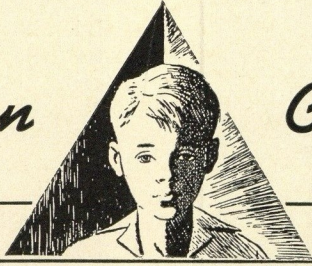


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children



Can Be Helped!

VOL. V. — ISSUE NO. 2

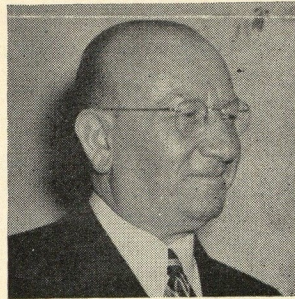
JUNE, 1953

Awards Presented at AHRC 4th Annual Dinner

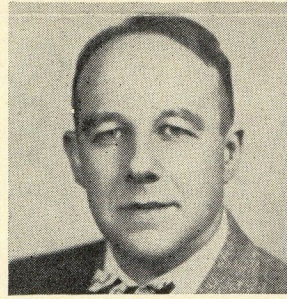
"LOOK" PUBLISHER CITED FOR PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT; THREE OTHERS CITED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN MEDICINE, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE



GARDNER COWLES



MORRIS J. SOLOMON



DR. CLEMENS E. BENDA



PROF. LOUIS ROSENZWEIG

Something new was added to the list of AHRC citations. A special Public Enlightenment Award was presented Gardner Cowles, publisher of "Look" Magazine, on the occasion of AHRC's successful Fourth Annual Dinner at the Hotel Astor, Saturday, May 17, 1953. In addition Prof. Louis Rosenzweig of Brooklyn College was cited for his outstanding work in the education of the mentally retarded, Dr. Clemens E. Benda was recognized for his wonderful work in medical research, and Morris J. Solomon for a noteworthy contribution in community service to our children.

Gardner Cowles, who is publisher of "Look" Magazine, richly deserved the citation awarded him for Public Enlightenment in the field of mental retardation. Through his magazine with its circulation of millions, the American public had an opportunity to learn this year how the present neglect and misunderstanding of mentally retarded children is felt in the lives of children cast into the shadows, also in the lives of parents and in communities through the unhappiness of these parents.

Mr. Cowles could not be present to accept the award, but it was gratefully accepted by William Arthur, Assistant Managing Editor. Gerald Astor, author of the article was also present at the AHRC Dinner to hear his work praised and the influence of the article, "Out of the Shadows", explained.

Morris J. Solomon, after whom the Morris J. Solomon Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Retarded Children at Brooklyn Jewish Hospital is named, accepted an AHRC citation for Outstanding Work in Community Service. Mr. Solomon, through the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund, has continually since its inception, forwarded AHRC work by providing financial support to the Brooklyn Clinic and to the organization as a whole. A leading figure in the knit goods and yarn industry, a Shriner, an active member of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, among many other

activities, Mr. Solomon is a Director of the Brooklyn Jewish Community Council and of the Flatbush Community Council as well as one of the staunchest friends mentally retarded children have ever had.

Dr. Clemens E. Benda, who spoke fascinatingly at the Dinner about his work as Director of Research and Clinical Psychiatry at the Walter E. Fernald State School, Mass., accepted a richly deserved citation from the AHRC for his remarkable work in the study of mongolism and the invaluable contributions in his books on this subject and other aspects of retardation.

Dr. Benda is a Research Fellow at the Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1936 he opened the first research institute in this country for the study of mental deficiency. Since 1947 at the Fernald School he has been expanding his work along pathological as well as clinical lines. His opportunities are perhaps the best in the world and in the oldest state school in the United States. And Dr. Benda has shown himself ideally equipped to take advantage of them to the lasting benefit of mentally retarded children, their parents and the medical profession.

Prof. Louis E. Rosenzweig, who accepted the AHRC Fourth Annual Education Award, is the author of sixteen original papers in journals of education and publications dealing with exceptional children. Always, and everywhere he goes, Professor Rosenzweig teaches a philosophy of constructive action and hope on realism tempered with kindness. He is leading a generation of teachers into a new viewpoint in the training of the retarded. Assistant Professor of General Education at Brooklyn College, Chairman of the CRMD Section of the N. Y. Society for the Experimental Study of Education, and formerly Supervisor of the Bureau for Children with Retarded Mental Development, Prof. Rosenzweig can be expected to continue to add greatly to the welfare of mentally retarded children during the years to come.

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Issued four times a year by

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

323 FOURTH 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: Bernard M. Fineson

Executive Director: Joseph T. Weingold

What's In A Law?

(An Editorial)

We always supposed that law abiding citizens did not try to evade observance of laws. We always supposed, too, that legislators knew what they meant when they used specific words in laws. Apparently we have been very naive, because there seems to be one code for ordinary individuals and another for members of Boards of Education.

For example, in 1950 the Education Law of the State, providing special educational facilities for "children" of retarded mental development was changed to read "minors" of retarded mental development. We always thought that the legal definition of a minor is a person under 21 and that this change in the law was effected to make it clear to school districts that they had a legal obligation, if not moral, to provide special educational opportunities for the mentally retarded until the age of 21. The reasons are obvious: they learn slower; their maturation takes place later; more training means better equipped citizens.

Well, we were wrong, apparently, because almost four years after the law was amended almost nowhere in this State are such special facilities provided beyond the ages of 17 or 18. No, Boards of Education don't just break laws. They give reasons. For example, the "minors" are "uneducable" after 17 or 18. Or, budget doesn't permit it. Or, they present problems of adolescence difficult for the school to handle. These are evasions, not reasons. Certainly they are "uneducable" by ordinary standards; but the law requires *special facilities* for them. And since when have budgetary considerations or difficulty of a program been accepted for disobedience of the State Education Law? Certainly not in the case of children of normal intelligence.

We had hoped that local school boards would meet the problem sympathetically and constructively. But after four years, we are coming to the sad conclusion that the will to obey the law, in letter and in spirit, is not there—and the result is human waste. Our children cannot make up for these last opportunities. The *State Department of Education has the means to compel obedience to the law*. We hope this will not be necessary, but the same standards of law observance used for the normal should apply to the mentally retarded. They must not be treated as second class citizens.

More Than 1300 Attend AHRC Fourth Annual Dinner

More than thirteen hundred enthusiastic parents and friends of retarded children were very much on deck, Saturday night, May 17, in the Hotel Astor Grand Ballroom to make our Fourth Annual Dinner a magnificent success. (The counting isn't finished yet so we can't say exactly how much better we did financially. But we do know definitely that more money was taken in than last year.)

