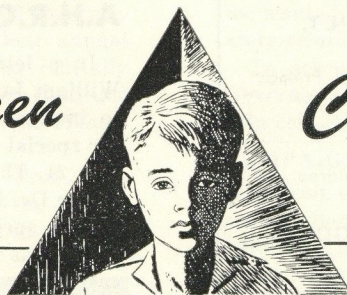


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children

Can Be Helped!



VOL. IX — ISSUE No. 3

106

October, 1957

School Districts Lag on Classes for Trainable

CAMPAIGN IN HIGH GEAR

The 1957 Campaign is off to a fine start. Ruth Fins and staff have organized a Commerce and Industry Committee that includes some of the most important executives in this city. Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr., of Bristol-Myers, is chairman of this division and he has given generously of his time and efforts in hopes of making 1957 the best year financially that the Association has ever known. Sam Cook Digges, is serving as Honorary Chairman and doing his usual outstanding job.

This division of fifty leading industries represented by the same number of top flight executives has sent out over 10,000 letters appealing for funds.



A Women's Division has also been organized to help raise funds not only during the campaign but on a year round basis. Mrs. Edmund F. Johnston, Chairman of the first special event, along with Mrs. Peter C. A. Carpenter and Mrs. Doris A. Odum, Vice Chairmen, are planning a gala party late in the year with the help of Al Capp, Honorary Eastern Chairman. The theme of the party will be 'Li'l Abner in Dog Patch' from the invitations and decorations to the original Broadway cast.

Last year's pleasant and profitable association with the New York Stock Exchange has been renewed and on November 14th, a group of models will appeal for funds in the richest section of the richest city in the world.

Another fund raising activity, coin cans, has also grown considerably since last year. So far 17,500 cans have been distributed in the Metropolitan area alone.

Mrs. Joseph Gitter has done her usual excellent job as Chairman of Volunteers working closely with the campaign chairman. But there is still an urgent need for volunteers to make the final personal appeal that spells success, according to Mrs. Gitter. The AHRC needs house captains, block cap-

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INCREASE OF CLASSES ALMOST ENTIRELY FOR EDUCABLE

Although a report of the Department of Education to the Joint Legislative Committee in July showed a great increase in classes for the mentally retarded throughout the state, this increase occurred almost entirely for the educable without a commensurate growth of classes for the trainable.

There were 1,348 special classes for the mentally retarded as against 1,206 last year, a net gain of 142. Added to the gain of 62 classes the year before, over 200 new classes have been started in the last two years. The number of children being served is presently 20,040, compared with 18,369 in 1955-56, an increase of 1,671.

On the other hand, however, special classes for the severely mentally retarded (I.Q. below 50) for which the law is permissive have increased only from 46 to 67 and the number of children being cared for is up from 607 to 928. Even this figure must be modified by the fact that only some nine local school districts out of over 1,400 have started such classes under the permissive law. The figures are further modified by the fact that a number of school districts have started multiple units of classes and that eight of these classes were begun by the County Vocational Extension and Education Board of Nassau County.

Larger cities, like Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and New York, have started no classes under this law since its inception in 1955.

The AHRC is calling on the Joint Legislative Committee to make this law mandatory. The facts clearly indicate that efforts to have the law implemented, in its present form, are almost unavailing. "Three years to implement a law", stated Bernard M. Fineson, President of the Association, "is long enough to find out whether or not it can work in its permissive form. We think it is time now that the law be made mandatory and that the parents be given this lever to get the just dues and rights for their children."

New York City has implemented neither the law nor the regulations of the Commissioner which call for such classes with children with I.Q.s under 50 to have a maximum register of 10. The City of New York Board of Education still sets up a criterion of I.Q. 40 to 50 for admission and such classes for the most part have registers of 18.

Another question being raised is how local school districts are utilizing the additional funds they have received from

(Continued on page 2)

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

issued four times a year by

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

200 FOURTH AVENUE — NEW YORK 3, 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

Affiliated with National Association for Retarded Children, Inc.

