eighteen cities it was found that in only seven of them were costs for single persons less than half the costs for a family case, though family cases consisted on an average of from three to four persons. Cincinnati had the highest single person cost ratio. In that city the cost of relief for each single person is 70 percent of the average family case. New York had the highest single person case cost—\$25 per month. The lowest ratio—as well as the lowest cost—was in St. Louis where the \$8.33 per month expended on a single person comes to 38 percent of the cost for an average family case. Says *Men of St. Louis*: "Relief standards for single persons in St. Louis are shockingly inadequate and . . . St. Louis' position at the bottom of the list is due to this fact rather than to efficiency."

**Closed Cases**—The "fluidity characteristic" of relief is the subject of close scrutiny by Samuel E. Martz of the industrial research department of the University of Pennsylvania in "A Study of 311 Cases Closed, Due to Private Employment, by the Philadelphia Department of Public Assistance in March 1938." Case records are broken down in a variety of ways which, when reduced to averages and percentages give some indication of the employment expectancy of both white and Negro relief families.

The study revealed that 24 percent of the jobs secured were part time; 40 percent were in skilled and semi-skilled occupations in the manufacturing and mechanical industries; 23 percent in domestic and personal service. However, 84 percent of the jobs found by Negroes—who had a much smaller representation in the closed cases than in the total relief case load—were in domestic and personal service while only 8 percent of their jobs were in skilled work.

That life is not all roses for those who manage to get off the relief rolls is indicated by the average wage of those individuals who obtained jobs—\$18.22 a week. The average for Negro workers

was only two thirds of that for whites—\$13.84 as compared to \$19.88. The low mark was hit by the women's wages—\$12.50.

**Old and Young**—Arkansas's State Department of Public Welfare reported last month that in November it had expended \$103,562 to aid 17,396 old persons under the old age assistance program; \$32,521 for 19,958 children under aid to dependent children. This averages \$9.56 per oldster; \$2.96 per youngster. General relief was also ran with \$18,016 for 4000 families. . . . In California dependent children receive \$15 per month, half the amount allowed old folks. With the most generous old age allowances of any state, California drops to seventeenth place in generosity to children.

**One in Five**—Public and private welfare agencies in Providence, R. I., recently cooperated in making a study of families receiving assistance within the city. "One Family in Five," by Dorothy W. Myers, published by the Providence Council of Social Agencies, 100 North Main Street, reviews the results of this study. A careful sifting of files revealed that there were 12,525 different households receiving some kind of relief at one time—more than 20 percent of all the families in Providence. Alien haters will be relieved to learn that 90.5 percent of the heads of these families were

citizens and many of the families of the other 9.5 percent had children who were citizens. However, less than half the households consisted of a normal family group; 19 percent—not counting old age assistance recipients—were single persons living alone, a much higher proportion than in the city in general.

A study of the living arrangements of those families consisting of four or more persons showed that two thirds of them were living in four or five rooms, regardless of the size of the family. One seventh had less than one mattress for each two members; two thirds had only one blanket apiece or less.

Fourteen percent of all dependent families in Providence were receiving help from two sources, the most prevalent combination being state unemployment relief and WPA. Thirty-eight percent were dependent on WPA alone; 25 percent on state unemployment relief only; 17 percent on the federal-state categorical programs; one percent on private philanthropy.

**Refunds**—During 1939, New York City's Welfare Department received voluntary refunds amounting to approximately \$300,000. This money was turned in by former recipients of home relief, old age assistance and every other type of aid, who had experienced a change in fortune. Some of it came from those who told of potential resources at the time of application and agreed then to reimburse the department when and if the assets were liquidated. Much of it, however, came from persons who felt a moral obligation to repay the city for helping to tide them over a bad period. Among the latter were not only persons who had struck some unexpected funds, but also those who were living on small salaries, a part of which they carefully saved for periodic repayments to the department.

**Another Bleak Year**—Though need has been demonstrated for a substantial increase in welfare expenditures for the District of Columbia, only \$17,000 has been added to the budget for the 1940-41 fiscal year. The total budget recommended by the District commissioners for all assistance programs is \$7,368,177.

**Growing**—The last two months have witnessed rapid expansion in the food stamp plan for distributing surplus commodities. By the middle of December, twenty-eight localities had been named for inclusion in the plan, while in some places where it was operating its area was extended from cities to whole counties. Announcements from the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation indicated that by January 1, thirty-five areas would have been designated. Requests for inclusion were coming in from localities

**WHO LENDS MONEY TO CONSUMERS**  
(LOAN BALANCES OF CASH LENDING AGENCIES AT CLOSE OF 1937)

Each symbol represents 100 million dollars

How the "loan shark" operates, and rules for distinguishing the legitimate small loan agency from its unsavory competitor are discussed in the latest Public Affairs Pamphlet, "Loan Sharks and Their Victims." Price 10 cents from the Public Affairs Committee, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York.

ties all over the country. Most sweeping was from Pennsylvania, whose secretary of public assistance asked for the program for the whole state.

That the growth of the stamp plan is not likely to be limited to area extension but may also go in the direction of product extension, taking in cotton goods, recently was disclosed by the FSCC. The cotton textile industry has requested the government to include certain articles of clothing and bedding among the products which can be purchased with the blue stamps. This request is backed by the congressional order to spend \$12 to \$14 million of the \$193 million voted for the removal of agricultural surpluses, on finding uses for surplus cotton. Blocking wholehearted enthusiasm on the part of government officials, however, is the fact that in the stamp purchase of the simplest cotton goods only 30 cents of each dollar would go to the farmer for cotton, the rest would go for labor, processing and transportation.

**In Print**—One of the newest of the rapidly multiplying news sheets of state welfare departments is the monthly bulletin of the Arkansas State Department of Public Welfare. The bulletin takes the form of a mimeographed booklet combining the presentation of departmental developments with homespun philosophy. From the department, Little Rock, Ark.

## The Public's Health

**BOSTONIANS** who earn less than \$3500 a year may become members of Health Service, Inc., a group medical plan sponsored by some of the city's prominent laymen including an economist from Tufts College, the manager of the Chamber of Commerce retail board, a union secretary, the regional wage and hour administrator. Members of Medical and Surgical Associates, another non-profit corporation affiliated with Health Service, will act as the service's medical directors and will examine and appoint about 100 doctors to serve the subscribers. Heading Medical and Surgical Associates is Dr. Hugh Cabot who, as a member of the Committee of Physicians (see "Senators, Doctors and National Health," by Michael M. Davis, *Survey Midmonthly*, September 1939) has long been an active protagonist for group medical service.

In the beginning, Health Service doctors will be paid monthly for services rendered and will use their own offices, but the organization hopes to be able eventually to engage a full time staff of physicians and to set up a clinic. Subscriptions will cost \$1.50 per month for single persons, \$2.50 for married couples, 50 cents apiece for children under twenty-one. The maximum charge per family will be \$4. Services will include

complete medical, surgical and preventive care, tests, X-rays; but no hospital service, medicines, nursing, medical appliances, treatment for alcoholics, radium for cancer.