Much credit of course goes to all the hard and fast friends who turned out to celebrate with us and to give as much as they could to the collections and the advertisement campaign for the Dinner Journal. Thanks are due also to our valiant and long suffering Julian Banner, Chairman of the Dinner Committee, to Max Kallor and Sol Hulnick, his ever-ready Co-Chairmen, and to the members working on the Dinner Committees.

Borough Chairmen and Co-Chairmen were: Burton Loewer, Cy Chiquor, Sidney Werbin, Peggy Holzman, Arlyne Bernstein, Ruth Oloff, Margaret Riva, Evelyn Shulman, Minnie Lichtenstein, Ruth Gussman, Ruth Seinfeld and Minna Bober.

Finance Committee: Sylvia Schachter, Max Schachter and Irving Shiller.

Journal Committee: Maxwell Herman, Chairman, and Arthur Greenberg, Co-Chairman.

Seating and Ticket Committee: Sol Stich, Charlotte Donnelly, Jack Bakshy, Lillian Pasternack, Joseph Gitter, Chairman; Annette Karson, David Gimbel, Murray Watskin, Rose Horowitz, Leo Jacobs, and Jack Frank.

Raffle Committee: Leo Jacobs, Mrs. Lee Frank, Eddie Fliegel, Leo Greenberg, Joseph Gitter and Jack Jason.

Floor Committee: Irving Krakoff, Chairman; Flo Schwartz, Mildred Ridges, Florence Alpert, Rose Horowitz, Mrs. Arthur Maisel, Elaine Blau, Bella Werbin, Jack Bakshy, Sidney Werbin, Theresa Snyder, Florence Dash, Syd Safier, William Pasternack, Ann Greenstein, Mrs. J. Isaacson, Jean Katz, Helen Gumberg, Sidney Leviton, Lydia Hershkowitz, Ben Droutman, Lily Pasternack, Helen James, Charles Dembow, Ray Puser, Bea Winerman, George Greene, Dorothy Shapins, Margaret Rosenberg, Burton Loewer, Ruth Oloff, Nat Kuris, Marie Pesch, Betty Lincoln, Jean Serbin, Rose Ossin, Paul Westerkamp, and Murray Watskin.

Reception Committee: Dora Banner, Minna Bober, Arlyne Bernstein, Anne Gitter, Rose Krakoff, Belle Jacobs, Shirley Hulnick, Ruth Seinfeld, Annette Karson, Barbara Weingold, Jean Kallor, Alice Pearlstein, Mildred Fineson, Peggy Holzman and Rose Nussbaum.

Allen Prescott, our Toastmaster, kept the program of speakers and later dancing moving with his usual professional adroitness.

Seen in full regalia on the dais and looking fine and beautiful were our good friends: Drs. George A. Jervis, Benjamin Kramer, Joseph Wortis, Clemens E. Benda, Arthur Foxe, Lawrence B. Slobody; Profs. Chris DeProspero and Louis E. Rosenzweig; Dr. Maurice Fouracre, Dr. Francis J. Daly, Dr. Emily Burr, William Arthur; Hons. Morris J. Solomon, Ferdinand Pecora, Aaron Jacoby, Julius Gans, Paul A. Fino, Bertha Schwartz and Samuel Roman; Miss Katherine Lynch, Miss Olive Biggar; Mrs. Paul Jacoby, Mrs. Charles Elias, Mrs. Lillian Segall, Mrs. Murray Buxbaum, Mrs. Esther Blumenson, Julia Fischell, Mrs. Sylvia Rubin, Mrs. Gertrude Belgrair; and Father Henry J. Vier and Rabbi Max Zucker, who delivered the inspiring Invocation and Blessing.

Music for dancing was furnished by Arthur Roman and his orchestra who played popular tunes until 2 A. M.

State Convention Successful



STATE DIRECTOR WEINGOLD REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES TO CHAPTER DELEGATES AT AHRC STATE CONVENTION

Representatives from AHRC Chapters came from almost every county to the two-day State Convention held this year in New York at the Hotel Vanderbilt, April 18 and 19. Registration rolls showed that in all over 300 were present.

In his remarks at the opening luncheon on Saturday, President Fineson paid tribute to our late President, Alexander C. Russotto.

Following the luncheon, guest speaker Prof. Louis Rosenzweig from the Department of Education, Brooklyn College, discussed "Long-Range Planning". In covering the history of his interest and affiliation with the Association, Prof. Rosenzweig made these four points: (1) that the AHRC is **not** a service organization, but a group devoted to prove through its pilot projects that retarded children can be helped; (2) that it is up to the Association to show the community how they should and could take some of the responsibility for giving service to these children; (3) that parents must consider the total problems confronting this growing and successful organization and not just their own immediate needs; (4) and that the AHRC must avoid programming and planning that would leave them open to criticism and possible destruction.

The remainder of the Saturday session was devoted to discussions of the Annual Report on state activities.

On Sunday, April 19, sessions were held in the AHRC offices, 323 Fourth Avenue, N. Y. C. (in case you've forgotten, we've moved). Sunday's agenda included reports on public education, administration, institutions, the NARC and fund-raising.

The Convention provided stimulating information to take back home for immediate and future consideration.

CAYUGA COUNTY FORMS AHRC CHAPTER

The amazing growth of AHRC and the new awareness of the problem of mental retardation in communities throughout New York State as reported by Mr. Weingold elsewhere in this issue of OCV, is seen again in the adding of a Cayuga County (Auburn) Chapter to AHRC. It happened in May.

The needs of the parents of retarded children in Cayuga County were first seen by Frank McCarthy, President of the Onondaga Chapter. Mr. McCarthy consulted with Jerry Weingold and the result is a full-fledged new AHRC Chapter with active membership of over 25 parents and friends.

Cayuga County is making plans to start a school for retarded children. Their newly-elected President is Paul Readon from Auburn.

All AHRC wish Cayuga the best of luck — and welcome!

Appointed Fund Raising Director



ARTHUR H. KONVITZ

At last the search is over. AHRC has found a fund-raising director, and a very good one. Arthur H. Konvitz who joined the staff of AHRC June 1st is the man who has the money-getting job we all know most needs doing now.

No AHRC member will forget the wonderful 16-hour telethon put on for the New York Cardiac Home last year which benefited patients to the extent of over half a million dollars. In addition to putting on this wonderful telethon, Mr. Konvitz raised another quarter of a million for cardiac patients from trade associations—an activity in which he has long experience and outstanding know-how. United Jewish Appeal, the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and the Interfaith-in-Action groups are but three of the organizations whom Mr. Konvitz has served in this way.