President: BERNARD M. FINESON

Executive Director and Editor: JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD

Associate Editor: CHARLES KLEIN

\$45,000 GRANT FOR UPSTATE CLINIC

A grant of \$45,000 to establish the Buffalo Diagnostic and Counseling Studies Center for Mentally Retarded Children was announced by Raymond W. Houston, Chairman of the New York State Interdepartmental Health Resources Board. This Center will be an integral part of the Rehabilitation Center of the Children's Hospital and Crippled Children's Guild in Buffalo.

The original legislation, sponsored by the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, 1956, appropriated \$90,000 to set up two clinics, one in New York City and the other in a central part of the state. One such clinic, at Albert Einstein Memorial Medical College, Jacobi Hospital, New York City, is already in operation. The clinic at Buffalo Children's Hospital has been set up with an additional \$45,000 from the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. This still leaves \$45,000 available for another clinic.

Parent counseling, helping the families to understand the nature of the child's condition, and offering guidance to the parents in planning a definite program for the child will be a main effort of the Center. The Center will also act as a consultation service to private physicians, social agencies and schools, and will cooperate with all agencies serving the mentally retarded child.

The Center plans to work closely with the proposed state school to be established at West Seneca. It will prove valuable to both the new school and the Center to have a close affiliation and cooperation in evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and study.

Dr. Mitchell I. Rubin, Chief of Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Buffalo will work closely with the Health Resources Board to establish this center.

NEW DENTAL AID FOR HANDICAPPED

The Jewish Memorial Hospital, Broadway and 196th Street, has announced development of new techniques that make it possible to give new dental services for mentally and physically handicapped children.

"Heretofore", said Dr. Julius Goldberg, head of the hospital's Dental Division, "Such children have suffered an inadequacy of care to their handicap."

Besides making these services available to handicapped children, Dr. Goldberg said, "The Hospital is also offering training courses, Dentistry for the Handicapped child".

EDUCATION FOR RETARDED OVER 17 ASKED

A.H.R.C. Asks N.Y.C. to Implement Law

In a letter dated September 20th, the AHRC asked Dr. William Jansen, Superintendent of Schools of New York City to implement the amendment to the Education Law calling for special classes for the educable retarded from the ages of 5 to 21. The letter follows:

"Dear Dr. Jansen:

I am sure you are aware that the 1957 Legislature (L.1957, c.951) has amended Section 4404, Subdivision 4, of the Education Law to read:

'The board of education of each school district in which there are ten or more children retarded in mental development shall establish such special classes as may be necessary to provide instruction adapted to the mental attainments of such children from their fifth birthday until the end of the term during which they attain their twenty-first birthday under regulations to be established by the commissioner of education.'

In effect, this now prescribes that the local school district shall provide instruction for mentally retarded in special classes from five until twenty-one. The practice in New York City, except where the mentally retarded could qualify for special classes in the vocational or academic high schools, was to dismiss such children from school after approximately their seventeenth birthday.

As you know, we have for years urged a program for the education of these youngsters beyond their seventeenth birthday. At one time the Board of Superintendents had approved a plan for an occupational high school or continuation school and a budget request had been made in, I believe, 1952 and 1953 but was dropped from the budget thereafter.

Since the law now makes it mandatory to have such instruction, I should like to inquire what plans are being made for the education of these youngsters beyond the age of seventeen, what special facilities are being provided, and what curriculum is proposed.

New Publication on Teacher Qualification

A new brochure, "Qualification and Preparation of Teachers of Exceptional Children", one part of which deals specifically with the distinctive skills and abilities needed by teachers of mentally retarded children, has been issued by the Federal Office of Education.

It includes information on competencies needed by teachers of children who are mentally retarded; opinions on the proficiency of some teachers of mentally retarded; education and experience for acquiring the competencies; summary and implications, and areas for further study.

For a copy write to Office of Education Bulletin 1957, #3, the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Cost is 45c.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS LAG (Continued from page 1)

state aid under the Heald formula. Under this formula state aid has been increased from \$800 per class for the handicapped to in some instances over \$5,000 per class. For the most part, these funds have not been used for additional services for the handicapped but have gone into the common city fund.