Already the organization has raised \$3000 to get itself going. It also has at its disposal a \$20,000 emergency fund set up by Boston philanthropists. It hopes to have 4000 members, the minimum needed to make it self-supporting, in time for its scheduled opening date, March 1.

**Paradox**—"It seems like a waste of money to feed and clothe and shelter men and women, boys and girls, only to have them contract a disease, and either to die or become so physically disabled that they can never be rehabilitated," asserted Tennessee's commissioner of welfare in pointing out the need for medical care for the underprivileged in that state. A few weeks ago the state rejected the application to practice of three physicians from Vienna on the grounds that they had not received their education in the United States. The physicians had offered to confine their services to rural mountain areas where medical care is practically non-existent.

**About Tb.**—All Negro patients registered with the Provident Hospital Clinic in Chicago—30,000 of them—are to be X-rayed within the next year in a search for unsuspected tuberculosis. The families of those found to have the disease will also be examined. The project is being sponsored by a \$3000 grant from the Julius Rosenwald Fund to the University of Chicago with which the hospital is affiliated. . . . Tuberculosis incidence is twice as high among relief families in New York City as among the general population, according to the results of an analysis of 134,384 chest X-rays taken over a four-year period by the Department of Health in cooperation with the WPA. . . . Sponsoring an educational campaign to create a demand for protective examinations on the part of employers and employees is the American Academy of Pediatrics. According to the academy, approximately 2 percent of the teachers actively engaged in elementary and secondary schools in the United States suffer from tuberculosis. The estimate is based on figures compiled in 1936.

**Trouble**—Latest flare-up in Michigan, fertile source of news items, is between Governor Dickinson and the Crippled Children Commission. The governor has asked the commission to resign because its members think that "a family which cannot afford to pay anything to a doctor should have a higher priced specialist at the expense of the taxpayers." The governor specifically condemned the commission's action in fixing a uniform statewide schedule of physicians' fees for



KATHARINE F. LENROOT

January 2 was just the day after New Year's to most people, but for Katharine F. Lenroot, chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau, it was something special, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the day when, fresh out of Wisconsin, she joined the staff of the bureau, and embarked on a career that has made her one of the outstanding women in public service. Miss Lenroot served for six years under Julia Lathrop, first chief of the bureau, and for thirteen under Grace Abbott. The progress of the bureau, its tradition of concern for "the whole child," is, she says, "in her blood stream."

state cases which, he said, were "higher than local probate judges can get the work done for."

**New York Plans**—Two non-profit medical expense indemnity plans have received go-ahead signals from the New York State Insurance Department under the enabling act passed last June. (See *Survey Midmonthly*, August 1939, page 254.) The new organizations are Medical and Surgical Care, Inc., of Utica and Associated Health Foundation, Inc., of New York City. Medical and Surgical Care will serve residents of twelve upstate New York counties. The annual charge will be \$16.80 for a wage earner, \$13.80 for his spouse and each unmarried dependent between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. Younger dependent children will be insured for \$8.40. The subscriber will be covered for doctor bills up to \$225 a year, the subscriber and one dependent up to \$325, three members of the same family up to \$425. The first \$10 in the illness of any member of the family must be paid by the family.

The Associated Health Foundation will serve residents of four of New York City's boroughs (Richmond excluded). Dues are \$18 a year for an em-



ployed person, \$30 for a married couple where one member is employed, \$7.50 for a dependent child under sixteen, \$12 for a dependent child between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. There is no limitation on the amount that will be paid.

Though these plans received permits under the legislation for indemnity insurance, they are in reality service plans, though not group service plans. Under them payments go to a panel doctor for services rendered rather than to the family for cash expended.

**Social Hygiene Day**—Plans for National Social Hygiene Day, February 1, include release of a new sound motion picture on syphilis called, "With These Weapons." Other plans for this fourth annual observance of a day for stock-taking in the war against syphilis and for the mapping of future strategy, involve more than 5000 community and regional meetings throughout the country. This year attention will be focused on the problem of medical quacks and unscrupulous druggists who diagnose and treat venereal diseases in violation of the law.

**In Print**—Recommendations for amending the Social Security Act to include a health insurance program are included in "Health Insurance," a booklet published by the committee on social welfare of the City Club of New York, 55 West 44 Street, New York. (Price 20 cents.) Prepared by a lay group after an exhaustive inquiry into the subject, the booklet enumerates five essential points: a prepayment plan to cover complete medical care for all sickness other than chronic illness or illness cared for by governmental agencies; disability compensation; protection for the family as well as the wage earner; contributions from employer, employee and the government; free choice of physicians. Says the committee in a letter to the club's board of trustees: "Health, as a social problem, falls very properly within the province of a civic group such as the City Club, not only in its humanitarian aspects but also because we are consumers of medical service and representatives of the community which, in the final analysis, foots the bill for neglected health, risk of communicable disease, labor dissatisfaction and inefficiency, and relief rolls."

## The Blind

**T**RACHOMA practically has disappeared from the schools of New York City, according to Dr. John L. Rice, city health commissioner. Speaking at the recent annual meeting of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Dr. Rice said that in 1909 there were nearly 45,000 trachoma cases in the public schools of the city. The disease has

been wiped out by a campaign in which medical examinations of school children has been an important factor. Other "young" eye disabilities have been reduced by the control of infections at birth and the outlawing of air guns and firecrackers in the city. The twelve eye clinics maintained by the health department are visited annually by many thousand school children, some 25,000 of whom receive prescriptions for glasses.

**Christmas Doings**—A bulletin of the American Foundation for the Blind, 15 West 16 Street, New York, rounds up a wide variety of ways in which agencies concerned with the blind celebrate Christmas for and with their clients. Where Christmas baskets are still the order of the day, more and more effort is evident to distribute them "in the right spirit, at the right time and in the right amount." The Cleveland Society for the Blind reports that its baskets are always wrapped with white paper and gay twine, dressed up with evergreen branches and with green bows for men, red ones for women. "Although the totally blind cannot see the effect, they all know about it, and treasure the evergreen boughs for their fragrance." The Seattle Lighthouse tells of decorating its gifts and baskets with rustling cellophane and tiny bells, and of filling them with Christmas dainties instead of drab staples.

In Chicago, the Blind Service Association includes theater and opera tickets on its Christmas gift list. The Junior Federation of Women's Clubs of the state of Washington sends braille Christmas cards to all of the known blind throughout the state. Many agencies, like the Syracuse Association of Workers for the Blind, use the seasonal interest to stimulate year-round attention to the needs of the sightless. Several, including the New York Association for the Blind, remembering that most people enjoy being on the "giving end" perhaps more than on the "receiving end," and that the blind are people like the rest of us, help them to bring Christmas to others through service to shut-ins or to community organizations.