Only 40 years old and a family man (one boy and one girl), resident of Woodmere, Long Island, Mr. Konvitz graduated from New York University.

Fund raising work normally carried on by AHRC volunteers will continue as always; except of course that these activities will benefit from the added publicity and new friends which will stem from the results Mr. Konvitz knows how to get.

To assist Mr. Konvitz is charming Natalie Tack who has been his "Girl Friday" on other campaigns. Both Mr. Konvitz and Natalie express a deep feeling that the welfare of a great many people now depend upon them.

"Never", they say, "have we been more determined that our work and talents shall produce outstanding results".

A campaign goal (\$1,000,000) will soon be announced along with plans to implement a six-point program of service to retarded children which is to be made possible by the new fund raising drive.

To help Mr. Konvitz to help our children we in AHRC need to keep AHRC strong. For that, certainly he can depend upon us as we now depend upon them to raise more money to help retarded children.

TO ALL INTERESTED MEMBERS . . . VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR SEPTEMBER COIN CAMPAIGN

Here is the opportunity you have been waiting for to offer your time and services to AHRC. Plans are underway to open the New York City Coin Box Campaign on September 30th. Hundreds of volunteers will be needed to man booths, contact stores, solicit in general.

The success of the Coin Campaign depends on the number of volunteers and we have to count noses before September comes around.

Won't you and friends who want to help please get in touch with either Mrs. Ann Gitter, Chairman of the Volunteer Committee, 51 Argyle Road, Brooklyn, BU. 2-7082 or the AHRC office as soon as you can?

Alexander C. Russotto Canteen To Open

New Social Center for Young Adults

Some of the dearth of community recreational facilities for retarded young adults is now being met by the AHRC with the opening of the Alexander C. Russotto Canteen at 724 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn.

The Canteen, to open in late June, will be dedicated to Alexander Russotto and is another pilot project in line with AHRC's policies. The program will be directed to young men and women who have either out-grown the AHRC Social Activities Group or have no other recreational outlets in their own communities.

The Canteen itself is designed to be a meeting place for these young people, to help them socialize, offer them play facilities and simple relaxation, every Friday evening from 8 P. M. to 10 P. M., throughout the year.

Eligible young adults 20 years of age and older, and whose parents are AHRC members, are invited. But only parents who are on the Hostess Committee will be admitted.

For information about registration for the Russotto Canteen write the AHRC office.

AHRC RECEIVES \$10,000 JOSHUA GRANT



Charming Mrs. Charlotte Mandel, President of the Joshua Orphan Aid Society presenting Bernard Fineson, AHRC President, with a check for \$10,000 at the Joshua Dinner Sunday, June 7, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. The contribution went to the 1953-54 school program of the AHRC Joshua School, Bronx, New York which was founded by the Society.

PARENT EDUCATION AND SCHOOL FOR MOTHERS REGISTRATION OPEN

The third session of the **School for Mothers** came to a successful close June 16, 1953. Attended by 21 mothers of retardates under six years of age, the School proved to be both a valuable training experience and an aid to the development of positive emotional attitudes, according to Wilfred Quaytman, clinical psychologist and director of the School.

Registration for the fall semester is now **begun** and application should be mailed to the School for Mothers, AHRC, 423 Fourth Avenue, N. Y. 10.

Also open for applicants is the ten-week **Parent Education Course** to be resumed in the fall. The class is quickly filled so please get your applications in as soon as you can. Direct your mail to Parent Education Course at the AHRC office.

Time Magazine Quotes AHRC Consultant

The June 29th issue of Time Magazine quoted AHRC Consultant, Dr. Harold Michal-Smith who is Chief Clinical Psychologist at the Flower-Fifth Ave. Hospital Clinic, in a speech he made at the general meeting of the United Cerebral Palsy Association, Wednesday evening, June 17, 1953, at the Hotel Woodstock, N. Y. C.

After complimenting parents of cerebral palsied children on the program of research which Dr. Michal-Smith said will benefit not only children who have cerebral palsy, but in many instances, the far greater number who are mentally retarded.

He made it clear also that there can be unfortunate results when parents have the impression that cerebral palsy and mental retardation are not frequently found in the same patient.

Said Dr. Michal-Smith, "As far as some (cerebral palsied children) can demonstrate they function as mentally retarded. This is true of a rather large number. This fact does not by any means imply that such cases are hopeless. Mentally retarded children can and are being helped to become useful and contented adults, whether or not the condition is accompanied by an additional complication called cerebral palsy. Parents react sometimes, however, in an unfortunate way to the idea of a mental handicap."

We in AHRC are gratified that our Dr. Michal-Smith and Time Magazine were able to help parents of cerebral palsied children correct the impression some of them may have, namely that there are no cerebral palsied children who are mentally retarded. In a significant number of cases the condition of cerebral palsy is accompanied by mental retardation. Frequently even the child with normal intelligence may be unable to demonstrate it because of the cerebral palsy condition. For all practical purposes he may be functioning on a retarded level. Parents of cerebral palsied children should recognize this.

"Treatment, education and public understanding of many cerebral palsied children is hampered by an unrealistic refusal to see this and a defeatist attitude toward retardation," Dr. Michal-Smith concluded.

UCPA TO FORM COMMITTEE ON CEREBRAL PALSIED RETARDATES

In a forward step that promises much for the mentally retarded with cerebral palsy, Arthur Larschan, chairman of the United Cerebral Palsy Association Program Services, announced that among the nineteen United Cerebral Palsy Association service committees will be one on the needs of the cerebral palsied with mental retardation, including education, diagnosis and treatment, and that sub-committees will be formed in each locality on the problem of cerebral palsied with mental retardation, the recruitment and training of personnel, rehabilitation, residence schools, recreation, and camping facilities for this group.

TEEN-AGE RETARDATES ORGANIZE NEWSPAPER

The Young Folks League, a group of retarded young people who live in Brooklyn, are now distributing their second issue of "The Youth Speaks", a house organ made up and written by League members.

The little newspaper brims with items: on elections, social activity plans, shop talk about their jobs, reviews of plays, recipes, hobbies—and yes, even poetry.

The results are very good—a readable newsy paper. (Ed.—The editors of OCV have to admit that this is a fine little newspaper. We bow to our competitors.)

Publicity Plans For Future Slanted Toward Legislation

Planning for fall and winter AHRC publicity will have a strong emphasis on the need for action in New York State to help retarded children through more equitable laws, Gladys P. Thomas and Joseph T. Weingold, announced last week.

Through speeches in every town and city possible, through news releases, radio and TV and whenever it can be done in booths, displays and by means of outdoor advertising, and petitions, AHRC members will urge their friends and neighbors to support legislation to help our children, according to Mr. Weingold.