AHRC is continuing its efforts to get local school districts to implement this law and hopes that its provisions will be made mandatory so that it will be able to confront local school districts with more force than at present.

GIVE A FEW HOURS A YEAR

BROOKLYN DAY FOR AHRC PROCLAIMED

A special honor was bestowed on a group of 300 mentally retarded boys and girls this year. The date of their annual Coney Island Outing, Sept. 8th, was proclaimed officially "Brooklyn Day for the Association for the Help of Retarded Children" by the Borough President of Brooklyn, the Honorable John Cashmore.

The proclamation, a beautiful, hand-lettered scroll, was presented personally to one of the girl scouts in the special Brooklyn Troop that is operated by the Association in cooperation with scout activities.



Brooklyn Borough President John Cashmore gives AHRC girl scout a scroll containing proclamation designating Sept. 8th, official "Brooklyn Day for the Association for the Help of Retarded Children."

The merchants of Coney Island with their customary generosity offered candy and favors for all the children. Nathan's provided all the hot dogs and snacks they could eat — and Steeplechase donated all its rides and attractions.

This was the fourth annual outing sponsored by the 60th Precinct Youth Council of Brooklyn and it was sparked by Mr. Irving Cohen, Kings County Organization Chairman for Handicapped Boys in the Boy Scouts.

The others who made this happy day possible were the 60th Precinct Youth Council Committee: — Chairman, Murray Sallinger; Secretary, Ida Israel; Herman Fields, Charles Larkin, Bill Nicholson, Mr. and Mrs. Moe Silberman, Murray Handwerker and Mrs. Moran.

The group was given an official escort by Captain James Brown and Youth Patrolman Ben Choder from the 60th Precinct.

MANHATTAN DIVISION REACTIVATED

For the last few years, Manhattan members have been joining with Bronx members in the activities of the AHRC. The time has now come, however, for Manhattan to stand on its own feet.

Under the Chairmanship of Irwin Kaminsky, 10 Henry Street, Jersey City and Co-Chairman Arlene Sang, 200 West 20th Street, New York City, the Manhattan members are being reactivated into a dynamic and active group for AHRC.

All those Manhattan members wanting further information write to the above. They soon will have received notices of the first meeting in the borough. All are urged to attend.

11 Year Old Genius Helps Retarded

Robert Strom, the 11 year old electronics wizard who changed the \$64,000.00 Question into one worth \$128,000.00 has a heart as big as his brain. When his mother told him we wanted him to help in the campaign for AHRC he immediately offered his whole month's allowance, \$3.00, to the cause.

To accept his donation, the Honorable Averill Harriman, Governor of the State of New York, agreed to hold an AHRC coin collector.

CAMPAIGN IN HIGH GEAR (Continued from page 1)

tains, coin collectors and clerical workers; and it needs them as soon as possible. Although the outdoor drive takes place Nov. 12th, 13th and 14th, volunteers must be assigned to places and hours must be allocated well in advance of these dates. National Retarded Children's Week lasts for 11 days.

AHRC President, Bernard M. Fineson, 1st Vice President, George Hirsch, and 2nd Vice President, Seymour Rubin, appeared on Big Joe's radio program, WMGM, at different times to ask for volunteers in the metropolitan area.

Big Joe has promised to devote his entire program to our cause on Nov. 16th, the night before National Retarded Children's Week opens. This radiothon may be tied up with a studio force accepting contributions over a battery of telephones. The program is expected to be lengthened from 3 hours to 5 or 6.

Mary Margaret McBride, popular radio and TV personality, is going on the Barry Gray program at WMCA to ask for support from her public and Barry's in the campaign.



President Fineson also appeared on the Herb Sheldon TV Show over WABD to ask for volunteers. He was accompanied by a group of members, parents and non-parents, including Minna Bober, Frances Goldstein, Billie Kamen, Jean Katz, Anne Kraus, Etta Newton, Rose Nussbaum, Alice Pearlstein, Pearl Pelletiere and Estelle Weinberg.

