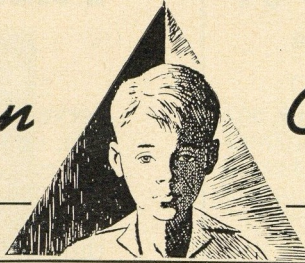


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!



VOL. IV. — ISSUE NO. 1

MARCH, 1952

\$25,000 VOTED FOR STUDY

Third Annual Dinner Plans Set

Dinner Tops Fund-Raising Campaign

As the climax to the 1952 AHRC Fund Raising Campaign, the Third Annual Dinner of the Association will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Astor on Saturday evening, May 17, 1952 at 7:00 P. M.

This event promises to be the biggest and best we have had thus far, with AHRC representatives attending from all over the State. Prominent speakers will again be heard and the Dinner Committee promises top-grade entertainment. Another feature of the Dinner will be the Annual awards to the persons who have contributed most to the cause of mental retardation during the year in the fields of medicine, education, and community effort.

Tickets to the Dinner are priced at \$15.00 each. Everyone can earn a FREE ticket, however, by selling two books of chances (\$10.00 each) or obtaining \$50.00 worth of advertising for the Souvenir Journal that will be put out in connection with the Dinner. Remember, too, first prize is a week in Bermuda for two.

Letters announcing the Dinner have gone out to all our parents and members listing the projects and achievements of the AHRC. Highlighted is the latest project, the AHRC schools for trainable children. These letters are to be used in soliciting advertising in the Journal by pointing out the needs the money will help fill—clinics, parent and public education, social groups for older children, training centers for older children, camping, etc.

The Dinner Committee consisting of Julian Banner, Maxwell Kallor and Sol Hulnick are doing yeoman service and urge the continued efforts of everyone. "What the Association does next year depends in a great measure on the financial success of the Dinner", said Julian Banner. "If all will continue their efforts until the last minute we can make this the most successful dinner in the City."

A minimum of \$100,000 has been set as the goal of the campaign. "Although this modest figure will not finance all the proposed projects of the Association," said Joe Kuhn, Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee, "It will give us a good start. Most important is the full participation of all the parents and friends of retarded children. We can only succeed through an all out effort."

Legislature Approves Mental Retardation Study by Department of Mental Hygiene

The efforts of the AHRC, other parent groups and community agencies were rewarded when on February 25, Governor Thomas E. Dewey approved the inclusion of \$25,000 in the Supplemental Appropriation Bill for a study of mental retardation by the State Department of Mental Hygiene.

The study will include a survey to determine the incidence of mental retardation in the State, community aspects of the problem, care and training of mentally retarded children both in the community and in institutions and an analysis of research needs in causes and treatment methods.

In recommending to the Governor that the study be instituted, Dr. Newton Bigelow, State Commissioner of Mental Hygiene said, "There has long been a recognized need for additional knowledge in this field with reference to community training and proper planning for institution programs". He concluded, "Much remains to be done and many new avenues of approach must be explored."

The study will be conducted by persons with specialized experience in the professional fields involved and will be initiated as soon as the services of such personnel can be obtained.

The AHRC may well be proud of its part in securing this appropriation and the great work done by its Legal and Legislative Committee Chairman, Bernard Fineson, to get this study approved. Our efforts began when the report of the New York State Citizen's Committee of One Hundred for Children and Youth, released May 1951, in connection with the Mid-Century White House Conference, included a chapter on the Mentally Handicapped recommending a Joint Legislative Commission. Rt. Rev. Monsignor Joseph B. Toomey, Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Syracuse was chairman of the Sub-committee on Mental Retardation of which Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the AHRC was a member.

At a meeting called by Mr. Weingold of all major agencies in the community concerned with child welfare, including the Welfare League for Retarded Children (Letchworth Village), the Benevolent Society for Retarded Children (Willowbrook), the Community League for Retarded Children (Wassaic) and the American Association on Mental Deficiency, a resolution for a joint legislative

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OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Issued four times a year by

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

31 MADISON AVENUE — NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

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A Non-profit, Tax-Exempt Organization of Parents and Friends
of Mentally Retarded Children

Chartered by the State of New York

February, 1949

President: Alexander C. Russotto

Executive Director: Joseph T. Weingold

A STEP FORWARD

(An Editorial)

Although we are not convinced the method chosen is superior to a joint legislative committee, as was recommended by the New York State Citizen's Committee of One Hundred for Children and Youth in connection with the Mid-Century White House Conference, the \$25,000 appropriation to the Department of Mental Hygiene to make a study of mental retardation in New York State must be considered a step forward. It seems to us that a study made by such a legislative committee would have many advantages over that made by a line department whose own program contains many gaps.

It is, nevertheless, the first attempt to meet the problem of mental retardation from an overall point of view, learn how big is its incidence, what is being done and how to fill the gaps in services.

We hope one feature of our Resolution will be retained; namely, that the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene will appoint an advisory committee consisting of a doctor, a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a social worker, an educator—all of whom work in the field of mental retardation—and include a representative of a parents group. Such an advisory committee would, we feel, be of inestimable help and involve the community more closely in the study.

But whatever the method, the good fight was fought and this step must be considered a victory and auger of hope. It is concrete evidence of the power of concerted action on the part of the parents of mentally retarded children and their many friends. It illustrates, too, the necessity for unity among us, whether our children are in institutions, private schools, public schools or at home with nothing. The problem of mental retardation is common to all of us.

J. T. W.

Remember the Annual Dinner May 17

Action to Enjoin AHRC Pelham School Tried

Justice Robert Doscher Reserves Decision

Supreme Court Justice Robert Doscher reserved decision after trial Wednesday, February 6th, of a suit to close down the Westchester school for retarded children.

The suit brought by thirty property owners of Pelham Manor to enjoin the Westchester Chapter of the AHRC from using a school building at 975 Split Rock Road, Pelham Manor, for any other use other than residential.