"Our rallying cry will be our slogan, 'Retarded Children Can Be Helped'. Our prime purpose will be to focus public attention not only upon what our children need and the fact that they and the community can benefit if those needs are met. Beyond that we expect to begin in a new and more forceful way to point up just how and in what ways the community cannot do what should be done for retarded children because there are cruel gaps in the laws of New York State through which our children fall," Mrs. Thomas explained, outlining plans to give to chapter chairmen throughout the state materials and suggestions to aid them in causing the AHRC message and our children's needs to be heard and understood more thoroughly than ever before by the time legislative action is contemplated again in Albany.

An outstanding stimulus to such efforts will be found in a forthcoming article in Redbook Magazine—the story of how the parents of retarded children in Syracuse, New York met, organized and formed an AHRC Chapter; how they began to right the wrongs of their children.

A noted writer whose work has appeared often in the Reader's Digest and other top circulation magazines did this story, travelling to Syracuse with his professional photographer wife to spend several days. There, he was royally entertained by Frank McCarthy and the entire membership of the AHRC Chapter in Onondaga County.

Another national magazine expects to do a story of parents soon, but laying stress on the problems of prejudice which we face. This will be based on the "Names Can Hurt" speech found in the AHRC Speaker's Manual.

As to spring publicity in general, in addition to radio and TV spot announcements, Jerry Weingold did a wonderful job on the WNYC Shelley Dobbin's program, 8 A. M., June 3. He discussed what the community should and can do to help mentally retarded children. The same point was made in pictures and stories of Jessica Dragonette and Elise Rhodes respectively which appeared with an explanation of how our children needed help and consideration, in the "Daily News" and the "New York Post" during the early part of May.

On June 16, incidentally, AHRC's old friend, Irving Caesar, who wrote us a fund-raising song, "Just One Friend", appeared on the DuMont Television Program, "Where Was I?" He made an appeal for AHRC, of course. Similar appeals by guests on this program will be heard throughout the month of July. Why not write the program and tell them how much you appreciate it?

REPRINTS AVAILABLE. . . .

"Group Guidance of Parents of Mentally Retarded Children" by Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of AHRC, and Rudolph P. Hormuth, Assistant to Director of AHRC, in a special monograph of the Journal of Clinical Psychology, May 1953. Copies available from AHRC, 323 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. 20c each.

Westchester Schools Win Court Decision

A two-year long legal battle over the right of the Westchester Chapter of AHRC to conduct a school for mentally retarded children culminated Tuesday, April 7, 1953 in a decision in favor of allowing the Chapter's school to be conducted at their present address, 925 Split Rock Road, Pelham Manor, New York.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, in a four to one decision, held that the school is not in violation of a village zoning ordinance, and is in fact a continuation of a non-conforming prior use.

When Westchester AHRC purchased the property two years ago and started its school, nearby property owners filed suit claiming the school was in violation of the zoning ordinance.

Arguing from a brief prepared by the late Alexander C. Russotto, Chief Counsel John J. O'Neill appeared before the Appellate Division to appeal the judgment. The result was that the high court found that "the present use of the property as a school for mentally retarded children is a continuation of one of the prior non-conforming uses".

Reimbursement for the cost of appealing the judgment were allowed the Westchester Chapter of AHRC. And so ended one of AHRC's major legal and psychological triumphs

PARENTS IN GLOVERSVILLE AND MONTREAL HEAR WEINGOLD

In swift overnight trips Mr. Weingold spoke to two very different embryonic parent groups during the month of May.

The first, situated in Gloversville, N. Y., is already the nuclei of an AHRC chapter and after listening to Mr. Weingold describe a program it is hoped that very soon we shall hear more from Gloversville. Mrs. Miller, a special education teacher who is a non-parent, and Mrs. Ida Cash, a parent, furnish a great deal of the leadership in Gloversville.

In Montreal, Canada, Mr. Weingold found a most interesting group headed by Mr. L. H. Hall, which is drawn from French Canadians and other groups in that bi-lingual city.

However, as far as mental retardation and the problem of parents are concerned interest in finding a solution to the needs is not different. We can expect as a result of Mr. Weingold's visit a new interest and liaison between Canadian parent groups and those below the border.

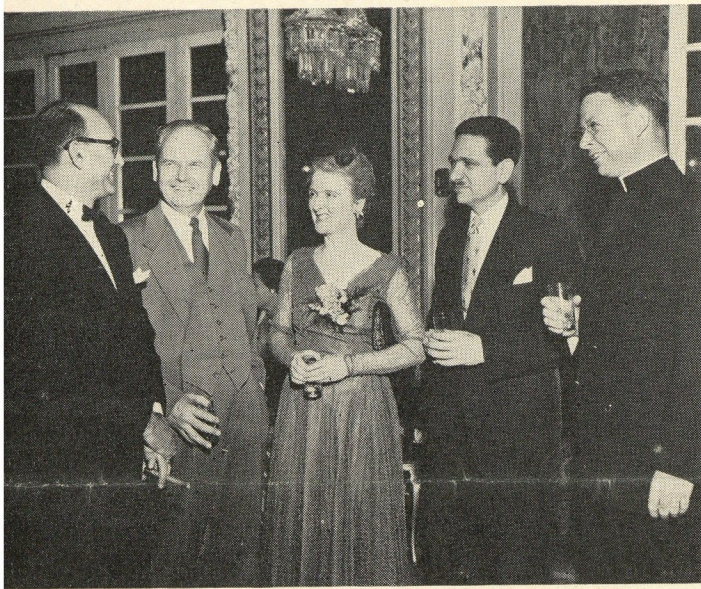
DONOR GROUPS PROVIDE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Thirty children financed through camp scholarships approved and set up by AHRC and using funds donated by the Donor groups—Sarah Starkman League, Esther Bailla League, Ruth Kirzon Group for Handicapped Children and the Women's Aid of Kew Garden Hills—will enjoy suitable camp facilities in sites throughout Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, according to Rudolph Hormuth, Assistant to Mr. Weingold.

The camping period offered at Camps Arlen, Pinegrove, Lee Mar and Waterford will be three weeks in duration this year which means that in all 630 days of camping experience will be given our children through this program.

The camps involved increase in number and so do the number of children AHRC is about to serve in this way through the efforts of interested donors.

SCENES AT THE 4th ANNUAL DINNER



Left to right: Joseph T. Weingold; Dr. Francis Daly, State Department of Education; Miss Olive Biggar, Welfare and Health Council; Joseph Bernstein, Brooklyn Council for Social Planning; Father Henry Vier, Catholic Charities.