Posters have been placed in all leading department stores in Metropolitan New York including 5th Ave. and 57th St. specialty shops. Several firms including International Business Machines at Madison Ave. & 57th St. are devoting special windows to the cause.

In addition, car cards have been accepted by all New York subway and surface transportation advertising companies, a total of nearly 5000 in all.

Appeals for volunteers were taped behind-the-scenes at the Helen Hayes Theatre by Fredric March and Florence Eldridge, stars of Eugene O'Neill's "Long Journey Into Night" which is starting its second year on Broadway after a triumphant appearance in Paris.

Another appeal, this time for funds to support the AHRC, was recorded by Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Murray in Mrs. Murray's office.

Records and photographs of these celebrities have been accepted for presentation by practically every radio station on the dial and most of the TV channels.

On Nov. 15th, to start the campaign off on TV, Pearl Buck will appear on the Tex and Jinx daytime TV program over Channel 4. Miss Buck will be interviewed by Mary Margaret McBride, who has steeped herself in our literature on mental retardation until she is as cognizant of the problem and its implications, both human and economic, as many members of the AHRC.

CLASS FOR BLIND RETARDED AT JOSHUA SCHOOL

A class for young blind retarded children has been started by AHRC at the Joshua School in the Bronx. This is probably the first such class in a community school.

In the last few years AHRC has received an increased number of applications from parents of blind retarded children for admission to the AHRC classes.

Various studies have shown that there is a significantly higher rate of mental retardation in premature babies than in those who are born after full term. A number of premature babies in the past have been afflicted with retrolental fibroplasia, that has caused blindness. Although the cause for this, the administration of too much oxygen, has been discovered and this condition will rarely occur in the future, the children who were born prematurely in the last seven or eight years and have this condition are now reaching the age where they should be attending school.

A number of them, however, have not been able to obtain admission or be retained in the existing schools for the blind for a number of reasons. One of these reasons might be their hyperactivity; another might be that they do not qualify on the existing psychological tests; another might be that they are not ready for group experiences in these settings because of their deprivation during early childhood. For all these reasons, which are to some extent similar to the reasons why AHRC formed its classes in the first place, AHRC felt compelled to enter this pioneer field on an experimental basis.

The class started this past spring with three participants and has expanded with the opening of the fall semester to a capacity of five.

At the office of the Association, Miss Bernice Baumgartner, Director of AHRC Classes, said "This is a very difficult and untrodden area of education. We are really trying to learn by doing. We make no claims, but shall observe this class very carefully to see whether a program for such blind retarded children can be worked out."

NEW DIRECTOR FOR AHRC CLASSES

The appointment of Bernice B. Baumgartner as Director of Classes for the Association, has been announced by Mr. Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director. Miss Baumgartner will be working with the teachers of the special classes for retarded children sponsored by the AHRC at Joshua School for Retarded Children, Bronx, New York, in P. S. 91, Brooklyn and in P. S. 72, Queens.

After teaching mentally retarded children in St. Louis, she became Assistant Supervisor of Special Education in Indianapolis. Serving as Consultant for the State Department of Public Instruction in Illinois, and as Education Director of the Dixon State School, an Illinois institution for the retarded, she also coordinated the Workshop for New Haven State Teacher's College in Southbury, Connecticut, this past summer.

NEW CUB PACK FOR RETARDED BOYS

Parents of retarded boys recently met with Boy Scout officials at Coney Island Sports League headquarters, 3011 Stillwell Ave., to organize a new cub pack for retarded youths in the Coney Island-Brighton Beach-Sheepshead Bay area.

Irving Cohen who is Kings County Boy Scout Chairman for the Handicapped, was on hand to help organize the pack.

This brings the number of Scout groups sponsored by AHRC in New York City up to 6.

NEW STATE SCHOOL HEADS

Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, has announced several new appointments as school heads; — Dr. Arthur G. Rodgers, former director of Binghamton State Hospital, is now director of Syracuse State School; — Dr. Charles Greenberg, former director of Craig Colony, became senior director of Rome State School and Dr. William C. Johnston, who was assistant director of Matteawan State Hospital, is now director of Craig Colony.