**Here and There**—In support of his claim that Virginia has "a more complete and well rounded program of services for the blind than can be found elsewhere in this country," L. L. Watts, executive secretary of the Virginia Commission for the Blind, reports that out of the state's 4000 recorded cases of blindness less than 900 are receiving direct assistance. This, he says, "demonstrates the effectiveness" of the program which includes advanced methods of prevention of blindness, sight conservation, vocational training, placement, instruction in homes and schools. It engages twenty-eight professional employees and

numerous volunteers. . . . In two different court cases the Pennsylvania State Department of Public Assistance is having to defend itself against charges of illegal action in administering aid to the blind. The City of Philadelphia has applied to the courts for a writ of mandamus to compel payment of a pension withheld because the applicant is an inmate of a municipal institution. The Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind is bringing suit to recover bonds required illegally, it is alleged, of blind applicants for aid. . . . The proposed amendment to the Kentucky state constitution permitting state aid to needy blind was not advertised by the secretary of state in time to be voted upon at the November election, so the whole matter is stalemated for the time being. Professor Harry Best, of the department of sociology, University of Kentucky, long a protagonist for aid to the blind, considers it doubtful whether the amendment is necessary for the purpose, but since Kentucky lawyers think it is, the fight for the passage of the amendment must go on. Kentucky ranks fourth among the states of the union in its ratio of blind persons to total population.

**Getting Together**—Representatives of some five or six public and private agencies in Indiana recently met at the invitation of the state welfare administrator, Thurman A. Gottschalk, to consider means for coordinating and improving such services for the state's blind as sight saving classes in schools, adequate treatment for needy adults, enlarged work opportunities, better marketing for the products of workshops for the blind, and the development of a permanent council to study and report on local and state programs.

## In the "Chests"

**T**HOSE who feel the need of rose-colored glasses might enjoy a glimpse at the returns for community chest campaigns, incomplete at this writing but sufficient to indicate trends. Aggregate total in the middle of December was \$40,187,565, an increase of nearly 4 percent over the amount raised for the same chests last year. Five chests took in 140 percent of the amount collected a year ago. One chest, that of Vancouver, B.C., had to compete with a war chest that reached 52 percent of last year's community fund. Nevertheless, the welfare federation managed to increase its community chest 18 percent over its size last year.

Not since 1931 have the chest drives come so near to their goal. This year they reached, on an average, 97 percent of goal as compared to 98 percent in that last "nearly good" year. Highest

goal percentage was hit by New Britain, Conn., which went over the top with 15 percent to spare. Next was Jackson, Miss., whose wagon rolled 14 percent beyond its star.

Cleveland, city of relief crises (see page 14), strangely enough led all other cities in "dollar increase," taking in \$141,569 more than last year. Detroit had a large increase—\$93,051—much of which is attributable to the fact that one of the large motor companies opened its doors to employ solicitation for the first time in many years.

Behind this improvement in fund raising obviously was the business upswing which rose nearly 20 percent in volume during the two months of most active chest campaigning. The chests themselves, however, deserve some credit because of their alertness in improving campaign organization in order to take advantage of the business trend.

Of the 149 chests reporting complete returns, seventy-one surpassed last year's pledges and reached or surpassed this year's goal; thirty-seven which did not make their goal reached an amount above what they raised last year. Of the eighty-three chests whose reports are incomplete, thirty-one have already surpassed last year's collection, and twelve of these are beyond their goals. Four communities with new chests raised a total of \$69,847 this year in comparison to the \$33,153 raised last year by separate agencies.

## Against Crime

**M**ORE than one hundred persons in Massachusetts were so concerned with the problem of child delinquency after the publication in 1934 of Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck's "One Thousand Juvenile Delinquents" that they met regularly for two years to try to evolve a solution. Representative of the various child caring fields—the schools, children's placement agencies, correctional institutions, psychiatric services—they conducted an exhaustive inquiry into the possibilities of each field for more actively combating the forces which create juvenile delinquency. The results of their deliberations recently appeared as a booklet, "Juvenile Delinquency in Massachusetts," published by the Massachusetts Child Council, 41 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston. Price 50 cents.

Most flagrant ignoring of modern child welfare theories in Massachusetts, according to the study, is in the legal set-up. There is at present only one bona fide juvenile court in the whole state, and this has jurisdiction only in a part of the city of Boston. In a recent year, over 500 children were detained temporarily in jails, many because of lack of bail.

Each section of the study ends with a summary of recommendations. Among them: establishment of a statewide sys-

tem of juvenile courts where cases would be conducted as chancery proceedings; use of foster homes for detention as well as treatment purposes; establishment of a treatment board to which the court would commit all delinquents; establishment of neighborhood child councils to work with pre-delinquents and gangs. The last chapter of the booklet describes with enthusiasm the workings of one such demonstration council which unfortunately "suffered the inescapable termination that befalls WPA undertakings." While the study is concerned mainly with plans for reducing delinquency in Massachusetts the problem is universal enough to make the resultant suggestions worthy of study in any state.

**Advance**—Second southern state to undertake a system of adult probation is Alabama where a recent constitutional amendment granted the legislature the authority to enact a probation law. Under the act, which immediately followed the amendment, circuit and other judges from whose courts appeals can be taken directly to the supreme court or court of appeals, may apply probation if the jury has not imposed a sentence longer than ten years. Decisions are based on thorough investigations ordered by the judge. Lifting the probation is at the judge's discretion.

Along with probation Alabama is inaugurating a new parole system. Under this no prisoner will be paroled until gainful employment has been found for him or until it is reasonably certain that he will not become a public charge. The plan is administered by the new state Board of Pardons and Paroles. Parolees will be supervised by parole officers. Formerly, in Alabama, parole responsibility rested with the governor and there were no facilities for supervision.

**Training**—Criminology for prisoners is part of the new educational program in one of Indiana's state prisons. Prisoner interest made the subject a topic of discussion in a class in practical citizenship inspired by last year's recommendations of the Prison Industries Reorganization Administration concerning the inclusion of training programs in the state's prisons. Three institutions, the State Prison, the State Farm and the Woman's Prison, aided by the State Department of Welfare and Education, already have adopted the four types of training outlined by the PIRA: academic, industrial and vocational, agricultural, avocational and recreational. Classes in literacy have been established in the State Farm and State Prison where 10 percent of the inmates are illiterate. Brick-laying, auto mechanics, dairy work, poultry raising and cannery work are among the agricultural and vocational projects. Avocational and recreational programs

include handicrafts, newspaper publication, athletics. Among the projects at the Woman's Prison are literacy training; a current events discussion group; a mother's club where health, hygiene, child care, budgeting and food preparation are studied; industrial sewing; choirs and other musical groups; dramatics; handicrafts.

**Defective Criminals**—An institution for mentally defective criminals who are not insane is soon to be opened in Pennsylvania according to a recent announcement by the state administration. The buildings to be used are those at Huntingdon now serving as the Pennsylvania Industrial School. They will be converted to their new purpose as soon as the school's inhabitants can be transferred to an institution now under construction near Harrisburg.