Witnesses for the AHRC testified that the building has been part of the New York Public School System for about 20 years in support of the AHRC claim that the building has been used as a school before the village ordinance came into existence. According to testimony, the New York City school system furnished and paid for a teacher for the Pelham Home for Cardiac Children, Inc. who owned the building until last year.

At the school, Evald Gasstrom, President of the Westchester Chapter, stated that it was an asset to the community. "It is inconceivable," he said, "that anyone who has the welfare of the whole community at heart, could oppose this project. Our children are as well behaved as any and certainly more carefully screened and guarded. We feel our responsibility to the community most keenly and are sure that the majority of Pelham citizens welcome us."

\$25,000 Voted

(Continued from Page 1)

committee to make this study drafted. Introduced in Albany by State Senator Earl Brydges and Assemblyman Samuel Roman, this legislation received the backing of the Welfare Council of New York, Catholic Charities, the American Association on Mental Deficiency, the Jewish Board of Guardians, the New York Jewish Child Care Council, the Civic Legislative League, the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, State Charities Aid, National Association for Mental Health and many other organizations throughout the State. The feelings of individual parents were expressed by letters to their legislators and the Governor. Conferences were held with individual legislators and finally with George Shapiro, Counsel to the Governor, and Howard Henig, Counsel to the Lt. Governor.

These efforts brought about serious consideration of the measure and its implications with the result that such a study was finally approved although not in the form presented by the AHRC.

"This must be regarded as a great victory and forward step in dealing with mental retardation," said Mr. Fineson. "I want to thank each and every member of the Association without whose help this could not have been accomplished."

Commenting on the legislation and AHRC support in a letter to Mr. Weingold, Dr. E. J. Engberg, President of the AAMD stated, "I am sure that the Governor's decision has been reached, in a large part, as the result of the efforts made by you and the other members of your very fine organization."

AHRC School Dedication February 13th



MRS. ARNOLD MANDEL, President of the Joshua Orphan Aid Society, sponsor of the Joshua AHRC School, presents President Russotto with a check for \$5,000 as Joshua's contribution to the School Project.

The dedication of the AHRC pilot classes at the Washington Heights Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association was no less inspiring because the actual ceremony was delayed until Feb. 13th, when as we all so well know the schools have been running for about three months.

The day we chose, as so often seems to be the case in human affairs, fell spank into the middle of weather conditions so startlingly bad that one might think all of nature was conspiring to see that our long-planned dedication was unattended. However, in this case not even a blizzard prevented ardently interested parents and supporters from being on the platform and in the audience.

Professor Louis Rosenzweig, Educational Consultant to the AHRC and Professor of Special Education at Brooklyn College; Mrs. Arnold Mandel, President of the Joshua Orphan Aid Society; Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of Pediatrics, Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital; Mrs. Clara Savage Littledale, Editor of Parents Magazine; Samuel Solender, Executive Director of the YM and YWHA; President Alexander Russotto and Joseph T. Weingold, our Executive Director, were on hand.

Mrs. Clara Savage Littledale accepted an award for the part her magazine, "Parents", has played in contributing to the public education about mental retardation and in turn congratulated us upon our achievements.

Mrs. Arnold Mandel, who looked as charming as she spoke, inspired all present with her account of the reasons why Joshua wanted to give AHRC support and the expression of her pleasure at the results so far.

Mr. Weingold, Professor Rosenzweig, Dr. Slobody and Mr. Solender added their voices and words of enthusiasm and encouragement to what

AHRC General Meeting To Be Held April 30th

Featuring Clinic Panel Discussion

The program of the next general meeting of the AHRC to be held Wednesday, April 30th, at the Central Needle Trade High School, 225 West 24th Street, 8:30 P. M., promises to be one of the most stimulating and exciting we have ever had.

The personnel of the Morris J. Solomon Clinic will present a panel discussion of the role of each discipline in the clinic and what each is contributing the clinic team.

Most important, perhaps, will be the participation of the parents in the audience who will have an opportunity to present many questions and problems which will be discussed.

The panel will consist of Dr. Benjamin Kramer, Director of Pediatrics; Dr. Joseph Wortis, Director of Pediatric-Psychiatry; Wilfred Quaytman, Clinical Psychologist; Rudolf Hormuth, Psychiatric Social Worker, and Millicent Strazzula, Speech Therapist; all of the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn.

Come early and discuss your problem.

Cooperation Stressed by Mr. Weingold For AHRC and C.P. Society

On February 26th, Jerry Weingold, our Executive Director spoke to the members of the Cerebral Palsy Society of Rockland County in Suffern, N. Y.

In opening his address Mr. Weingold told the group, "I feel that this is a unique and horizon-widening event. The problems of the mentally retarded are in many instances almost identical with the cerebral palsied and very frequently they cannot be distinguished. It is a dissipation of energies to work so apart when a real cooperative effort may achieve so much." He went on to say, "Our public educating program is gradually removing the stigma from mental retardation and the misconception that it is a hopeless problem. I hope it will be possible for us to work together in the near future."

Benjamin Pakula, President of the Cerebral Palsy Society of Rockland County stated, "The two organizations have a great deal in common in their concern for handicapped children."

EXCUSE, PLEASE

In the last issue of OCV's account of the elections, we inadvertently omitted the fact that Sylvia Schachter was elected Financial Secretary in the 1951 annual election. We don't know how this was left out, because every time we are at the office there is Sylvia making the book look beautiful, depositing money and questioning bills.

was in general a dedication in the highest sense of that word: that given unstinting devotion, faith and unswerving determination, this project which once seemed but a dream of parents can and will succeed.

The invocation and blessing were given by Rabbi Meyer Machlis.

Chapter News

WESTCHESTER

The Second Annual Dinner-Dance of the Westchester Chapter, was held at Vernon Manor, Mount Vernon, Saturday evening, February 16. John Reed King, Tom Glaser, Art Carney and Frank Ambro of radio and TV fame provided the entertainment. A most successful affair with a wonderful Souvenir Journal.

