

The Common Welfare

The American Red Cross

THIS MONTH THE AMERICAN RED Cross begins a campaign to raise \$200,000,000, largest goal in its history and probably the largest amount ever asked of the American public by any voluntary organization. But the sum is not unrealistic when set beside the present Red Cross operations, for never before have they been so vast. To list the services rendered by the organization to the armed forces both here and overseas during the past year would face the reader with lengthy statistics. And to these, to give a complete picture, would have to be added the innumerable activities of the Red Cross's continuing and expanding civilian services: disaster relief, home service, public health nursing, and others.

To attempt to appraise the meaning of these services would be futile. It is probably necessary to be a homesick soldier in an isolated overseas outpost fully to appreciate the importance of a Red Cross recreation hut. It is perhaps necessary to have lost home or family in a flood or tornado to know the real meaning of disaster relief. It may even be necessary to watch a man return to life to catch the whole significance of the Red Cross blood donor service. However, the American people know enough of what these services do to understand the necessity of supporting them to the utmost.

Of the 1944 goal, \$140,000,000 is needed by the American National Red Cross to finance its national and international activities. Plans are to allocate 85 percent of this to services to the fighting forces. The remaining \$60,000,000 is needed by the 3,756 Red Cross chapters for work in their local communities, particularly for assistance to servicemen and their families.

When They Come Home

A CHALLENGE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES to meet the responsibility that confronts them in helping returned war veterans to readjust to civilian life is sounded in a bulletin, "Marching Home," recently published by the Institute of Adult Education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Morse A. Cartwright, executive director of the Institute, sees the problem as almost wholly local. The first thought of those demobilized by the armed forces and by war industry will be to "go home," and it is the hometown that must

face the task of helping these returning millions to shape their plans, to secure needed training or education, to find their jobs and their places in the community.

Using actual cases, the survey shows the urgent need for immediate community planning to provide facilities on an adult level, affording the veteran and his family "adjustment, guidance, education, vocational training, social orientation, medical, psychiatric and psychological assistance, and social care, perhaps family relief—in short, all those services essential to his well being and that of his family."

This university publication underscores the importance of trained personnel to staff these community services. It points, on the one hand, to the danger of "such public menaces and influencers of people as fake psychologists, untrained vocational counselors, group counselors, radio counselors, and the like"; and on the other, to the harm that can be done by well meaning but inept service.

The solution here offered is for colleges and graduate schools immediately to begin to work on programs for the "training of leaders of all types of veterans adult education and allied activities."

Plans for Attack

FOLLOWING A RECENT CONFERENCE ON venereal disease among Negroes, sponsored by the American Social Hygiene Association and various government agencies [see *Survey Midmonthly*, February 1944, page 56], several Negro associations have agreed to put their weight behind a national educational campaign for venereal disease control. Among them are the Fraternal Council of Negro Churches, the National Urban League, the National Medical Association, the National Negro Publishers Association, and the National Negro Life Insurance Association.

The joint sponsors of the campaign, the American Social Hygiene Association and the U. S. Public Health Service, have pointed out that: "Public health measures to find, treat and prevent venereal disease are well established. What is lacking is adequate public information about these measures, and about the menace of venereal diseases, their prevalence, their symptoms, and treatment." Public health authorities have long known that their usual procedures in some communities fall short in reaching the Negro residents.

Plans for the campaign include the distribution of material through each of

the cooperating associations, and through the Negro press. Local Negro leaders will be encouraged to get together with public health officers, study the venereal disease situation, and plan local action.

Raymond Clapp, formerly with the social protection division of the Federal Security Agency, has joined the staff of the American Social Hygiene Association to assist in administering the program, and the Federal Security Agency is lending its Negro specialist in social protection, John M. Ragland.

An Opportunity Missed

THE RECENT STATEMENT ON POSTWAR housing by John B. Blandford, Jr., administrator of the National Housing Agency, was most significant, in the eyes of both the enemies and proponents of public housing. Appearing at a congressional hearing on the subject of postwar policies and public works, Mr. Blandford predicted that private initiative would stand ready to meet nearly all the country's housing needs.