The opening of the prison for mental defectives will climax a long struggle within the state to provide for permanent segregation of feeble-minded criminals and criminals who are both feeble-minded and psychopathic. Sixteen years ago the state acquired the site for such a purpose, but a building never appeared. Says the *PCA Herald*, organ of the Public Charities Association, of the new arrangement: "It will make it impossible for them (crimi-



DAVID DRESSLER

"This picture really doesn't look like me," says David Dressler, new executive director of the New York State Division of Parole. But the members of the parole division need no help to recognize their new director who has been with them since 1931, serving successively as senior parole officer, case supervisor and chief parole officer. In his present position, Mr. Dressler, who has a string of degrees culminating in a Ph.D. from New York University, succeeds Frederick A. Moran, recently named to the State Parole Board.

nal defectives) to return to our communities again to continue their depredations. . . . They are not eligible for the Fairview State Hospital for the criminal insane because they are not insane. They are not cases for ordinary hospitals for the mentally ill because they are criminal, nor are they suitable for homes for the feeble-minded for the same reason. They should not remain in our state or county prisons where they can be readily paroled."

**Prison Industry**—Silk is soon to be produced in the prisons of Alabama if plans now underway are carried through. Already a contract has been signed by the state with a New York firm which will furnish certified silkworm eggs. Alabama will devote twenty acres to the cultivation of 20,000 mulberry trees, a permanent banquet for the worms. Several attempts have been made in the past to set up silk production as a prison industry but all were soon abandoned. In the early nineteenth century two New York prisons ventured into the business, Auburn and Mt. Pleasant (now Sing Sing). Auburn actually produced sewing silk for five years, but the enterprise was financially a failure.

## Community Affairs

**REPEAL** of the "socially distasteful" alien restrictions in Pennsylvania's public assistance law (see *Survey Monthly*, October 1939, page 316) is the stated objective of the coordinating committee on aliens recently formed by the Federation of Social Agencies in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. More immediate purpose of the committee is to deal with emergencies expected to arise after January 1, when aliens who had not filed their declarations of intention before that date could no longer apply for public assistance. The committee also is gathering statistics on the number of aliens who apply to private agencies because of the effects of the law. Up to the first of the year it devoted most of its time to seeing that all aliens were aware of the law and to assisting them in filing their declarations.

**Objectives**—When the publicity department of the Cleveland Community Fund requested the interpretation committee of the Welfare Federation to furnish it statements of agency objectives, the result was a general clearing of the air by member agencies so that they as well as other agencies could get a good view of their *raison d'être*. What they saw is published in a mimeographed booklet, "A Statement of Objectives of Community Fund Agencies in the Case Work Council," containing concise explanations of the workings of the thirteen agencies concerned. Each statement an-

nounces exactly what the agency hopes to achieve, its method of working, its limitations, its expression of unmet needs "for once without relation to finances." The statements were not prepared at the drop of the hat but were carefully worked out in a series of meetings by representatives of the agencies with the committee on interpretation and its sub-committees. "Perhaps," says the introduction to the booklet, "most important of all; the meetings offered an opportunity to the participants to view their field of social work in its entirety and to appreciate its traditions, aims, accomplishments, and shortcomings." Other more tangible values have been gleaned from the experience by those agencies which have dressed up their statements with print and photographs and distributed them to interested individuals.

**Public Opinion**—That publicity still has a big job in clearing out the foggy in the public's mind concerning voluntary welfare agencies and their unified fund raising activities is indicated by the results of two recent public opinion surveys. Prior to its fall campaign the United Charities in Philadelphia called in a commercial firm which assumed the cost of discovering just what Philadelphians know and think of the city's philanthropic set-up. The firm made 681 calls on persons representing a cross section of the city's population. Earlier in the year there was published, "The Public and the Community Chest," by Robert Irving Diller, a voluminous report of the results of a similar survey in Akron, Ohio, compiled from 1249 questionnaires, either sent out through the mails or delivered through personal calls.

Both the Philadelphia and Akron surveys made some startling discoveries of the ignorance of the man-in-the-street so far as his community services are concerned. In Akron those who answered the questions were on the whole more well-informed than those in Philadelphia, but this may be attributable partly to the fact that interested individuals are more apt to return written questionnaires than disinterested persons.

In Philadelphia only one sixth of those questioned knew that the campaign's fund collecting was done by volunteers; in Akron many persons confused private and public welfare agencies and expressed the opinion that chest fund distribution was controlled by politicians. Charges of discrimination in distribution were more prevalent in Philadelphia where the number of those who believed that the money was distributed fairly was nearly equaled by the number of those who replied that they did not know whether it was or not. Discrimination charges were usually on the basis of race or religion. In Akron, where the questionnaire contained a space for

"known cases of discrimination," charges were rare.

Probably the most unexpected result in the Philadelphia opinion survey was the expression of preference for donating to single charities, 342 persons preferring the single charity method of contributing to the 255 who preferred the united campaign. Eighty-four did not care. In Akron many protests were registered against the use of funds for "character building" agencies, comments indicating that, in John Q.'s mind, giving is still closely associated with old fashioned "charity."

**Negro Welfare**—The standing committee on Negro welfare, formed last spring by New York City's Welfare Council, recently set forth a list of immediate activities through which it will strive to improve Negro life in the city. These include action for wider use of community centers in public schools in Negro neighborhoods; investigation of charges of racial discrimination by public officials in planning school programs; integration of voluntary non-profit employment services; improvement of social services for adolescents; better health education and facilities in Negro sections.

**In Print**—"Community Organization," published by the Welfare Council of New York City, is the report presented at the National Conference of Social Work last June of discussion groups in six cities formed within the community organization section of the conference. The report, compiled by Robert P. Lane, Mary Clarke Burnett and Arthur Dunham, presents those points on which the groups had come to agreement concerning the objectives of community organization along with recommendations for further thought and study. Price 10 cents (75 cents for ten) from the council, 44 East 23 Street, New York. . . . "Social Welfare in Denver—Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow," published by the Denver Council of Social Agencies is a digest of the proceedings of the second citywide conference of social welfare held last spring in Denver. It includes many of the papers given at the conference—the first since 1928—as well as charts and tables illustrating Denver's problems prepared by the council's bureau of social research. From the council, Denver, Colo.

## Youth and Jobs

**A**N increase in public expenditure for the employment of the four million jobless young people of the country was recommended by the conference of business, education and labor leaders which met at the call of Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt in Washington on December 13 and 14. Pointing



out that a third of the nation's youth between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five is out of school and unable to secure employment, the conference urged that "immediate and vigorous action is necessary if very serious consequences to the nation are to be avoided." The conference felt that so far as possible employment should be provided through business, industry and agriculture, but "to the extent to which private enterprise does not provide jobs for youth who are out of school, unemployed, and seeking work, public employment should be provided." Several youth groups have taken sharp issue with the conference finding that suitable public employment opportunities could be provided at a cost of \$450 a year for each young person employed, holding that this expenditure would not make possible variation in project, adequate material and supervision or anything above a "relief wage." The conference recommended an investigation by a committee of the conference as basis for an enlarged NYA program.