Dr. Rodgers has been director at Binghamton since January 1, 1953. He graduated from Albany Medical College in 1915 and interned at Troy Hospital. After a year at Willard State Hospital he became a staff member at Hudson River Hospital.

Dr. Greenberg has served as director of Craig Colony since 1952. After 2 years internship in City Hospital, Welfare Island, and a year's residency at Syracuse Psychiatric Hospital he served on the staff of Harlem Valley State Hospital where he attained the position of assistant director.

Dr. Johnston, born in Canada, graduated from the University of Toronto College of Medicine. After interning at Highland Hospital, Rochester, N. Y., he was on the staff of Wallkill Prison, Wallkill, N. Y. and Matteawan State Hospital, Beacon, N. Y. where he progressed through various grades to assistant director.

EDUCATION OVER 17 (Continued from page 2)

I am sure that a great deal of planning has gone into this sort of thing from 1950 on (and I have a number of plans that were submitted by B.C.R.M.D. during that time).

Certainly it seems to us that a start should be made with the provision for at least twenty classes for the five boroughs. The increased state aid for such special classes makes this financially feasible, if that is a consideration under a mandatory provision.

I am sure that you will give this your immediate and serious attention, because you share our desire to lead the state in this further development of educational opportunities for the mentally retarded.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph T. Weingold
Executive Director"

Copies of this were sent to Honorable Charles Silver, Chairman of the Board of Education, Senator Earl W. Brydges, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, Assemblyman Stanley Steingut, Vice Chairman of the Committee, Mr. William Hamm, Associate Superintendent of Schools, Honorable Arthur Levitt, Comptroller of the State of New York.

At present, the Board of Education provides 19 special classes in the academic high schools and 2 in vocational high schools for mentally retarded who meet certain academic standards. If these standards are not met, the mentally retarded reaching the age of 17 are dismissed from school. The purpose of the amendment to the education law was to overcome this arbitrary dismissal and to provide a realistic training program for the educable retarded to the age of 21.

As it now stands, the Board of Education of New York City has no program for such youngsters and if parents insist that they remain in school until they are 21, no curriculum has been developed to meet their particular needs.

At the office of the AHRC Training Center and Sheltered Workshop, Mr. Max Dubrow, Director, said, "Our work with the mentally retarded late adolescents and young adults has indicated clearly that there are significant numbers of such retardates who come to us after having been dismissed in public schools at the age of 17 with a great deal left undone for them which could profitably be done by public education."

GIVE A FEW HOURS A YEAR

STATEWIDE...

ONONDAGA COUNTY CHAPTER (Syracuse) drive for \$54,000 is being helped by the milkmen . . . great publicity has accompanied this drive with a two page rotogravure in the Post Standard as well as editorials in the various newspapers . . . SUFFOLK COUNTY CHAPTER has acquired a new home in Patchogue, with grounds, availability of swimming, etc. . . . receiving much help from the Patchogue Chapter, Knights of Pythias . . . CHEMUNG COUNTY (Elmira) has moved into new and larger quarters for their Sheltered Workshop . . . WESTCHESTER CHAPTER has moved its headquarters from Pelham Manor to 21 Mott Street, White Plains . . . Ditto for Nassau County . . . has moved to new quarters at 1616 Northern Blvd., Manhasset . . . CLINTON COUNTY CHAPTER (Plattsburg) stepped up a drive for \$7,000 . . . aided by editorials and newspaper publicity it looks as if it may go to the top . . . most chapters are now active in camp activities . . . 15 boys and girls from NASSAU COUNTY CHAPTER enrolled in classes for religious instruction at Notre Dame Church, New Hyde Park, received the sacrament of confirmation from Aux. Bishop John J. Boardman . . . ROME STATE SCHOOL CHAPTER has published pamphlets for distribution to parents and others — excellent . . . Social Service Department of Rome State School is helping to distribute these to the parents of new patients . . . have asked Commissioner Hoch permission to mail these pamphlets to the parents of the entire patient list of Rome State School . . . SUNSHINE LEAGUE—MONROE COUNTY CHAPTER (Rochester) is affiliated with the Health Association of Rochester and Monroe County . . . Bud Collyer well known radio and television personality emcee's a show for mentally retarded in Chappaqua . . . (WESTCHESTER CHAPTER) Julian Banner was the principle speaker at the annual dinner of BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER (Binghamton) in June . . . ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER (Buffalo) is sponsoring a panel discussion group at the AHRC center, 253 Humboldt Parkway . . . The 1957 life membership of the Parents Teachers Assoc. awarded each year to an outstanding person by the Onondaga Council of the P.T.A. was presented to our own Mary McMarthy for her work in the field of Mental Retardation . . . CAPITOL DISTRICT funds goal drive which is now in process is \$25,000 . . . WRGB Schenectady, featured Schenectady Chapter and their school on "The Second Mile" a program on May 26th.