Westchester has added another project in its first Social Group for Older Children. The youngsters held their first meeting at Teen Town in Mt. Vernon on February 7th, 1952.

The Westchester Newsletter is conducting a campaign to choose a name.

George Tiplady has been appointed assistant publicity chairman of Westchester in charge of radio, TV and newspapers.

SULLIVAN

Has also begun a Newsletter. Kiwanis Club of Monticello has voted a donation of \$200 and B'Nai B'Rith held a St. Valentine Dance at the Concord—all proceeds going to the Sullivan County AHRC. Classes are now being held in two rooms in the new wing of the Monticello Hospital; the Lions Club furnishes transportation. The first Acting Board of Directors has been appointed.

ONONDAGA

Our youngest Chapter has already established a class for trainable children. Dr. Cruickshank of Syracuse University and one of the foremost authorities on the education of handicapped children has been added to the Board of Advisors. Syracuse will be host to the next Convention April 19th and 20th. Oh, yes, their Newsletter has also reached our office—congratulations.

LONG ISLAND

Another Newsletter! They are planning a building of their own. Announced that specialists are ready to give their time to a clinic, but no place to house it. The Nassau County Council of Social Agencies recommends change in education law to permit a school district to contract with Boards for cooperative services or with vocational education and extension board for education services to handicapped (mental and physical) children and receive additional state aid therefore.

James J. McConnell resigned as President due to press of business. Helen Kaplan is acting president.

Publicity: Newsday ran a full page story of the classes at Kennedy House. A wonderful spread.

CAPITOL DISTRICT

In the throes of planning classes and stimulating public schools to expand their programs, this Chapter was continually in the midst of our legislation push. Hope they now have more time for news in the next issue of OCV.

ERIE-NIAGARA

Has elected temporary officers. E. Bradford Hollingsworth, Pres.; Robert C. Sager, 1st V.P.; Eugene J. Cremins, 2nd V.P.; Mrs. Frances Thomson, Rec. Sec'y.; Mrs. Arlene O'Brien, Corres. Sec'y. and Mrs. Joseph Guarineri, Treas.

Radio and TV publicity is expanding with donations of time by Carl Newman of Gladco Distributors and the cooperation of Ed Wegman, WBEN Program Director.

A camp project is being worked on.

The Board of Advisors was expanded to include Sister Benedict, a well-known Buffalo teacher of retarded children.

Yearn for two weeks in Bermuda? . . . Then take a chance on our dinner!

AHRC Offers Training Course For Mothers of Pre-School Children

A training course to help mothers of young retarded children under four years of age train their children at home in the practical skills of everyday living is now being offered under the sponsorship of this Association.

This course has been planned by Will Quaytman, clinical psychologist at the Morris J. Solomon Clinic, for the Rehabilitation of Retarded Children, Brooklyn Jewish Hospital.

It is a ten-week course and limited, at this time, to ten parents. If your child is under four please write to the AHRC office, 31 Madison Ave., N. Y. 10, N. Y., attention: Mother's Course. This service is free. Please do not telephone.

POSSIBLE VESTIBULE CLASS IN FLUSHING

Will all parents who live in Bayside or Flushing whose children are from six to eight years of age and may be eligible for a vestibule class of the CRMD (public school special classes) please communicate with Mrs. Seymour Ridges, 5636 - 195th, Flushing, telephone FLushing 7-8808. One eligibility requirement is that the children have an I.Q. of 50 or over.

Openings In Social Groups For Older Children

There are a number of openings in one of our Bronx groups for older children. Will all interested parents of children, 17 and over, communicate with Mr. Monroe Gottsegen, 214 East 168th Street, New York. Telephone: CYpress 3-8655.

Pearl Buck Featured On AHRC TV Program



PEARL BUCK

Highlight of AHRC's recent radio and television publicity was a panel discussion, March 5th on NBC's coast-to-coast shows, "It's A Problem" featuring Pearl Buck, famed American novelist and sponsor of AHRC, supported by Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of Pediatrics, Flower-Fifth Ave. Hospital; Dr. Harold Michal-Smith, chief clinical psychologist at the Flower-Fifth Ave. Hospital clinic for retarded children; Helen Parkhurst, child educator, and Ben Grauer, moderator.

During the course of this, which was a most thorough airing of the problem of the mentally retarded child ever presented to the American public, Dr. Michal-Smith skillfully brought in the role that AHRC is playing and argued eloquently for parent groups. This program received an excellent review in the March 29th issue of the "Saturday Review of Literature."

Radio and TV publicity continued during the pre-campaign season to feature other mentions by celebrities on major programs of the need and value of our work.

For example, William Auden, Pulitzer prize winner and poet-author, appeared on "It's A Problem" January 30th and mentioned the Association.

An NBC panel discussion led by actor, Walter Abel and including Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Mrs. Dora Banner, Dr. Harold Michal-Smith and our Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold, discussed the entire problem that we face and gave Mr. Weingold an opportunity to put before the public the obstacles which now confront us.

A like opportunity was offered Mr. Weingold and President Russotto on Barbara Wells TV program, February 8th.

February 12th, perhaps one of the most delightful episodes which has ever occurred to AHRC, came about when President Russotto, Mrs. Russotto and Carol Beitel, a bubbling and astoundingly competent teen-ager who heads AHRC's Junior League, visited Chandler's Restaurant and Carol was interviewed on the Barry Gray WMCA program.

Carol said, and beautifully all that parents of retarded children would want said on such a pro-

Next State Convention April 19th and 20th

AHRC Delegates to Meet in Syracuse

The Syracuse Chapter, Frank C. McCarthy, President, will be host to the next AHRC State Convention to be held at the Syracuse Hotel on Saturday and Sunday, April 19th and 20th.

Representatives of parent groups considering affiliation with this Association have been invited to attend as observers.

An interesting agenda, including legislation, fund raising and projects is being prepared. Our legal committee has also delegated Gus Jacobs to work on a Chapter Manual which should do much to make procedures and actions by Chapters uniform throughout the State.