**Novel Contest**—An award of \$1000 will be made to the author of the best novel dealing with American youth submitted to Modern Age Books before May 1. The money is being donated by the Kaufmann Department Stores, Pittsburgh, Pa., to "facilitate the work of younger novelists who are attempting to record the impact of social forces on their generation." For further information address the editor, Modern Age Books, 432 Fourth Avenue, New York.

**NYA Conferences**—A series of conferences are being held by the National Youth Administration this winter in strategic centers in every state to stimulate the employment of youth in private industry. Some states—notably Wyoming—are organizing such meetings in each county. Others, like Pennsylvania and Missouri, plan a continuing series of conferences, meeting in towns and smaller cities rather than in the big centers. The public employment service, the Rotary Clubs and other organizations are cooperating in this effort to find openings for jobless youth.

**Philadelphia Youth**—Between 1931 and 1937, unemployment among youth has been more severe than for older workers in Philadelphia, with a third of employable young people in that city unable to secure jobs. Unemployment has fallen with special hardship on new workers (those without occupational experience) who constituted one percent of the employable population in 1931, as compared with 6 percent in 1937. From 12 to 17 percent of the workers placed by the State Employment Service in these years were under twenty-five years of age, less than the proportion of this

age group in the total number of job applicants. The combined efforts of the governmental agencies in 1936 provided work for only about 10 percent of the estimated number of unemployed young persons in Philadelphia. These are some of the striking facts brought together and discussed by Samuel E. Martz in "Employment Problems of Youth in Philadelphia, 1931-1937," a study recently completed for the Pennsylvania School of Social Work.

## Schools and Education

**T**HE dismissal of Dr. Moyer S. Fleisher, professor of bacteriology at St. Louis University, is condemned as unjust by the investigating committee appointed by the American Association of University Professors, in a report published in that organization's December *Bulletin*. The controversy arose over a meeting on behalf of Loyalist Spain, of which Dr. Fleisher was one of the sponsors. The report makes clear that the chief point at issue was not Dr. Fleisher's sympathy with the Loyalist cause, but the fact that the meeting was addressed by a Father Michael O'Flanagan, advertised as an Irish Catholic priest in good standing, but actually an "unfrocked" priest who "had used every opportunity to speak offensively of the Catholic church." St. Louis University is a Jesuit institution. After detailing the course of the difficulty from the time of this incident to Dr. Fleisher's dismissal, eighteen months later, the report concluded that the professor's conduct did not justify dismissal, that the decision to take this drastic action was reached by President Crimmins "only after constant pressure on him from outside sources," and that Dr. Fleisher was not only denied a hearing, but "his request for one was strongly disapproved of by the administration as incompatible with the organizational pattern of the university."

**Merger**—A plan for merging the Lincoln School and Horace Mann School of Teachers College, Columbia University, is proposed in a report prepared for a committee of Lincoln School parents by Luther H. Gulick, director of the Institute of Public Administration. Lincoln, internationally known as a "progressive" school, is the second experimental wing of Teachers College to face liquidation as the result of an economy drive. It was announced last spring that the current year would be the last for New College, which has pioneered in trying to devise new and freer methods of teacher training. Horace Mann and Lincoln are each reported to have deficits, that of the former amounting to nearly \$250,000, of the latter to less than \$90,000, the difference being due, the report states, to

the income from a \$3 million endowment given to Lincoln by the General Education Board. The proposed program would merge the plants and resources of the two schools, develop a fourteen-year program, and by the consolidation effect economies which would make possible a student cost of \$350 per pupil, \$150 less than the present cost at Lincoln. The report suggests September, 1941, as the date of the merger. The parents' committee recommended the acceptance of the report on the basis of Parent-Teacher Association policy at Lincoln. Many parents of Lincoln School pupils and friends of the school are protesting the plan, holding that the analysis of costs is in error at important points, and insisting that the proposal means the defeat of the principles and program on which Lincoln was founded.

**Exploration**—The desirability of preparing teaching materials or facilitating the distribution of materials relating to the courses and methods of propaganda, backgrounds of the war, American neutrality, means of effecting world peace, will be explored in a study directed by Prof. Francis J. Brown of New York University. The study is made possible by a grant to the American Council on Education, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C., to explore the needs of American educational institutions in the present international crisis.

**Negro Teachers**—A federal judge has issued an injunction restraining the board of education of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, from paying lower salaries to Negro teachers than to white solely because of race or color. The suit, which was backed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was brought by Walter Mills, principal of a five-teacher school at Camp Parole, Md. Mr. Mills' salary is \$1050 a year, while the county pays white principals of equal training, experience and position \$1800 a year. The N.A.A.C.P. states that the decision means that Negro teachers in Anne Arundel County will receive about \$45,000 more in salaries than they have been receiving.

**The Degree Problem**—"All over the country teaching and other vacancies are being filled by degrees, not men or women," declares Frederick P. Keppel, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York in his annual report. Mr. Keppel holds that "the creation of academic degrees has increased to a preposterous point," in this country, pointing out that in 1935-6, colleges and universities awarded 163 kinds of degrees, creating 143,000 bachelors, 18,000 masters and 2700 doctors. "Only in a few strong professions," he adds, "notably medicine and law, and the older branches of engineering, can it be said that the pos-

session of a degree today necessarily means anything." . . . Another important annual report in the field of education, that of Nicholas Murray Butler, head of Columbia University, also deplores the overemphasis on degrees as such in this country today. President Butler points to the negative correlation between research and teaching ability, holding that in many instances the meticulous and detailed scholarship required for obtaining a doctor's degree unfits a teacher for presenting the subject matter of his field to immature minds. Neither educator proposes a solution for the problem he presents.

**The Value of College**—The economic worth of college education to women (leaving out of consideration its cultural aspects) is questioned in a report issued jointly by the American Association of University Women and the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor. The report, covering the 1925-35 decade, states that the investment of time and money as reflected by earnings does not seem justified except for women who have secured a doctor's degree. The report is based on answers to a questionnaire returned by about half the employable members of the A.A.U.W. Of the women who have their doctorates, 55 percent have reached annual earnings of \$3000 a year or more; 33 percent between \$3000 and \$4000; 22 percent over \$4000. These were the highest salaried divisions reporting. Only 17 percent with master's degree, or with that degree and further training, had reached \$4000 or better; only 8 percent of those with bachelors' degrees alone, or that degree plus further training, had reached this level. Susan Kingsbury, professor *emeritus* of social economy at Bryn Mawr, chairman in charge of the study, also reported discrimination in the employment of women because of sex or marital status.

## Volunteers

**I**F it were possible to count all the volunteers in social work, the total might prove to be as much of a surprise to the volunteers themselves as to their professional colleagues. Last year, for example, more than 20,000 Junior League members were engaged in some form of unpaid social and community work. In Detroit, "units of volunteer service" rendered to a hundred agencies by men and women as committee and board members and in case work, group work and various other service activities, added up in a single recent month to 20,330. The Children's Hospital of Detroit alone has as many as ninety volunteers under the direction of Edith R. Hamilton. These volunteers are assigned to "staff members who request them and are prepared to give them adequate supervision."