William Arthur, Asst. Managing Editor of "Look" Magazine, speaking at dinner after accepting Public Enlightenment Award on behalf of Gardner Cowles.

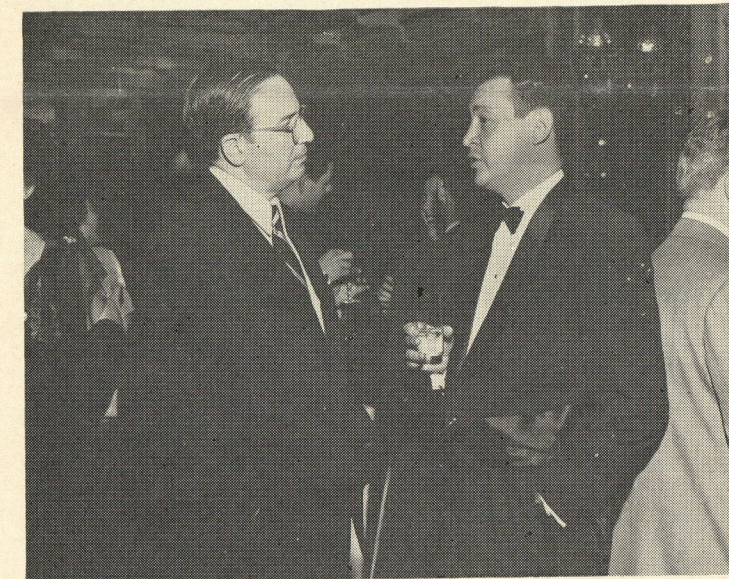


Left to right: Prof. Louis Rosenzweig, Brooklyn College; Mrs. Rosenzweig; Mr. Femiami, Mrs. Winifred Femiami, CRMD; Prof. Maurice Fouracre, Teachers College; Miss Katherine Lynch, Acting Director CRMD; Mrs. Chris DeProspero and Prof. Chris DeProspero, CCNY.

Prof. Louis Rosenzweig, of Brooklyn College, accepts the AHRC Education Award from President Bernard Fineson.



Morris J. Solomon, noted Brooklyn philanthropist, receiving award for Outstanding Community Services from President Bernard Fineson.



Left to right: Allen Prescott, noted screen, radio, TV star and Dinner Toastmaster; Mrs. Bernard Rosenberg; Joseph T. Weingold; Mrs. Arnold Mandel, President Joshua Orphan Aid Society; Bernard Rosenberg of Westchester Chapter.



Left to right: Dr. Joseph Wortis, Director Pediatric Psychiatry, Morris J. Solomon Clinic for Rehabilitation of Retarded Children, Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn, and Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of Pediatrics, and Clinic for Retarded Children, Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital.



Dr. Clemens E. Benda, Director of Research and Clinical Psychiatry, Walter E. Fernald State School, addressing dinner assemblage.

Chapter News

CAPITOL DISTRICT'S FIRST ANNUAL DINNER A SUCCESS

Successful is the word for the First Annual Dinner of the Capitol District Chapter on April 21, in Albany. More than 150 people attended.

As reported by Mr. Weingold who was there, and the Capitol Newsletter, "Forrest Willis did a wonderful job as Toastmaster". The dinner featured speeches by Prof. Chris DeProspero and Mr. Weingold. Dr. Van Kleek of the State Department of Education, Director Joseph Endres and Charles Becker of the Bureau for Handicapped Children and the assemblage found these talks "very inspiring".

Cudos to President Joe Tholl and the Dinner Committee who did such a fine job.

ERIE-NIAGARA CHAPTER PLAN TEEN-AGE GROUP

News from the Erie-Niagara Chapter is extremely heartening, judging by the chapter's fine and complete newsletter. Program activities are ever more complete and well attended. Notable, this month and an idea for the rest of us, was the chapter's social night for adolescents May 1 which was the first real party in the Erie-Niagara Chapter's new home. The International Council for Exceptional Children planned the affair to help meet two important needs: (1) to help mentally retarded adolescents appreciate desirable social relationships through group activities; (2) to give student teachers more experience in working with exceptional children. Eighteen AHRC children participated and were supervised by twelve students from the College. After the party itself, students spent some time evaluating the activity which was followed by a decision to set up a regular program of varied social activities for the older retarded children for the next school year.

MONROE CHAPTER HOLDS FOURTH ANNUAL DINNER

By the time OCV reaches you, the Monroe Chapter, one of the charter groups of AHRC, will have held its Fourth Annual Dinner in the Rainbow Room of the Eagles Club, Rochester.

Highlight of the evening was Mrs. Naomi Chamberlain, a leading speech pathologist who will head the Day Care Center for Handicapped Children operated by the Monroe Chapter for mentally retarded youngsters with and without cerebral palsy involvements. She discussed "Four H's for the Handicapped". Mrs. Chamberlain was formerly an instructor at the University in the Experimental Class for Brain Damaged Children and Director of classes of Cuyahoga Council for the mentally retarded.

In the next issue we'll tell you, no doubt, what a great social and financial success this dinner was.

NASSAU CHAPTER PLANS SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

Our Nassau County Chapter will offer more than fifty retarded youngsters an opportunity to taste the joys and benefit of the socializing experiences of day camps in four separate camp projects situated in Roslyn, St. Giles Hospital, Garden City, the Corona Avenue School in Valley Stream and the Beach Club of the Sun 'n Fun Club. The latter site being offered to our children for Saturdays only.

Heading the camp committee for the Nassau group are Mrs. Phoebe Lazarus and Mrs. E. Dewittes.

SULLIVAN CHAPTER DEDICATES CLINIC



Sullivan County Chapter members and their children pose outside of Monticello Hospital during the dedication services of the Clinic for Retarded Children, Sunday afternoon, May 9, 1953. In conjunction with Open Hospital Day the Clinic was open for public inspection. Visitors were taken through the reception, medical examining and psychological consulting rooms.

Following the dedication the public was invited to attend an open class day of the Sullivan County School, conducted at the Monticello Jewish Community Center and open to children throughout the County. Parents were impressed with the accomplishments of these children, who certainly have proven to be educable.

ONONDAGA'S COMMUNITY INFLUENCE INCREASING

Reading closely each monthly issue of the Onondaga Chapter's newsletter, we cannot help notice the increase of the Chapter's influence on Onondaga County's thoughts and acts. One piece of evidence is in the constantly increasing number of subscribers to the newsletter. Over 900 people now receive this monthly bulletin. Donors to the group now number in the hundreds; the April tea netted over \$1100. The Chapter opened a school at the May Memorial Parish House in Syracuse, under the direction of Dr. Grace Kaczynski and now has four paid assistants.

SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR SUFFOLK CHILDREN

News from Suffolk County Chapter involves a nice story of a successfully planned summer day camp and a raffle effort which netted \$2,000.

Mr. R. H. Bryant, who will direct the summer day camp program, is donating his own extensive farm for the project to serve almost twenty children. A barn has been made into a playroom and to be used as a theater on rainy days. Mr. Bryant is a Ph.D. and a specialist in this type of education. In addition to taking children for the day some arrangements are also being made for boarding because Mr. Bryant and the Suffolk group know of the need of parents for respite once in a while.

JUNE FUND DRIVE ON IN SCHENECTADY

The Schenectady County Chapter is busily engaged in their June fund-raising drive with a goal of \$15,300. Arthur D. Hilliard, Assistant Secretary of the Citizen's Trust Co., is Honorary Chairman of the drive and sponsors include Mayor Archibald Wemple of Schenectady, Mayor William Turnbull of Scotia, and Supt. of Schools Dr. Harry J. Linton.

(Continued on Page 9)

Bills To Aid Retarded Pending In Congress

The national legislative picture on aid to retarded children is showing signs of brightening up. Three new and two 1952 revived proposals are now pending in Congress.

Under consideration is H.R. 402, the "National Services for Disabled Persons Amendments of 1953" act, introduced by Congressman Emanuel Celler of Brooklyn, January 3, 1953. This act is "to encourage and assist physically and mentally handicapped persons to help themselves prepare for and engage in remunerative employment to the extent of their capabilities". H.R. 402 provides federal funds for the establishment of sheltered workshops in various states.

Also Congressman Clyde Doyle, of California, has introduced bill H.R. 1537 to amend the Social Security Act. This amendment would provide for payment of insurance benefits, under the Federal Old Age and Survivors System, to children who have attained the age of 18, but are incapable of self-support because of physical or mental disability.

The third bill, H.R. 1602 dealing with tax exemptions for families supporting mental retardates, was introduced in the House of Representatives on January 13, 1953 by Congressman Rains of Alabama. This proposal provides an additional income tax exemption for a taxpayer supporting a child who is an "invalid", and includes the provision: "The term 'invalid' means an individual who, by reason of a medically demonstrable physical or mental defect or infirmity (whether congenital or acquired by accident or illness), is permanently and totally disabled. . . ."

In addition to the above proposals, two bills have been introduced in the House to revive the legislation proposed during the last Congress by the then Congressman Kennedy of Massachusetts. Both bills, H.R. 2149 and H.R. 2463 now before the House Committee on Education, seek to establish a Federal Agency for the physically and mentally handicapped.

CHAPTER NEWS (Continued)

The Chapter has already received \$500 from the Schenectady American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries along with proceeds from musical comedies put on by the Catholic Youth League and the garden party and fashion show staged by the National Council of Jewish Women.

We root for Schenectady and their efforts to make the goal.

WESTCHESTER PLANNING TESTING AND GUIDANCE CLINIC

Plans for Westchester's first clinic for retarded children, including parent and family guidance services, was recently announced. A Chapter committee is working out details.

The clinic will be operated in conjunction with an existing agency now doing notable work in mental health. Plans call for a financial grant from Westchester AHRC to provide the special personnel, representation on the agency's Board, and access to services already established within the agency.

Although the Westchester Chapter is aware that the clinic will not meet all the needs of retarded children and their families in their County, they know it will be the beginning of at least one full diagnostic clinic with all related services.

AHRC Members At NARC Northeast Conference

Five Point Resolution Adopted

More than 400 representatives of 56 NARC groups from all parts of the northeast met at the Annual Conference held in the Southbury Training School, Southbury, Conn., Saturday, June 13, 1953. AHRC President Bernard Fineson discussed mental retardation in reference to desirable legislation; state and federal aid programs (public schools, resident schools, clinics, vocational guidance and placement).

Our Executive Director, Joseph Weingold also was an important part of this conference. He gave of his experience and know-how in a workshop on projects—clinics, subspecial classes, sheltered workshops, guidance and placement. Mrs. Helen Kaplan, President of the Nassau AHRC Chapter, co-chaired the panel on Special Classes in Public Schools.

A tour of the facilities and a ground-breaking for a new swimming pool at the beautiful Southbury School, remarkable both for its training program, its philosophy and physical characteristics was followed by a luncheon during which 550 guests were welcomed and Ernest N. Roselle, School Supt. described the growth of our parents' organization and characterized the spirit of it as "militant, almost evangelistic".

Martin F. Papish, of Philadelphia, first vice-president of the National Association for Retarded Children, spoke of the aims of the organization to improve the opportunities for mentally retarded children in his response. "The people, the philosophy, the facilities of Southbury Training School present a standard of excellence in the care, training and education of the mentally retarded which may well serve as a pattern for the entire nation, wherever the planning and building of state training schools for the retarded take place", he said.

Following the workshop panels at the afternoon session the conference leaders proposed the following five-point resolution which was unanimously adopted. The text of the statement was:

Be It Resolved: that in the planning and construction, staffing and operation of institutions for the mentally retarded, emphasis shall be on training and rehabilitation;

That the mentally retarded child in the community shall have equal rights, privileges and opportunities as children with other handicaps to education, recreation and vocational training to the limit of their capacities;

That since existing State legislation for the mentally retarded throughout the country is limited and archaic, new legislation should be enacted recognizing the rights of all mentally retarded persons;

That the training of physicians, psychologists and social workers should include greater attention to the clinical handling of mentally retarded children; and

That more adequate funds be made available for basic research into the causes and prevention of mental retardation.

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.)

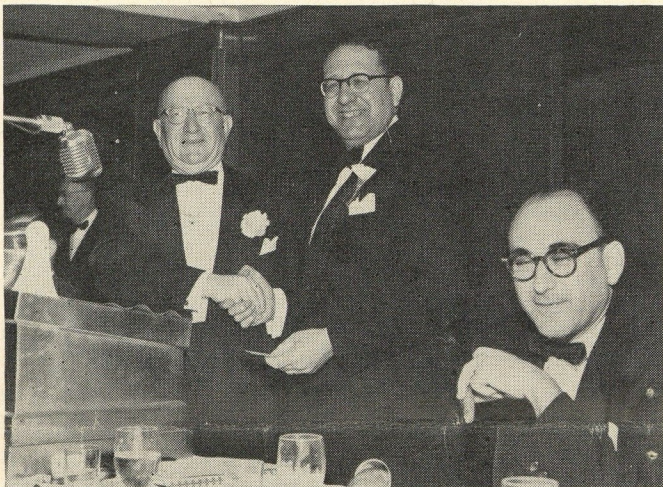
Your doing so will make one more dollar available for the help of our children.