Indicating that a much smaller public housing program is in the cards for the future, he said: "The postwar situation will be very much like the prewar situation [when 95 percent of all the housing in the country was privately financed], in accord with the peacetime capacity of private industry and needs of the country." When peace comes, he added, "We will find that more lower income groups than ever before may be served by private enterprise through new methods, new techniques, and through types of aid not yet utilized but still representing smaller governmental commitments than public housing."

Advocates of public housing question the ability of private enterprise to supply all the 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 homes that will have to be built every year for a decade after the war, at rents the people who need them can afford. While they do not quarrel with Mr. Blandford's statement that "the main postwar task of the federal government should be to help develop those conditions which will enable private enterprise to expand as far as possible toward meeting the total housing needs of the country," they are indignant because he made no attempt to interpret the need for postwar public housing and completely ignored the prewar accomplishments in public housing.

Proponents of public housing apparently

have failed to make the authorities understand that there is a large segment of the population behind them. But they feel that this hardly explains the one-sidedness of the administrator's testimony. In the meantime, the National Association of Home Builders, an organization of private builders, has distributed several hundred thousand copies of a bulletin containing Mr. Blandford's statement in condensed form.

Miss Kirchwey and *The Nation*

"LIBERALS MEET IN WASHINGTON these days, if they can endure to meet at all, to discuss the tragic outlook for all liberal proposals," said Archibald MacLeish, Librarian of Congress, last month. But the 1,300 persons to whom he spoke in New York had not come together with such a dismal purpose, for they had gathered to do honor to a person, who, as Dorothy Thompson put it, "for twenty-five years has fought to throw light into dark places and to defend the people versus those interests that in our society have repeatedly striven to defeat the full realization of the promises of Democracy." This was Freda Kirchwey, editor of *The Nation*, and the occasion was the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of her association with that magazine of opinion.

Other speakers were Thurman Arnold, associate judge of the United States Court of Appeals; the Rev. Reinhold Niebuhr, president of Union Theological Seminary; and Raymond Swing, radio commentator, who acted as chairman. They all reinforced Mr. MacLeish's plea to liberals not to accept "the inevitability of reaction."

That *The Nation* does not intend to do so was clearly evident from Miss Kirchwey's outline for using the \$25,000 check presented her at the dinner. On its immediate program she listed cross-country reporting of the preparations for the coming elections which "will lay in the lines of America's course for the rest of the war and for the whole reconstruction period," and an editorial "program of action" in foreign affairs to include: the establishment of a provisional Republican government in Italy; recognition of the French Committee of National Liberation; the support of Free People's Movements in occupied countries; the "open door" in the United States for European refugees; aid to democratic rule in Latin America.

Miss Kirchwey is astute and full of energy—qualities that will stand her in good stead in carrying forward such a program for a magazine that has long been "a potent force in influencing those who influence others."

Membership Campaign Progress

LAST MONTH WE ANNOUNCED NEW plans for *Survey Midmonthly*, including the launching of a national campaign for 2,000 new members of Survey Associates. [See *Survey Midmonthly*, February 1944, page 35.] Initiated by our Editorial Advisory Committee, the practical purpose of the campaign is to strengthen our Midmonthly Fund with "additional resources for editorial reporting, swift research, the sure assemblage of materials and opinions." Thus the campaign will reinforce the *Midmonthly's* educational purpose of interpreting the vital welfare, health, and recreational issues today confronting all persons—especially agency board members, executives, and staff—who have responsibility for charting health and welfare policies or carrying forward programs.

This month the two co-chairmen of the expansion committee, Pierce Atwater, director of the Community and War Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, and Roy Sorenson, associate general secretary of the National Council of the YMCA, are able to report good progress in building that campaign organization.

Quotas have been assigned to every state. Outstanding people are being asked personally wherever possible, and otherwise by correspondence, to serve as state chairmen. Simple instructions have been worked out to guide state chairmen in their appointment of local committees to divide the task so that no one person will be overburdened in these days of heavy responsibilities.

The early response has been encouraging. Already it is clear that *Survey Midmonthly* has many friends who see the importance of strengthening its ability to play an interpretive role in these challenging and changing times. Equally it is clear that many new as well as old friends stand ready to give money, good will, and also time and energy—in their own communities—to make possible the achievement of the goal of 2,000 new members.