**Training Programs**—Although the Girl Scouts always have emphasized the importance of training their leaders, 99 percent of whom are volunteers, experimentation with a new activities program has impelled them to further efforts in this direction with conferences, study courses, round tables and institutes adapted to the needs of council and committee members. Printed study material includes suggestions for organizing troops, administering and financing scouting, and other related matters. "One week training courses," says Alice Wagner, adviser on council membership of the personnel division of the national headquarters, "are growing steadily in popularity among council members." . . . The YWCA, another agency that has long had a program for training its board and committee members, group leaders and other volunteer workers, reached seventy-one associations last year with its volunteer leadership institutes and attracted 1688 individual participants.

**At the Red Cross**—At the annual two-day meeting of the National Committee on Volunteer Service of the American Red Cross, Mabel Boardman, national director of volunteer service, announced two new training courses for volunteer Red Cross workers, one for Nurses' Aides for staffs serving in civilian hospitals, with registered nurses of the Red Cross Nursing Service as consultants; the other for the Gray Ladies, whose work in various types of recreational therapy is in the future to be utilized in civilian as well as military hospitals. Miss Boardman also reported that large quantities of surgical dressings and warm garments made by women volunteers in American Red Cross chapters have already been shipped for the European war refugees, and others will follow as soon as cargo space can be obtained. Most of the knitted sweaters, socks, hospital operating gowns, convalescent robes, dresses, coats, layettes, will go to Poland and Finland. Samples of these garments were inspected with interest by members of the committee from all over the nation, including two honorary vice-presidents, Mrs. William Howard Taft and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson.

**Special Field**—An indication of the way agencies are seeking to develop the potentialities of volunteers is seen in the series of six discussion meetings for volunteers sponsored recently by the Greater New York Council of Agencies for the Blind with McEnnis Moore of the American Foundation for the Blind as chairman of the organizing committee. Affiliated with the council are twelve local, four state and three national organizations in the field of blindness and its prevention. Topics of discussion included the role of the volunteer in social work in general and in work with the

blind in particular; service with public and private agencies and, most important, do's and don'ts for the volunteer from the standpoint of sightless Mary Doe. These meetings proved so stimulating that a second series is contemplated in New York with the probability that national agencies will promote similar conferences in other cities.

**Stick-To-Itiveness**—Last year ninety-six volunteer workers gave at least two half days or one full day a week at the New York Hospital, New York, according to Beatrice Meyer, secretary of volunteers. The volunteers, who had to promise service for at least three months in order to receive an assignment, worked as clinical or clerical aids in out-patient units; helped in the library service; entertained youngsters, singly or in groups, in the children's clinic playroom. They were assigned as aids in certain wards; as typists, laboratory assistants; technicians. Occasionally volunteers undertook an experimental service not provided for in the hospital budget in order to determine its practicability. A tea for volunteers and ex-volunteers is given every year, with an annual award of service pins and bars for service after the first year. About fifty of last year's corps of volunteers are back on the job this season. Upwards of twenty of them stayed at their posts right through the summer.

**Court Workers**—Twenty-one volunteer members of the social service bureau of the magistrates' courts of New York City stand ready, when a magistrate requests it, to interview complainant, defendant or witness in a case, to clarify situations and bring into focus facts the magistrate may need in making his decision. They refer individuals to those agencies which can best help them solve their personal problems and, in exceptional cases, give direct financial aid to "tide over" an emergency. These women are all twenty-three years of age or over, college graduates, with records of sustained experience in volunteer or professional work. One of them is a graduate of the New York School of Social Work; another has been admitted to the bar. They are placed on three months' probation, at the end of which period the assignment may be terminated by either the bureau or the volunteer. During the first six weeks each volunteer becomes the "trainee" of an experienced worker and devotes all of her time to observation and study. A. Y. Yeghenian, director of the bureau, hopes that the work of the bureau will eventually become an integral part of the city court system.

**Service Ratings**—A marked trend towards greater selectivity of volunteer workers and more discrimination in rating them is illustrated in the technique



of Mrs. Albert Foreman, chairman of the Volunteer Placement Bureau of the women's division of the New York and Brooklyn federations for support of Jewish charities. Of 109 applicants interviewed during a recent period, seven were not placed because they were "unsatisfactory people," one because a "suitable job" could not be found. Of those who served long enough to earn a rating in the bi-monthly check-up Mrs. Foreman requests from the agencies to which she assigns workers, more than half were reported excellent, more than a third fair, only a sprinkling poor. The volunteers serve as clinic and floor secretaries in hospitals, group leaders and teachers in settlement houses, readers at the Guild for the Blind, play leaders at the Home for Hebrew Infants. They do case histories for children's courts, research work for the Jewish Board of Guardians, testing at the Vocational Adjustment Bureau. Mrs. Foreman believes that the effectiveness of a placement bureau's service is dependent upon the care with which applicants are interviewed and an understanding all around of the nature and content of the job offered by the agency.

## Professional

**I**T no longer is safe, at least not in Pennsylvania, to talk about "the" social worker, "she." A recent check of the 3690 visitors—"And if we aren't social workers, what are we?"—on the job of public assistance in the state's sixty-seven counties reveals that 1395 of them are "he's," with the number showing a rising trend. This disclosure led naturally to the American Association of Social Workers and an inquiry on how its membership lines up in "the battle of the sexes." Here the women hold their ground, definitely. In October 1938, when the last check by sexes was made, the men trailed far behind, numbering only 1589 out of a total of 10,782—to speak statistically, 14.7 percent. Although the membership since has risen to 11,258, the proportion of men, says the association, probably is about the same. "Never in history" have they accounted for more than 16 percent of the membership.

**Broke**—Lack of funds has forced liquidation of the Council on Interstate Migration, formed a little over a year ago. (See *Survey Midmonthly*, November 1938, page 358.) Most of the funds to carry on the work of the Committee on Care of Transient and Homeless, out of which the council grew, came from the late Tracy MacGregor. Since Mr. MacGregor's death, income for the work has been steadily decreasing. Two straws blown from the U. S. government succeeded in breaking the camel's back. The first was a ruling by the Bureau of In-

ternal Revenue that gifts made to the council were not deductible from income tax returns because a "substantial part" of its activities were intended to influence legislation. The second was a notification that the council was responsible, under the Social Security Act, for payroll taxes and penalties not only for itself but for its predecessor, the Committee on Transient and Homeless.

In an effort to salvage some of its program the council has offered its assets to the National Travelers Aid Association for such use as that agency's policies will allow. The NTAA has agreed to take over the council's files and "to undertake a study of its ability to keep alive the spirit, if not the body, of the council."

Last accomplishment of the council was the preparation of a manuscript by its executive secretary, Philip E. Ryan, "Migration and Social Welfare" to be published in the near future by the Russell Sage Foundation.