—THE EDITORS.

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

DONOR DOINGS...

MORRIS J. SOLOMON LADIES' AUXILIARY CONTINUES SUPPORT OF CLINIC

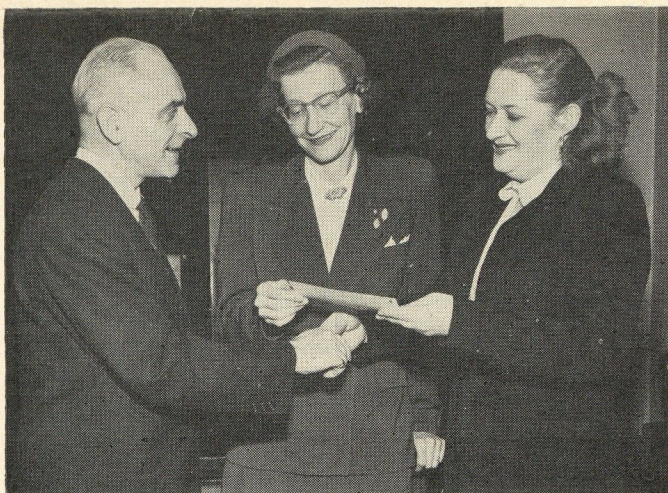


Morris J. Solomon, noted Brooklyn philanthropist, turns over a check of \$5,000 on behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund to Bernard Fineson, AHRC President, at the Association's Fourth Annual Dinner. This is the third year of operation of the Clinic founded and supported by the wonderful ladies of the Auxiliary.

Now that summer is here and activities are sort of stopping, husbands will have their wives again and vice versa or something.

That's the heading we thought would be appropriate for Donor Doings this time of the year until news of activities started to flow in. For example the **Ladies' Auxiliary of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund** had a luncheon at the Atlantic Beach Club on June 17. Plans in August include a night ball game and September luncheon and matinee.

LENTON LADIES JOIN DONORS



Representing the AHRC, Julian Banner and Rose Nussbaum (left to right) accept a \$750 check from Mrs. Gertrude Belgraier, President of the Lenton Ladies' Auxiliary, Wednesday evening, April 22. The grant will be used to establish a Lenton Ladies' Auxiliary Scholarship Fund for scholarships to AHRC schools.

The **Gertrude Vos Children's Fund**, not content with their support of the Flower-Fifth Avenue Clinic and bouncing with energy, ran a strawberry festival to raise funds to support the AHRC Nursery Class. Result was \$300, a mere beginning. Our old friend, Beidie Hass, social secretary, writes us that they appeared on DuMont TV recently through the efforts of Pearl Vos to speak about helping retarded children.

On May 16, the same day as our dinner, the **Lena Invalid Aid** had their luncheon at the Hotel Madison—but they still appeared in force at the dinner. Now they are deep in planning for the fall dinner-dance.

We weren't present at the **Theodora** luncheon and fashion show at the Plaza, but Lennie Levin told us all about it between drools and sighs - - Bess Meyerson, Joyce Matthews, gowns by Florence Lustig—how could we have missed it?

We could write a lot more, but there are some pictures elsewhere in this issue of OCV that say more than words could express, and we are beginning to take our first sentence seriously, so, a happy summer to all works just around the corner.

CUNNINGHAM WOMAN'S LEAGUE CONTRIBUTES \$5,000 FOR QUEENS RETARDED



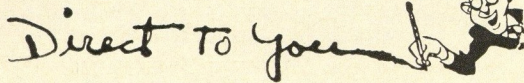
Mrs. Sylvia Rubin, President of the Cunningham Women's League presenting checks for \$5000 each to Senator Seymour Halpern who accepted the donation for the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Queens, and to Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the AHRC. These grants represent an increase of 50% over year's material aid that the League gave to the two organizations.

A TRIBUTE TO TEACHERS

Special education teachers have long been a forgotten group. Reprint of the following Tribute to Teachers is dedicated, on behalf of all AHRC members to all educators who work with mentally retarded children.

"A salute to the unsung teacher begins with this well-deserved eulogy: A teacher is Courage with kleenex in its pocket, Sympathy struggling with a snow suit, and Patience with papers to grade . . . A teacher really does not mind the sniffles, squirmings, stomach aches, spills, sloth and sauciness. Neither does she disintegrate before tears, trifles, fights, futility, excuses, parents who spout, little boys who shout, and little girls who pout . . . Most of all, a teacher is somebody who likes somebody else's children—and still has the strength left to go to the PTA meeting. Thank heaven for teachers!"

Reprinted from May 1953 issue of "M.R.C. on Record", newsletter of the Greater Windsor Parents Association, Windsor, Canada.



The educational world dealing with exceptional children is in ferment today about whether or not the mentally retarded child, now considered "ineducable" is the responsibility of public school. These children, now excluded from special classes, are the "trainable" about whom educators speak. One of the foremost advocates of the view that these children are the responsibility of the public schools is Ray Graham of the State of Illinois Department of Education. He pleads the cause of these children most eloquently and I turn this column over to him to speak about the "trainable" mentally retarded child.

This Is Basic

IF THE TRAINABLE CHILD IS TO HAVE A
SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

By RAY GRAHAM

A philosophy or belief is the first essential in formulating any program. . . .

First things should come first. It is foundation thinking to begin with an interpretation of the purposes of schools in a democracy. Schools serve the American Way of Life. There is no greater justification of education.

Schools serve this function only as they contribute to the American Way of Life means serving the individual, the family, the community, and the state and nation.

Schools recognizing this, establish programs for trainable children because they believe in the importance of the family. Our way of life improves as we see families stick together in facing all kinds of problems. The family with a trainable child . . . is not always willing to just by-pass responsibility by handing the problem over to the state or to the institution . . .

How can one accept a belief in the American Way of Life without seeing that the school helps to maintain family unity when it helps them with a problem of this kind.

The school is also faced with a responsibility of serving the community . . . The community that builds hospitals for its sick, establishes safety measures for its people, builds churches and playgrounds will also have a sensitivity for the problem of the trainable children in its midst. This community sensitivity is strengthened when schools join the ranks of other local resources in helping this family with its problem of the trainable child.