Brooklyn AHRC Classes Move to P.S. 91

Experimental classes for retarded children sponsored by the Association for the Help of Retarded Children have moved to P. S. 91, New York and Albany Aves. and Maple St., in Brooklyn.

The Board of Education authorized the move because the school where the classes had previously been offered, P. S. 84, is being demolished in the near future to make way for a new public school.

Five beautiful rooms were decorated by the Board of Education. The children were welcomed by the Principal, Mr. Leo Lipschutz. All other classes at Joshua and P. S. 72, Queens are in full swing with rosters rapidly filling.

NEW DONOR GROUP IN FLUSHING

The Flushing Committee for the Retarded, with the help of the Honorable Neil Lieblich, received a charter from the Association for the Help of Retarded Children at a general meeting held at the home of Mrs. Sara Adler in Flushing. In addition to Mrs. Adler, the following members were present: Mrs. Esther Melnick, Judith Lindenberg, Rose Saperstein, Lucy Bava, Helen Shapiro, Betty Mastoras, Ruth Afrique, Sherry Levine and Beatrice Gluck.

Suffolk Holds Mammoth Radiothon

Under the sponsorship of Patchogue Lodge #790, Knights of Pythias, radio station WPAC devoted all its facilities on Sunday, Sept. 29th, from noon until 6 P.M. to raising money for the Association for the Help of Retarded Children.

In addition to the Chancellor Commander of the Patchogue Knights of Pythias, a galaxy of celebrities helped make the radiothon a success. From the New York Chapter came a variety of taped greetings from the Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold, while the President, Bernard M. Fineson, gave the listeners his greetings in person.



(Left to right): Ted Rosen, Chancellor Commander, Patchogue Knights of Pythias; Edwin Schlosser, Radiothon Fund Raising Chairman; Bernard M. Fineson, President, Association for the Help of Retarded Children; August Bischoff, Suffolk County President.

The affair was held at the Patchogue Hotel and appeals for funds were heard from Pearl Buck, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, Burl Ives, David Ross, John Charles Thomas, Phyllis Kirk, Madeleine Carroll, Don Ameche and Danny O'Neill.

A sum of about \$1,500.00 was raised in the six hours the event was on the air.

Boro Buzzings

BRONX

Mrs. Jean Katz, co-chairman of the Bronx Chapter, mixed business with pleasure at a committee meeting held in her home.

The meeting was opened by Teresa Harris, the chairman, and plans were discussed for a card party to be held Oct. 8th at the Park Terrace in the Bronx. The meeting was attended by: Helen Lusthaus, Helen Michaelson, Theresa Zestar, Sylvia Schachter, Jeannette Bonanno, Bertha Bressler, Murray Frankel, Beatrice Safran, Jean Katz.

Committees were formed to sell raffles, serve food, check tickets and various other tasks. Mrs. Katz offered refreshments and the meeting adjourned.