**Institutional Training**—Ten students are enrolled in the new institutional training course inaugurated last fall at Western Reserve's School of Applied Social Sciences. Aim of the two-year course is to provide a well-rounded educational experience in the field of child welfare with specialization in institutional work. Case work, group work and institutional administration are emphasized in the curriculum. The plan for field work includes one year in a case work agency and one in an institution. For the latter there are available institutions for dependent, neglected, handicapped and delinquent children, a psychiatric study home for neurotic and delinquent children, day nurseries and institutions for adolescents in need of special training and vocational preparation.

**Cooperation**—The increasing need of qualified social workers in the state's welfare set-up prompted West Virginia public welfare authorities and the state university to get together to plan a program for professional training. The result is the University of West Virginia's new department of social administration which opened last September. The department offers a one-year graduate curriculum including thirty hours of academic work plus field work in public agencies dealing with family case work, child welfare or probation. Among the 1939-40 students are five members of the county staffs of the State Department of Public Assistance who were allotted scholarships by the department.

**In-Service Training**—Courses for probation and parole officers and penal and correctional workers in Pennsylvania were opened this month in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia by the Public Service



FRANK Z. GLICK

With a brand new doctorate from the Chicago Graduate School of Social Service Administration Frank Z. Glick has assumed directorship of the Graduate School of Social Work of the University of Nebraska. While working for the degree Dr. Glick held a position in the bureau of public assistance of the Social Security Board and also taught courses at the Chicago school. He was formerly executive secretary of the Illinois State Conference of Social Work and associate executive of the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission.

Institute of the State Department of Instruction. There are no fees. Instruction is by men experienced in administration in probation, parole and correctional work. The program, financed in part by means of federal funds through the George Dean Act, is under the general supervision of a technical advisory committee, composed of persons who work closely with these specialized fields. . . . The eighth annual schedule in the institutes on probation conducted by the New York City court of general sessions began last month. The bi-weekly sessions are open to officers of other departments, parole officers and professional social workers.

**Medical Social Work**—Only two state welfare departments, those of Louisiana and Oregon, have on their staffs medical social workers whose functions are entirely consultatory and supervisory, according to Marjorie L. Bordelon, medical social consultant for the Louisiana State Department of Public Welfare. In Louisiana, where the medical program for the indigent is one of the most extensive in the country [see *Survey Midmonthly*, June 1939, page 189] the medical social consultant's energies are directed toward organizing a complete medical social service program. Besides working out the department's

policies and procedures for meeting problems of a medical social nature, the consultant visits the parishes to assist in planning for specific cases, to explain to the local staff the social implications of diseases and the importance of securing medical data, to interpret medical social policies to doctors and other groups.

**Branches**—The second branch office of the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany established in the last two years recently opened in Troy, N. Y. The other is at Schenectady. Administration of these offices remains centralized at Albany.

**Publication**—The New York City Civil Service Commission is sponsoring the publication of a new periodical, *Public Personnel Quarterly*. According to the commission, the magazine "will publish articles concerned with practical phases of public personnel administration and will also present digests of significant books, monographs, and journal and magazine articles."

**For Study**—Initiated a year ago on an experimental basis by the group work section of the California Conference of Social Work, the California Council on Group Work has been transformed into a permanent organization. Its purpose is to promote the study of group work through local study groups throughout the state. Membership is opened to all interested in group work.

## People and Things

**ENRICHED** by \$5 million is the Murry and Leonie Guggenheim Foundation through a bequest of Murry Guggenheim, recently deceased New York philanthropist. Incorporated in 1929 by Mr. Guggenheim and his wife, the foundation has as its purpose "the promotion, through charitable and benevolent activities, of the well-being of mankind throughout the world." Under the terms of Mr. Guggenheim's will, the funds will go towards the support of the dental clinic built and maintained by the foundation for the oral care of the children of Greater New York.

**Memorial**—A recent issue of *The Child*, monthly publication of the U. S. Children's Bureau, was given over to the life and works of the late C. C. Carstens. The issue closely parallels the form of last summer's number in memory of Grace Abbott. (See *Survey Midmonthly*, October 1939, page 322.) Authors are all persons prominent in the child welfare and institutional fields.

**Discussions**—Beginning with the new term (January 5) the New School for Social Research, 66 West 12 Street, New

York, is offering a series of five Friday evening discussions of Current Issues in Social Work. Leonard W. Mayo, assistant executive director of the New York City Welfare Council, is acting as chairman. Speakers include: Dorothy Kahn, Stanley P. Davies, Saul B. Alinsky, Jerome H. Bentley, Owen R. Lovejoy, Winthrop D. Lane, Richard A. McGee, James P. Murphy, Arthur Dunham, and Elizabeth H. Webster. The fee for the series, \$4.25; single admissions, \$1.

**New Jobs**—Two new regional directors have been named for the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation: Kris P. Bemis and James S. Allen, both of whom have been working for the FSCC in other capacities for several months. . . . Aneita Tidball, formerly executive secretary of the Seattle Travelers Aid Society, this month assumes duties in a similar capacity at the Chicago's Travelers Aid where she succeeds Madeline L. MacGregor, who recently resigned to join the Community Service Society in New York. . . . The New Jersey Welfare Council has a new executive secretary in Gerald B. Bate, former director of welfare for Plainfield, N. J. . . . Brigadier General Frank D. Henderson, Ohio's first relief director, succeeds James C. Woodward as warden of the Ohio Penitentiary at Columbus. . . . Recently appointed as associate general secretary of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America was Roswell P. Barnes, for the past three years associate secretary of the council's department of international justice and goodwill. . . . Muriel Jean McLaughlin, formerly with the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic, is now case work director for the Children's Service Bureau in Pittsburgh. . . . Philip S. Akre is the new North Atlantic regional field secretary of the Family Welfare Association of America. Mr. Akre came to his new post from the Plainfield (N. J.) Charity Organization Society where he was general secretary.

**Won**—The new post of director of social work in the Minneapolis Board of Public Welfare was won through civil service examination by M. Leo Bohanon, young Negro social worker, graduate of the University of Minnesota, who for a number of years has been director of boys' and men's activities at Phyllis Wheatley House, Minneapolis. Mr. Bohanon directs a staff of 450 workers.

**Meetings**—The fourth annual conference of the American Committee for the Protection of Foreign Born will be held in Washington, March 2-3, Ernest Hemingway and William Allan Neilson are co-chairmen of the sponsoring committee. . . . Next American Prison Congress, annual meeting of the American Prison Association, will be held October 21-25

in Cincinnati, setting of the first Prison Congress in 1870. . . . The seventeenth annual meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, an organization for the study and treatment of behavior and its disorders, will be held in Boston, February 22-24.

**New Buildings**—A Young Men's Christian Association for Negroes, built by a Jewish manufacturer in a southern city, was dedicated last month. The building has been constructed in Greensboro, N. C., through the \$65,000 gift of Caesar Cone, II. Other Ys for Negroes now under construction in the East are at Wilmington, Del., and Princeton, N. J. The Wilmington building represents the \$350,000 gift of H. Fletcher Brown, Wilmington banker; the Princeton building is a community project financed by local contributions. Both the Wilmington and the Princeton Ys will be coeducational, the buildings divided into YMCAs and YWCAs with common athletic and cultural facilities. The Wilmington Y has been endowed with \$360,000, also the gift of Mr. Brown.