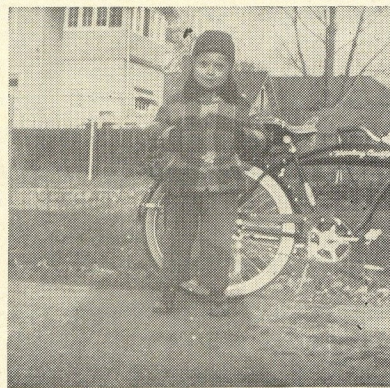
It is an old pattern schools have played a big part in training for better health. The school lunch program is one way schools have said, "the academic training function is not the only responsibility we have" . . .

Trainable children are a part of the American Way of Life. These children may be found in any family. They are in every community. They are sooner or later found in every school district. Business firms sell them food and clothing. Churches open their doors to them. And now we are finding the school can make a good contribution to the problem. In so doing the school supports family life and community responsibility.

The school also supports the state as it provides for serving trainable children. Institutions are overcrowded. There are long waiting lists. The drain on the taxpayer is enormous. This is helped as family and community resources (including schools) meet the problem locally.

We cannot subscribe to a pattern of thinking that

MEET OUR CHILDREN....



DICKIE PIRROZI

Little five-year-old Dickie Pirrozi, our small fry Elmira representative for this issue, has done a public education job all by himself. His picture and story was sent in by a very impressed friend, Mrs. Lillian Westney, who volunteers her time at the AHRC Elmira School.

"To know Dickie is to love him," says Mrs. Westney, who describes him as a "completely sweet, lovable child, with soft brown and very expressive eyes, an engaging smile and a most winsome personality."

Dickie isn't able to speak as yet, but is able to communicate through his eyes and gestures. He loves to go to school. His own desire to express himself makes the most of every opportunity.

From what we hear, Dickie has done his share to show people he meets that he's a "regular kid". Mrs. Westney's reactions are proof of this when she writes about "her little friend . . . and the great satisfaction and thrill she receives from her work"; a feeling we would all share I'm sure if we knew Dickie.

So, a big "Hi" to him and thanks to Mrs. Westney for the introduction!

says it is a welfare problem alone, or a school problem alone, or an institution program alone. It belongs to all. Each has a particular function to perform in such a teamwork approach. "Segregation" is a useless and misleading term. Trainable children can be segregated anywhere. They can be segregated by neglect. They can be segregated by weak sympathy. They can be segregated by attitudes toward them. They can also be freed, and accepted, and integrated into the American Way of Life . . . We must learn the importance of not making the child fit the groove, but rather of making the groove serve the child . . .

The democratic philosophy toward children or toward schools will not play one group against another . . . **All children are important**, and each child is important.

How can we avoid a philosophy of fear. Many persons, some schools, even a few specialists seem to be held back by such feelings as "We don't know how to teach trainable children", or "We're afraid they will upset our school", or "If someone will show us how this can be done we might change our viewpoint". These are expressions of uncertainty. They show lack of faith in ourselves as people and in our schools as resourceful resources.

The American Way of Life is forward. It is characterized with a pioneering spirit. It is wholesome in its unselfishness. It is successful because it is adventurous and inventive. It endures through its own faith in its ability to solve its own problems.

Reprinted from the *Retarded Children's Educational Project*, Chicago, Ill., April 1953 issue of *NEWS and VIEWS*.

THE THREE "R's" FOR THE RETARDED—

"A program for Training the Retarded Child At Home" by Naomi H. Chamberlin and Dorothy H. Moss, published by The NARC, 1953, 50c.

Reviewed by Mrs. Jane Patterson
Education Director, N. Y. C. AHRC Schools

THE THREE "R's" FOR THE RETARDED is a must for any parent of a retarded child. The authors themselves are experienced and wise people in the field and the fact that the pamphlet is sponsored by the NARC indicates that it is a careful and accurately written piece.

The authors state in their introduction that they do not feel this pamphlet will provide all the answers for all retardates. They do feel, however, that by defining the management and training problems of many retarded children and stating possible solutions for these problems, that all parents will be given clues to proper handling. From the title one might expect to read about teaching the 3 R's of reading, (w)riting and (a)rithmetic, but actually the theme is Repetition, Relaxation and Routine. The academic skills, which are referred to in the latter chapters are not recommended until the other skills are mastered. As with average children, there is described a "readiness" for reading and vocabulary and speech requirements before reading and writing instruction should start. As the authors go on to describe specifically steps to take in helping the children to develop, they constantly remind the reader that learning for a retardate is a slow process requiring many repeats and trials: and that for this reason patience and consistency are the greatest demands made of the parents in working with their own youngsters.

The one fact of home management that is not thoroughly discussed and specially outlined it seems to me was the matter of day to day routine. But the obvious reason why this topic was omitted is that each home varies. Each would have to establish its own routine. The necessity, however, for a simple but well organized plan for the child's day is repeatedly mentioned. The techniques for instruction and the need for praising each accomplishment or effort are systems which have been found valuable in school programs as well as in the home. In many ways this excellent booklet is a sound primer for teachers and for parents. It will reassure parents and give them a constructive approach to helping their children.

INQUIRY CORNER

By RUDOLPH P. HORMUTH, Director of Information
Assistant to Executive Director

These questions and answers are from my files and are typical of many received from all parts of the country. Of course without specific knowledge of the child and the variety of family and community problems faced, the replies must be general. I haven't all the answers, as no one has in our field.

Q. Please tell me where I can find a camp for a three and a half year old mentally retarded boy?

A. In general very young children who are mentally retarded aren't ready for the separation from home which is required by placement in a camp. Rather than a regular camp, it might be more feasible for you to consider a summer day camp where the child continues to sleep at home.

Q. Where can I find a public school class for my son who is five years old? (From New York City)

A. In general, the Board of Education of N. Y. C. is not responsible for retarded children prior to the age of seven. The program in the special classes in this city is organized to meet the needs of school age children functioning at a certain level which permits them to benefit from this program. Once the child is of legal school age, you can apply to the CRMD Division of the Bureau of Child Guidance, 224 East 42nd Street, N. Y. C., for an examination to determine eligibility for these special classes.

If a child has reached a mental and social age of two and a half he should be able to benefit from a group experience such as is offered in normal nursery school in the younger groups, or in the private day schools for retarded children which are licensed for the care of children under six.

Q. Is it possible for a child with an I.Q. of 40 to ever reach the point when he might be able to work or hold a job when he reaches adulthood?

A. There are several individuals participating in our young adult programs whose "I.Q." is approximately 40, who are working and earning an average weekly wage of \$30 to \$35. Successful job placement in many respects depends as much on social adaptation as on intellectual ability. If a young adult has learned how to get along with other people who may be working along side of him, how to travel, how to take orders, how to complete tasks assigned, successful job placement may be worked out.

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