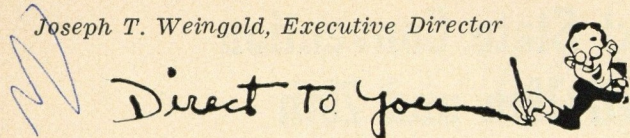
MRS. CLARA LITTLEDALE, Editor of Parents' Magazine, receives Public Education Citation at the AHRC Joshua School Dedication of YM. & YWHA.

gram. And in addition projected over the airways to Barry's millions of listeners her own charming and natural engaging personality.

February 26th on WOR's "Luncheon at Sardi's", Bobby Breen made a fund raising appeal for AHRC which he followed up March 11th by an equally effective appeal on the DuMont program, "Quick on the Draw." Bobby is scheduled to give us another one of his punchy pitches on the CBS network program "Strike It Rich," April 16th. In the very near future publicity will result when AHRC will present good friend Bobby with a Public Education citation.

March 20th on "Psychologically Speaking", Dr. Harold Michal-Smith, chief clinical psychologist at Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital spoke in behalf of the Association.

There were also numerous spot announcements during the month such as given by John Henry Falk, new commentator and others.



THE AHRC AND THE NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

The basic philosophy on which the AHRC was founded is to work for ALL mentally retarded regardless of race, color or creed and no matter where they are. Another of our tenets has been that this Association shall concentrate on unmet needs of the mentally retarded and not attempt to duplicate existing facilities.

Under the Public Education Law of the State of New York certain facilities for the education of retarded children have been made mandatory. Generally speaking, these are for children with I.Q.'s between 50 and 75, chronological age of 7 and mental age of 5. Even with these limitations it has been estimated that 2% of the school population is so mentally retarded as to need these services. Although the over 11,000 children in the special classes in the City of New York fall short of 2% of the 1,000,000 school population, they are nevertheless, a very considerable number and certainly are a vital concern of the AHRC.

From the very beginning of the Association in 1949 we recognized how much the CRMD could do for the retarded children. We learned and appreciated their program for children with I.Q.'s between 40 and 50 and the vestibule classes for children who had not yet reached a mental age of 5. From the very beginning we established and maintained friendly relations with the Board of Education and all the workers in CRMD. The problems were many ranging from individual complaints and adjustments to bus service and the larger aspects of the CRMD program.

Cooperation does not, however, mean consent to freeing the status quo. We feel that a true partnership is possible for continuing growth and progress.

The needs as expressed by the many members of the AHRC who have their children in CRMD classes helped us formulate plans to improve and increase the services that CRMD offered. These plans, as far back as 1949, were offered as a basis for cooperative action.

They are as follows:

I. THAT MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN SHOULD BE ADMITTED TO SPECIAL CLASSES AT THE CHRONOLOGICAL AGE OF FOUR.

Educators working in the field of mental retardation are agreed that more can be done with mentally retarded children who qualify for education in our public school system if the means can be found to get them at as early an age as feasible. With this in mind, a very detailed plan was submitted by the Bureau for Children of Retarded Mental Development to the Board of Education. This plan has for its basic idea the establishment of classes for mentally retarded children from the ages of 4 to 6 with the provisos as to I.Q., etc., is now in effect for

children 7 and over. (In 1950 a survey was begun by the BCRMD and the Bureau of Child Guidance to ascertain the number of children available for these classes and where they live. By June, 1950, some 105 children had been found eligible. They were so widely scattered, however, that the Board of Education deemed it unfeasible to start these classes due to the problem of transportation. This budgetary consideration has caused this important experiment to be abandoned.)

Comment: If children of retarded mental development exist at the age of 6, they certainly exist at the ages of 4 and 5. Perhaps parents are reluctant to come forward or admit the problem until children are ready for school admission and are refused. There are two possible ways of trying to overcome these obstacles in setting up these kindergarten classes for retarded children.

A. The Board of Education could make available the names of children who are rejected at the age of 5 or under when application for admission to regular kindergarten classes is made by the parent.

B. These classes, being experimental, should be set up with the children available and transportation, wherever needed, should be provided to and from school by the Board of Education. Precedent for this has already been set by the transportation provided the cerebral palsy children in the experimental classes. We feel that children with retarded mental development are entitled to the same transportation facilities.

II. APPROPRIATE OCCUPATIONAL TRAINING FACILITIES SHOULD BE SET UP FOR ALL CRMD CHILDREN AFTER THE AGE OF DISMISSAL WHICH IS GENERALLY 16 OR 17.

The question may be asked, can't these children go to vocational high schools? Only a small part of them can qualify for the academic and vocational high schools. Most of them need an occupational school patterned for them only, where facilities will be set up for those who do not qualify for the vocational and academic high schools, where there will be a program for retraining the children who obtain jobs and can't adjust at first, where there will be special recreational centers for them, guidance, placement, follow-up, etc.

Once such school will be able to take care of 300 to 350 children only and it is estimated that 14 such schools are needed to care for retarded children now in the school system. This Association also suggested that the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation which, under the National Rehabilitation Act, is charged with the rehabilitation of the mentally retarded, be involved in planning for CRMD children from the age of 14 on, rather than wait for referral after the children have left school without the training.

III- THE BUREAU FOR CRMD SHOULD HAVE ITS OWN CHILD GUIDANCE DIVISION AND TESTING SERVICE.

It is one of the functions of the Bureau of Child Guidance, as it now exists, to examine children for the purpose of referring them, if they qualify, to the CRMD for placement. The best minds in the field of mental retardation are agreed that the younger

the children can be identified and placed for education, the greater chance have these children to realize their potentialities. We have case after case where the Bureau of Child Guidance has not been able to test children under the age of 7 because this Bureau is understaffed.

I quote from a letter from the Bureau of Child Guidance: "We are aware of the desirability of identifying mentally retarded children at an early age, but unfortunately, we lack the staff to care for both the school population and the pre-school children in this respect."