## A Good Citizen

**DEATH** came in early December to Max Senior at the age of seventy-seven—a Cincinnati citizen who in mid-life retired from his successful business operations to throw himself into activities which counted tellingly for his community, his race and his times. He was the key figure in uniting the Jewish charities of Cincinnati during the heavy period of immigration—the federation principle that was to range far. He pioneered in promoting the Cincinnati park system; threw himself into the tuberculosis movement; headed the Shoemaker Clinic for the promotion of Negro health and welfare; and as head of the Model Homes Company carried out one of the first practical attempts in low cost housing. This enterprise provided accommodations largely, but not exclusively, for Negroes. Mothers pensions, old age pensions, unemployment insurance, education, overseas relief in Poland in the post-war years, and the constructive aspects of the Russian revolution registered the span of the interests that engaged him. As the *Cincinnati Inquirer* put it, he was a lifelong resident "whose whole strength was at the service of the community, who brought to philanthropy an alert intelligence and a generous spirit. His . . . kindness was wedded to a clear social vision." He never relinquished his philanthropic activities, though he came to regard them as steps toward a more "just distribution of the riches of the earth and the ever increasing products of its machinery."

Survey Associates was fortunate in such a member for twenty-six years.

# Readers Write

## Heart Warmer

TO THE EDITOR: The staff in this county appreciates the help that *Survey Mid-monthly* gives us in our in-service training and we take this opportunity to thank you for the chance you give us to keep posted on current trends and to learn of the experience of others—especially in the case work, public assistance field.

IRENE M. POVELONES  
Moundsville, W. Va.

Enclosed with this heart warmer were eight staff subscriptions.—Ed.

## Postscript to Christmas

TO THE EDITOR: Along in November our annual Christmas committee, representing family and children's agencies, came together under the auspices of the Council of Social Agencies. There were apologies for the late start and many regrets that certain things could not be done in the short time available. Next year we must get started earlier, perhaps in July, so we could have a really worthwhile plan. (How does one get the Christmas spirit in July?) Some people proposed a committee to vamp a year-round program for meeting special needs of families on public relief and children in foster homes. Would this be a Christmas committee or something else needing broader and deeper community planning? Who needed Christmas most? Could the community provide Christmas for all children whose parents were unable to do so? If not for all, did those families on public relief need it more than those under the care of private agencies? Could you give Christmas to some families in a large public agency, set up to serve with equal justice, and not to all? How can we get churches and clubs to clear? How be sure they will give intelligently? These and many other questions flew back and forth across the table at the highly conversational committee meetings.

I began to wonder! Where did all this concern for wise giving spring from? I searched my mind to remember one complaint from a family who received too many or "unwise" gifts. I recalled stories about families who, before all this planning, received six or seven baskets. Perhaps social workers are really concerned that this means that other families get none, but some of us may just hate to see the most aggressive ones get so much. If the things are not wasted and people able and willing to give want to do so, why not? Somehow our feeling on this smacks of that period of case work which now we term "paternalistic."

Why do we need to assume responsibility for protecting the family that doesn't want to be protected? Maybe the giver doesn't want to be protected either. Certainly he puts up a good deal of resistance to our efforts to do so.

What of this question of baskets and cash? Many of us have a sense of failure because we can't educate the public to give cash instead of baskets. We know that parents like to buy gifts themselves for their children, yet I can't ever remember a Christmas letter asking for money to buy gifts. The letters ask for baskets, clothing, toys, food. Are many of our families lonely people to whom a gift attractively wrapped has more meaning than \$5 in an envelope?

Thinking of ourselves as givers, can't we see how infinitely more fun and in the spirit of Christmas it is to purchase gifts for another than to send a check? Little children in Sunday School bring jelly, candy, toys—it's so different from dimes and quarters. How did we feel when as children we received money for Christmas? Grateful, yes, but not that glow that comes from a personal gift—the unexpected, perhaps one we should never have thought of—maybe not too suitable, but did that matter much? Isn't Christmas one time when both the givers and those who receive have a right to be a little foolish?

Then that old question of giving out names to the giver! Good social workers never do this. Can it be that we want all the thrill of bestowing the gifts of others on our families. The givers receive the "thank you" letters, but we get the personal thanks. I wonder whether all this is not more our feeling than that of the families. Why not consult the families? A few will feel that their situation must remain unknown. But others I'm sure will welcome the friendly giver. And what of this more fortunate member of society whom we wish to impress with the needs of his community? How can he see them better than through personal contact with people in need? His desire to change the situation of those whom he meets at Christmas may carry over to concern for others he has not yet met.

Well, what is our job as social workers at Christmas? Perhaps first it is to bring together those who want to give and those who need neighborly gifts. I'm sure our case work skill will be equal to finding a giftee for each gift, even to finding the little boy who can leave his own home or his foster home to spend Christmas with Mrs. Goldbrick's Johnnie who needs company and wants to

help a poor boy. We have a long way to go in finding the right gift for each child whose parents are on public relief, but let's start and pool our resources to cover all we can. Let's ask our families whether the giver may come to their homes. Let's let them want baskets without feeling guilty over our distress because they didn't say cash. And let's not worry too much when a church or a club wants to give without clearing its list with our Christmas committee. Efficiency and wisdom are not all there is to giving.

Of course we'll need a Christmas clearing house to spread giving and to advise those who want to give thoughtfully. Let's make this a center for information on special needs and places where gifts will mean most; let's remind those in our community who may forget the needs of others; let's interpret these needs, but also let's understand and respect the giver's right to choose his own way of giving and our families' right to accept or reject the gifts offered.

CASE WORKER

## "Your Valuable Journal"

TO THE EDITOR: The National Library of Peiping has been subscribing your valuable journal for a number of years. A complete file of the *Survey Mid-monthly* is made available to an increasing number of interested readers. Even during the two tragic years of war, special efforts were made to subscribe your journal without interruption. In spite of the heavy congestion of mails, all the issues which we subscribed have been regularly received.

However, beginning from next year, the National Library will not be able to subscribe any of the foreign scientific journals owing to the strict control over foreign exchange by the Chinese government. As it is most desirable that we should continue to receive the forthcoming issues of your valuable journal for the use of Chinese scholars, we wonder whether it would be possible for you to enter a complimentary subscription for us for one year beginning from January 1940. We hope that by the end of next year, China will be freed from the invaders and permanent peace restored to our country.

If the above suggestion cannot meet your approval, may we hope that special consideration be given to our present unfortunate position by letting us subscribe your journal at a special reduced price.

Secretary

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF PEIPING

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Yunnan, China

The *Survey* has no free list, but a member of the staff has seen to it that the *Mid* continues to be available "for the use of Chinese scholars."—Ed.

SURVEY MIDMONTHLY