State Chairmen

STATE ORGANIZATION MUST COME first, however, in order that the campaign may be organized effectively in all communities. To date, the following have pledged themselves to undertake this responsibility:

- Alabama**—Bess Adams
State Department of Public Welfare, Montgomery
- California**—Archibald B. Young, Pasadena
- Connecticut**—Helen M. Alvord
Community Chest and Council, Greenwich

- Florida**—Judge Walter S. Criswell
Juvenile Court of Duval County, Jacksonville
- Georgia**—Angela Cox
Family Welfare Society, Atlanta
- Illinois**—Mabbett K. Reckord
Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, Chicago
- Indiana**—Louis Evans
Indiana University, Indianapolis
- Massachusetts**—Harry M. Carey
Greater Boston United War Fund
- Minnesota**—A. A. Heckman
Family Service of St. Paul
- Missouri**—Paul T. Beisser
St. Louis Provident Association
- Nebraska**—Louis W. Horne
Council of Social Agencies, Lincoln
- New York, upstate**—Scotia R. Ballard
Council of Social Agencies, Syracuse
- New York City**—Horace H. Hughes
Maternity Center Association
- North Carolina**—Fred L. Huffman
Community and War Chest, Charlotte
- Oklahoma**—Lucile Mulhall
Young Women's Christian Association, Tulsa
- Pennsylvania**—Paul L. Benjamin
Public Charities Association, Philadelphia
- South Carolina**—Mary Phelps Wheeler
School of Social Work, Columbia

A. A. Heckman, who early accepted the Minnesota chairmanship, reports his state organization well under way. Assisting him will be Spencer Brader, St. Louis County Welfare Department; Stacy A. Bowing, Duluth Community Fund; Louise M. Clevenger, St. Paul Community Chest and Council; Frank J. Hertel, Family Welfare Association of Minneapolis; Alice Leahy Shea, University of Minnesota; Fred D. Thomas, Children's Service, Inc., St. Paul; and Louis Towley, State Welfare Department, St. Paul.

Your Opportunity

SURVEY ASSOCIATES, INC., IS A CO-operative society, non-partisan, non-sectarian, contributions to which are deductible under federal and state income tax laws.

One out of every twenty *Survey* readers is a member of Survey Associates, contributing \$10 or more each year to our educational work of exchange, inquiry, and interpretation.

Every membership includes a \$5 joint subscription to *Survey Midmonthly* and *Survey Graphic*. The memberships enlisted in this campaign will be allocated to the Midmonthly Fund. Our hope is that this will bring into participation many new friends and supporters.

Book Reviews

Democracy's Problem

RACE RIOT, by Alfred McClung Lee and Norman Daymond Humphrey. Dryden Press. \$1.50.

TO STEM THIS TIDE—A SURVEY OF RACIAL TENSION AREAS IN THE U. S., by Charles S. Johnson and Associates. Pilgrim Press. Fifty cents.

MOST OF THE EVIL THAT COMES FROM social antagonisms is due not to the deliberate wickedness of people; rather it is the result of ignorance and indifference. These two books are a real contribution to an understanding of the problem. Both books are short, easy reading, and inexpensive. Both would lend themselves admirably to discussions in high schools and in groups in community centers, Y's and churches. Government officials, including mayors, police chiefs and community leaders, would find them most suggestive.

Dr. Lee and Dr. Humphrey, of Wayne University, have drawn their material chiefly from the Detroit riot. They have collected descriptive material from the press and special investigations so that the reader can have a day to day description of what the riot of 1943 meant in terms of human behavior.

In the introductory section, the authors present their theories of the psychology of group behavior in conflicting situations. They discuss fascist mindedness, the political exploitation of prejudices, and the scapegoat techniques of demagogues as causal factors in heightening racial tensions. They stress the role which attitudes, propaganda and rumors play in precipitating the outbreak of violent conflict. They contribute an estimate of what riots cost in terms of individual insecurity, fear and distrust; in social paralysis and the tightening of social controls against change; in the degradation of the democratic idea and the use of this breakdown of democratic relationships by Axis propaganda agencies; in the weakening of democratic defense through disunity and wasteful internal conflict.