We feel that it is of the greatest importance that the Bureau for Children with Retarded Mental Development have a testing service of its own and under its own control and supervision dealing with the mentally retarded only. This is not without precedent because the BCRMD had had its own testing and referral service which was later combined with the Bureau of Child Guidance.

On the basis that 2% of the school population is so mentally retarded as to need special classes we can readily see that with 1,000,000 school population in New York City there should be 20,000 children in the classes. (See above.) There are actually a little over 11,000. It is suggested that a testing service under the CRMD alone might help remedy this situation.

IV. THERE SHOULD BE A PAY DIFFERENTIAL FOR CRMD TEACHERS TO ATTRACT PERSONNEL

In addition to an educational program to make this field interesting to teachers, there is one important thing that the Board of Education can do to attract more teachers for the children with retarded mental development classes.

The equalization of pay for all the teachers in the public schools eliminated a differential of \$480 per year that the CRMD teachers received as incentive pay for their hard and important work.

If equal pay for all teachers were a hard and fast rule, our case might not be so strong, but the fact is that teachers in the "600" schools do get \$480 per year more than the other teachers. So the principle is recognized that teachers doing specialized work should receive incentive pay.

It is submitted that CRMD teachers should receive the same incentive pay as teachers of the "600" classes; and indeed we feel all teachers of the handicapped should receive this differential in pay. (Note: the "600" classes are for emotionally disturbed children.)

V. INCREASED TRANSPORTATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

Now the children are admitted or enrolled in the CRMD classes. These classes do not exist in all schools and it is frequently necessary for a child to travel a mile or more to a class. Mothers must take the younger children, but many of them cannot, because of other children in the family, etc. Frequently, a child is deprived of schooling because of the lack of transportation.

The parents of the mentally handicapped children feel that they have a right to the same transportation privileges as the physically handicapped.

How can this be accomplished?

1. There should be increased service to include these children who are not now receiving transportation.
2. More supervision of the transportation service by the BCRMD.

After all, it is the CRMD who should know which children should get transportation from door to door. Arbitrary rules about the handicapped cannot be made. (The amended Educational Law, 1950, Section 4406, Sub-division 4, for the first time provides reimbursement by the state to the school district of half the cost of transportation. On this basis, transportation for CRMD children could be doubled without the City being out of pockets).

VI. THERE SHOULD BE INCREASED GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT.

Now these children have completed their course and have perhaps learned how to do a task which may enable them to earn money. How do they get a job? There has been a Guidance and Placement Service under the BCRMD. This service doing yeoman work is understaffed. We understand that there should be at least four more people employed for this purpose only so that these children who need and have a right to supervision will be able to get it. It is of the very essence of social consciousness that handicapped children be not suddenly abandoned. A proper Guidance and Placement Service would better enable them to become self-sustaining and self-respecting citizens.

In the recommendations also was stated that we could go on to mention many other things, such as home teaching, parent education courses, special afternoon school activities, speech therapy, physical therapy, etc., but we felt the six points discussed were the most important as a basis for cooperative action between the AHRC and the Board of Education to improve the services for our children.

So you see that the CRMD children in the schools always have been and are a major concern of the AHRC. The projects that we have set up are set up for CRMD children, too. For example, there are many CRMD children in our clinics. In fact, the Morris J. Solomon Clinic for Rehabilitation of Retarded Children is working with the CRMD class at P. S. 42 in cooperation with Superintendent Noethen. The Bureau of Child Guidance requests and receives information from our clinics with regard to the children that they are testing. Our Social Groups for Older Children have many CRMD graduates and undergraduates. The training program that we were instrumental in setting up for the older children has received many referrals from the CRMD. The training center for older children soon to be started in Brooklyn will have many CRMD graduates who need this extra program and training and cannot get it at present in the public schools.

BECAUSE ALL RETARDED CHILDREN ARE THE CONCERN OF THE AHRC, we will continue to strive to better their lot everywhere and will work closely with the Board of Education as well as all other agencies concerned with our children's welfare.

See you at the Astor May 17th

BOROUGH ACTIVITIES

(OUR BUSY BOROUGHS)

The Brooklyn group did it again! Everytime they set their mind to an activity they come out with MONEY!

Sponsoring a Rummage Sale that lasted for an entire week—a net of over \$700 was taken in for the Association. Everything from furniture to clothes sold to a most cordial and unhesitating public. Some of the Brooklyn gals felt they should have done better, but if anyone is listening—take heed and follow their example. It proves most profitable.

The only other requirement of course is to have the hard-working, grinding members we are proud to have in Brooklyn. Mrs. Lily Isaacson and all members of the committee, who day after day gathered the merchandise, sold it and took care of endless chores, certainly deserve a vote of thanks. Thanks!

Run out of Ad blanks?

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF THE AHRC

By CAROL BEITEL, President

The Junior League of the AHRC was founded a little over a year ago by Sandra Frank. Sandra, the sister of a retarded boy, wanted to aid children like her brother and she placed an article in OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE telling about her idea. Since that time our membership has grown to thirty people, including brothers, sisters and friends of retarded children.

At first, we of the Junior League, thought we could be of most assistance in the raising of funds. However, we soon realized that a group as small and unknown as we could not go very far in that direction. Instead, we decided that increasing our membership and educating the public toward the needs of the mentally retarded were of greater importance. With this aim in mind, several letters were sent to various newspapers telling of our cause. The *New York Daily News* responded with an article and picture in the Sunday edition. This article and a similar one in the *Herald Tribune* helped to enlighten the public toward the plight of the retarded and as a result our Junior League received several new members, contributions and letters, which we are still receiving from all over the world. One soldier, bed-ridden himself, sent us his contribution, which though small in amount, was very large in meaning.

Recently through the efforts of the Public Relations Department of the Association I was given the opportunity to appear on the "Barry Gray" radio show. Once again the aims of the AHRC and the Junior League were outlined. I believe the large number of retarded persons in New York State was a most surprising fact to the audience.

CALLING ALL BRONX MEMBERS! The AHRC Bronxites are at it again. Watch for the Gigantic Bronx Bazaar to be held Saturday night and all day Sunday, April 19th and 20th at the East Concourse Hebrew Center, 174th Street and corner of Topping Avenue.

You'll have an opportunity to buy all sorts of valuable merchandise including linen, food, housewares, clothing, notions, plants, clocks, jewelry, and furniture with a vast selection to choose from to match your purse.

You can't go wrong . . . all our children profit from your purchases.

Any information can be obtained from the Bronx Chairman, Mrs. Theresa Snyder, CYpress 3-4543, who welcomes your cooperation and assistance.

Remember, April 19th and 20th are the dates. Let's all keep up with the determination and work of the Bronx people in helping our children.

Do you need more books?

CLINIC NOTES

The Psychology Department of the clinic for retarded children at Flower—Fifth Avenue Hospital has expanded under Dr. Harold Michal-Smith, chief clinical psychologist, to include an associate psychologist, two assistant psychologists and four psychological internes. It is hoped that not only will more services be given, but the case load reduced.

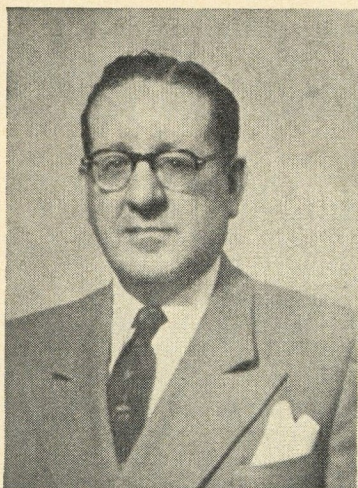
The Morris J. Solomon Clinic at Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn has added Miss Dorothy Tyman as reading clinician and Jesse Perry, as educational consultant.

Miss Millicent Strazzula, speech therapist, has organized a parents group on play technics and Dr. McKinney, psychiatrist, is conducting a mothers and fathers group for guidance in management problems for the children.

I tried to stress the importance of the bill before the New York State Assembly, which if passed, would mean research and education for those with retarded mental development.

On Friday, April 11th, twenty-five members of the Junior League will be present at the "Strike It Rich" TV show. We will try to appear on the program to raise money for our most worthy cause. During Easter week we plan on operating several outdoor booths located at busy intersections at which we will sell chances. We are also planning a theater party before the summer.

At present we are busily engaged with the books for the AHRC Dinner to be held on May 17th, and we are looking forward to seeing you of the parent organization at that time.



BERNARD ("Bernie") M. FINESON
First Vice-President

Born January 17, 1905, in, of all places, London, England. "Bernie" realized at a tender age the advantages of the United States and came to this country. Continuing his wandering, he received his education at P. S. 136, Brooklyn, Norwalk, Connecticut, Syracuse University 1923 to 1925 and Brooklyn Law School 1925 to 1928. He was admitted to the New York Bar in October 1929, just in time for the depression.

In 1943 he resigned from the law firm of Ferris and Kuh to begin a career of public service as a member of the Alien Investigation Unit of the Immigration and Naturalization Bureau of the U. S. Department of Justice. The following year he became attorney with the New York State Labor Relations Board, advancing to Senior Attorney, Trial Examiner and, since October 1950, Chief Trial Examiner.

Affiliations: Past Chancellor, Washington Heights Lodge, Knights of Pythias. Formerly president, now vice-president, Republican Club, 15th Assembly District, New York County; Chairman, Board of Trustees, Lake Secor Colony Taxpayers' Assn.; Executive Vice-President, Putnam County District Zionist Organization of America; member of the New York State National Guard.

Political activities: Ran for State Senator on Republican ticket in 1936 (wrong year); managed political campaigns for Assembly and Congress, including 1944 campaign of Samuel Roman for Assembly and co-manager of Jacob K. Javits' 1946 campaign for Congress.

He joined the AHRC in 1950 and first volunteered his services to the Speaker's Bureau. From this modest beginning, he became Chairman of the Legal and Legislative Committee and First Vice-President in the last election. He spear-headed the 1951 legislative campaign. His tireless efforts, visits to chapters and travel to Albany again and again with AHRC committees finally bore fruit in the recent \$25,000 appropriation to the Department of Mental Hygiene to make a study of mental retardation in this state. He was one of the delegates from New York City to the first AHRC State Convention. Always a believer in working with members, his

REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION PLANNED

Delegates to Meet May 24th in Philadelphia

Delegates from parents groups comprising the Eastern Region of the National Association, decided at a meeting held Wednesday, March 19th, at the Central Savings Bank, New York City, to have an Eastern Regional Conference in Philadelphia on Saturday, May 24th.

Under the chairmanship of Lee J. Marino, 1st V.P. of the National Association, representatives from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York planned a series of workshops to be held throughout the Conference day.

Mr. Russotto is slated to conduct the workshop on Legislation and Mr. Weingold, the workshop on Parent Organization, What Parents Want and Projects.

The host will be the Philadelphia chapter of the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded and Handicapped Children.

Top entertainment at Dinner

CP Legislative Committee Ends Five-Year Study

Confirms High Percentage of Mental Retardation Among Cerebral Palsied

Terminating a five-year study on cerebral palsy, a New York State joint legislative committee submitted as part of their report on the state's cerebral palsy care program, figures confirming the high prevalence of mental retardation among cerebral palsied children.

In recent studies in Rochester and Buffalo, based on observation and psychometric testings, findings showed only 26 out of 91 patients were considered of average intelligence. Thirty per cent were considered dull or "slow-learning" pupils and 43 per cent were considered seriously retarded or defective.

Of an estimated 3,400 child victims between 5 and 19 years of age, the committee estimates 375 would require training in special classes for the mentally retarded and 783 require special therapy for cerebral palsy in mental retardation classes.

statewide efforts have not prevented his being active in all borough functions, especially the Bronx, now his home borough. Bernie is a wonderful illustration that when men of talent are needed the AHRC produces them.