In the final section of the book, the recommendations of individuals, such as R. J. Thomas of the United Automobile Workers Union, and the recommendations of committees, not only in Detroit but in other cities, indicate specific programs of civic education and civic action.

The authors emphasize the lessons of the riot: that where Negro and white share the same dwellings (live together) and the same schoolrooms (learn together), and the same workbenches (work together), the understanding and unity between human beings offset the divisiveness of rumor and propaganda and tensions and conflict.

"To Stem This Tide," by Dr. Johnson and his associates, is not as dramatic as "Race Riot" because it is not concentrated on one community. He has gathered actual case material from all over the United States and has arranged the material so that it is simple and interesting reading. He has grouped the material so that the reader cannot fail to gain an insight into causation. Thus the diagnosis and suggestions of remedy flow directly from the presentation of the problems. The main chapter headings indicate the areas of racial tension: in industry (hiring, training, promotion, wages, working conditions, and union membership); in rural areas; on public carriers; in housing; in politics, police policy and practice; in treatment in the armed forces. The book offers a stimulating discussion of morale and a courageous and practical approach to the whole problem of discrimination. The program of recommendations worth special study and consideration deal with migration and population control and regional planning. They concern employment training, placement and postwar reconversion.

The authors recommend a Negro and white personnel, carefully chosen to carry out the program. They suggest techniques of action for agencies and government and for citizens' organizations and citizens who have within them the desire to help solve this most vexing and urgent of democracy's problems.

ALGERNON D. BLACK

Executive Leader

Society of Ethical Culture. New York

Five Years Later

CRIMINAL CAREERS IN RETROSPECT, by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck. The Commonwealth Fund. \$3.50.

THIS IS THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF five year follow-up studies of former inmates of the Massachusetts Reformatory whose sentences expired in 1921-22. The first study by the Gluecks was entitled "500 Criminal Careers" and the second "Later Criminal Careers."

This latest book, written in the usual lucid, effective Glueck style, is divided into three parts. Part I presents several interesting case histories and an examination of environmental circumstances, family relations and economics, work and use of leisure, and criminal activities of the men. Consideration is given in this part to the differences between the reformed and unreformed offenders and the reasons for relapse into delinquency.

Part II sheds light on the very prac-

tical problem of the responses of offenders to peno-correctional treatment, both intramural and extramural. The small number of probation "successes" available for study somewhat limits the conclusiveness of the data presented on probations. This section of the book partially meets a need long recognized by correctional administrators: an appraisal of our methods.

Part III of the volume presents some highly intriguing data for predicting behavior. The authors point out that the tables presented "are to be regarded as only illustrative and experimental." This reviewer hopes that judges, parole boards, and probation officers will experiment in their use. Just as instruments are an aid in flying, well conceived prediction tables should be an aid in shaping sentences and in determining appropriate treatment for offenders.

While some accredited crime statisticians will quarrel with the accuracy of parts of the data presented by the authors, it is believed that this latest book will prove to be highly significant and useful to correctional workers and students. In presenting this new work the Gluecks have placed us yet deeper in their debt.

RICHARD A. CHAPPELL

Chief of Probation, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, D. C.

Choosing a Vocation

CAREER GUIDE: FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALL WHO COUNSEL THEM, by Esther Eberstadt Brooke and Mary Roos. Harper. \$3.

THE AUTHORS OF THIS BOOK FOR "young people and all who counsel them" do a good job of proving that vocational salvation depends upon discovering one's vocational assets early, developing them wisely, and marketing them skilfully in an occupational field where they will be particularly useful.

Clues to the nature of his abilities are provided for the reader through lively descriptions of the behavior of other young people, and through tests and questions provided with scoring devices. There follows discussion of high school and college programs suitable for the development of specific abilities and of work which will utilize them. An "over-all view" shows the proportions of the population engaged in various kinds of work, "educational," "medical," "social," and considers the present opportunities in each and the probable future trends. The last and most persuasive sections of the book discuss the importance of personal traits and habits and ways of improving them, and outline steps in job hunting, from the letter of application to the interview.

Sound viewpoints constantly balance the book's tendency to over-simplification. Insistence on early specialization is sup-

(All books ordered through Survey Associates, Inc., will be postpaid)