Personal: He married Mildren Wolfson in 1931. Daughter, Luba, graduated Walton High School in January 1952 and is a member of the AHRC Junior League. Son, Harris Steven, CRMD —Jordon L. Mott Jr. High School.

J. T. W.

DONOR DOINGS

It is a pleasant task to announce our two latest Donor Groups, the Bay Community Club, Inc., of Brooklyn and the 100 League of New York City. Welcome to the growing ranks! We need you.

Gertrude Vos Children's Fund, Lenore Bloch, President, held a Turkey Supper and Card Party, Saturday, March 23rd at the State Democratic Club. A Testimonial Luncheon, honoring Anna Brand, 1st V.P., will be held Saturday afternoon, April 26th, at Rosoff's Restaurant.

Joshua Orphan Aid, Charlotte Mandel, President, plan great events in April. First a Mammoth Bazaar and on April 22nd a theater party for "Three Wishes for Jamie". In May, a "Pledge Luncheon" at Bill Miller's Riviera. In June, the Installation Dinner-Dance when distribution of the funds voted by the Joshuas is made. Our head whirls—we won't mention their December plans, if you please.

Ladies Auxiliary, Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund, Sarah Jacobson, President, held a matinee theater party on February 27th. Show was "Constant Wife". On March 26th another theater party for "The Fourposter". On May 16th is the Dinner-Dance at the Riviera. (Everyone at the Riviera? —Ed.)

Lena Invalid Aid, Lillian Segall, President, held a Bazaar on March 18th, at the True Sister Building. On Saturday, April 15th, a luncheon at the Park Sheraton and plan their Dinner-Dance at the Hotel Pierre for Nov. 1st.

Theodora League, Sylvia Dorfman, President. Sandra Blumenthal has resigned as Editor of the *Theodora Trumpet*, one of the liveliest organizational news letters we receive. Sandra probably needs the extra time for the Flower—Fifth Avenue Clinic. Theodora held a Card Party at the Park Terrace, Jan. 18th and its Annual Spring Luncheon, Saturday, March 15th. All proceeds in support of the clinic, of course. A most successful affair, as usual. Lenny Levin, publisher of the *Trumpet*, is helping again in planning the AHRC TV Variety Show.

Ruth Kirzon Group for Handicapped Children, Anna Kirzon, President. Jan. 27th, held a Dinner-Dance at the Waldorf Astoria. The RKG Spring Luncheon and Card Party was held at the Tavern-on-the-Green, March 12th. They continue their birthday parties for the Handicapped at the hospitals, visiting children's services and many other activities on behalf of handicapped children. We are proud that this active group has taken our children as one of their causes.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS NOW ACCEPTED

Applications for camp scholarships are now being accepted and should be sent in immediately to the AHRC Camp Committee, 31 Madison Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. Please state age of your child.

Interviews will be arranged before the end of April. As last year, only a limited number of scholarships are available, so if interested, please be prompt in sending in your application. Do not telephone.

AHRC General Meeting Highlights

Yepsen and Johnstone Show Films

Those who were unable to attend the February 13th general meeting of the AHRC at the Central Needle Trade High School, missed the opportunity of hearing Dr. Lloyd N. Yepsen, chief psychologist of the Department of Institutions and Agencies, New Jersey and the first advisor of the AHRC.

The highlight of the evening was Dr. Yepsen's film, "Forget Not These Children" which he later discussed. Third in a series of color films produced by the Princeton Film Center, Princeton, N. J. with narration by Dr. Yepsen, the movie opened with the plight of parents of an eight-year-old retarded child.

The documentary showed an exposition of New Jersey institutional facilities and concluded with a review of the special services and facilities for mentally retarded children offered by the Department of Institutions and Agencies in New Jersey. Parents and friends attending were gratified to see attached to the value of parent education and parent groups.

Once more the auditorium of the Central Needle Trade High School was almost filled to capacity with parents and friends of retarded children for the March 12th general meeting of AHRC featuring Mr. E. L. Johnstone, Superintendent of the Woodbine Colony, Woodbine, New Jersey.

As part of his address to the membership, Mr. Johnstone showed "The Least of These". The Colony, accepted only low-grade retarded children, was portrayed as a fine example of a productive institution servicing the needs of mentally limited children. The staff seeks each child's potential and gives individual care and instruction to make the child happy and train him to function to his capacity. This film shows clearly that even the low grade child is not hopeless. This was truly a message of hope!

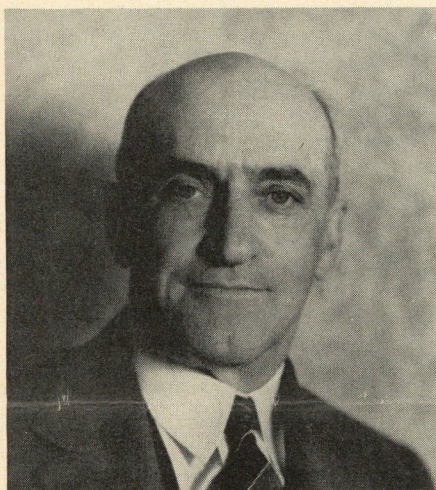
All Journal ads must go!

CUB SCOUT TROOPS PLANNED

A Cub Scout Troop for boys, eight to ten years of age is being planned for the children at the Morris J. Solomon Clinic, Brooklyn Jewish Hospital. Taking an active part in this organization are Rudolf Hormuth, Psychiatric Social Worker at the Clinic, and Alice Pearlstein, Chairman of the Social Groups for Older Children Committee. This would indeed be a step forward in the integration of our children into the community.

SUMMER VACATION FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

Parent members who are planning summer vacations for themselves and their children are invited to communicate with Mrs. Rebecca Noble, 2085 Morris Avenue, Bronx 53, N. Y. Telephone FOrdham 7-3586 for an interesting suggestion.



DR. HARRY C. STORRS

Senior Director of Letchworth Village and Advisor to the AHRC almost from its inception.

As we have become organized into groups and have learned more and more about the problems of retardation, generally, the discovery of men devoting their lives to our children, has given us hope for the future. Foremost among such men is Dr. Harry Storrs.

A native of Hanover, N. H., he graduated from Dartmouth Medical College in 1910. In 1912, after one year on the staff of the Maine State School for Feeble-minded at Pownall, Maine, Dr. Storrs became assistant to Dr. Charles S. Little, who started the program at Letchworth. He remained there until 1930 when he left to supervise the construction of Wassaic State School. After seven years as Superintendent at Wassaic, in 1937 he returned to Letchworth as Superintendent and where he continues to serve our children. An active member of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, he was its President from May 1937 to May 1938.

In 1913 Dr. Storrs married Julia Ann Colby. They have two sons, both physicians, Dr. Richard Paul Storrs of Syracuse, N. Y. and Dr. Robert Colby Storrs of Hanover, N. H.

We well remember one of our first meetings with Dr. Storrs when a committee of the AHRC visited Letchworth Village. He pulled no punches, showed us everything and, never boasting of the accomplishments, continually stressed the unmet needs of the School. Only later and by digging did we find out how, under his direction, Letchworth Village's program had expanded; of his great interest in the scientific aspects of mental retardation; of his great humanity, sympathy and understanding of the parents' point of view.

For his forty years of service to our children, for his readiness to help the AHRC and all parents solve their many problems; for his integrity and understanding, the AHRC Light shines on Harry C. Storrs.

STATEWIDE FUND RAISING PROJECTS PLANNED

Volunteers Urged to Give Full Cooperation

1952 campaign time is getting nearer and nearer, and to make certain we are all prepared to meet the starting date, April 15th, the Fund Raising Committee and Publicity Department of the AHRC are in the throes of mechanics for a statewide fund raising campaign to run smoothly to May 15th . . . hoping to enlist the help of interested volunteers.

At a meeting of the Chapters, representing Westchester, Long Island, Sullivan County and Capitol District, held March 12th, in the AHRC offices, a plan was proposed by Joseph Kuhn, Fund Raising Chairman, for statewide indoor can solicitation. Car cards and posters are included in the above and will be distributed to all transportation throughout New York State.

As a result of our recent publicity efforts many chain stores, the Port of Authority and others, who last year did not cooperate, are permitting our cans and posters to be placed.

After hearing a preview of the transcribed fund raising messages made by celebrities in behalf of the Association, it was decided that these appeals put our case in a dramatic and impelling way. Plans are now to send these records to 90 New York State radio stations and to have this effort followed up by volunteer calls upon program directors in cities and towns where it is feasible. Our appeal should be played at station breaks as often as program directors can be persuaded to do it. (If you have a good friend who has sponsored time, please contact them. Often sponsors are delighted to have such people as Pearl Buck, Madeline Carroll, Jim Ameche, etc. broadcast during their time, all of whom we have. So, do not hesitate to ask.)

For TV programs it is particularly fortunate that AHRC has had donated to them a fetching one minute song by Irving Caesar. This appeal at the same time can be played while our poster is shown on the screen and provide a TV appeal the equal of any now being used by fund raisers.

All AHRC members are advised that a great deal of the success of our fund raising campaign hinges upon volunteer perseverance, to interest our friends and neighbors in our Annual Dinner and in every way contribute time and talent to the success of our 1952 campaign.

TO OUR NON-MEMBER READERS:

To help us defray the cost, and enable us to continue sending you this newspaper, we are asking all who are not dues-paying members of the AHRC to send us one dollar (\$1.00). (This will cover one year's subscription.)

Your doing so will make one more dollar available for the help of our children.

—THE EDITORS.

(Our thanks to those who have already sent their dollar.)

AHRC Exec-Director and Westchester President Address Poughkeepsie Group

On January 30th, Mr. Weingold, our Executive Director and Evald Gasstrom, President of the Westchester Chapter, spoke to parents of retarded children and professionals at a meeting in Poughkeepsie.

The meeting, chaired by John L. Wallace of the Dutchess County Mental Health Association, was for the purpose of alerting the community to the unmet needs of retarded children in Dutchess County.

Mr. Weingold discussed the overall problem of mental retardation, outlined the aims of AHRC and projects already accomplished by the Association. Mr. Gasstrom told the group of efforts put forth by the Westchester Chapter, reminding the group that Dutchess County was close enough to Westchester to work cooperatively. "This is a problem which removes boundaries," he said, "and I hope that we will all be as one."

Since this meeting we are glad to report that a Dutchess County Parents and Friends group has been formed. Allen H. Raymond was elected President and Mrs. Benjamin Gutschneider of Wappinger Falls and an AHRC member, Corresponding Secretary.

**If you haven't paid your DUES,
DO IT TODAY!!**

Heredity Factor Weighed In Recent Studies

Findings Suggest Low Percentage Inherited

In recent studies, brought to the public's attention in Dr. Herman N. Bundesen's newspaper column, the inheritance factor as the cause of mental retardation was found to suggest a smaller ratio than previously credited.

Of 419 children handicapped by mental retardation, cerebral palsy and epilepsy only one out of six cases had a hereditary basis. More than half were shown to have suffered injury at birth.

From this study, Dr. Bundesen pointed out the importance of protecting infants from handicapping damage at the time of birth. Prevention of such harm has been a source of intensive examination and various methods have been tried to decrease the number in regard to the many hazards of labor, the dosage of excessive sedatives and heavy anesthetics during delivery, use of instruments indiscriminately and unchecked complications of the pregnancy.

Recognition by the medical profession that the heredity factor may not be the dominant cause of permanent defects has directed their efforts to more study and full examination of these long disputed enigmas.

Recommended Reading

The Retarded Child, a Guide for Parents and Teachers by Herta Loewy, Philosophical Library, New York, New York, 1951.

This book on the education of the retarded child, written by a teacher of many years experience may well serve as a text book for parents. Couched in Simple terms it takes up such basic things as Care During Babyhood and Infancy with sub-chapters on Feeding, Play Activity, etc. It follows the development of the child with detailed planning for his training and education.

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