QUEENS

First Film Showing of Studio One Presentation — "A CHILD IS WAITING" on Oct. 22nd, at the Rego Park Jewish Center, Queens Blvd., Rego Park. . . Citizens for Queens Dinner Committee — Dinner to be held on Feb. 2nd, 1958 — entire proceeds to AHRC. Judge Irwin Shapiro and Daniel J. Motto — co-chairmen. . . Chartered Bus going to Letchworth Village — State School — on guided tour for parents—Oct. or Nov. . . Old Clothes Pick-Up—Anne Kraus, 63-50 Wetherole St., Rego Park 74, N. Y. TW 7-9517 . . . CALL OR WRITE.

What about news from the other boroughs?

NRCW WEEK — VOLUNTEERS CALL AL. 4-8203

N.I.M.H. OUTLINES RESEARCH FINDINGS

In the course of justifying a budget request of \$35,000,000 for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1957, Dr. Robert H. Felix, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, presented a series of statements briefly outlining findings in the area of mental retardation and recommendations to utilize these research findings.

"Within the last few years," states Dr. Felix, "various important conclusions have been reached concerning mental retardation, both on the basis of research and of more informal observation. On the basis of what is now known, several suggestions can be made to deal with the problem."

The statement in full follows:

I. It is possible to decrease the incidence of retardation through the control of several health factors in the pregnant mother known to produce adverse effects upon the intellectual status of the offspring.

(a) German measles in the first trimester of pregnancy can cause retardation and can be prevented by prophylactic inoculation with German measles prior to pregnancy, a program that could be mediated through State and local health departments as well as private practice of medicine.

(b) Venereal disease can cause congenital syphilis with retardation as one aspect, emphasizing the need for intensified State and local venereal disease control programs.

(c) Several toxic conditions both acute and protracted of the mother during pregnancy are known to have adverse effects on the offspring showing the need for:

1. Increased knowledge by physicians of these relationships through their original training and short-term refresher courses sponsored by medical societies, health departments, foundations, or other groups.

2. There should be increased emphasis upon the development of an adequate number of poison control centers to give physicians quick access to the best possible treatment of poisoning from trademarked compounds, the toxic agents of which cannot be known to all physicians. (Poison control centers have complete files of toxic agents in all commercial products, together with treatment procedures, and operate on a 24-hour-a-day basis.)

(d) Pregnancy complications and nutritional deficiencies of the pregnant mother are known to have adverse effects on offspring and are most frequent in lower economic brackets. It is important therefore, that:

1. Improved prenatal care be made available.
2. That nutritional supplements be supplied when necessary. This step is probably the most important single action that can be taken at this time.

The better the mother's lifetime general health, the lower is the probability of her producing a retarded child, indicating that there should be improved general health programs, preventive services, and remediation of all treatable conditions, a responsibility which must be shared by all health agencies and the medical profession.

II. It is possible to decrease the impact of retardation upon the affected individual and his family. It is known that retardation has many causes, not all of which are determined by hereditary or congenital factors and include early childhood experiences, educational opportunity, health factors, nutrition, etc.; and it is also known that proper management will improve development and maximize the capabilities of retarded children. The following suggestions are, therefore, pertinent:

(a) Maternal deprivation during early years (continued separation from the mother) is known to affect adversely intellectual as well as social and emotional development making it necessary—

1. To assure the presence of an adequate mother substitute and the availability of "mothering" when children must be institutionalized for significant periods of time.

2. To assure the mother the right of visiting her child or of staying with him when he must be hospitalized for even short periods.

3. To provide for keeping families together in event of disasters or emergencies.

4. To develop adequate child placement and adoption services that will assure that infants with no homes will be placed without undue delay (ideally within first year or earlier) and to prevent a long period of institutional care for other children orphaned by accident, disaster, or other cause.

(b) The parents and siblings of the retarded child who does not need institutionalization may be traumatized by his deficiency and further hamper his maximum development unless medical facilities, social agency resources, educational programs, and other facilities, are available—

1. To counsel with the family and to promote its accepting and understanding of the handicapped child, and to promote a positive attitude toward him.

2. To provide expert diagnosis and instruction with respect to the proper care and long-term planning.

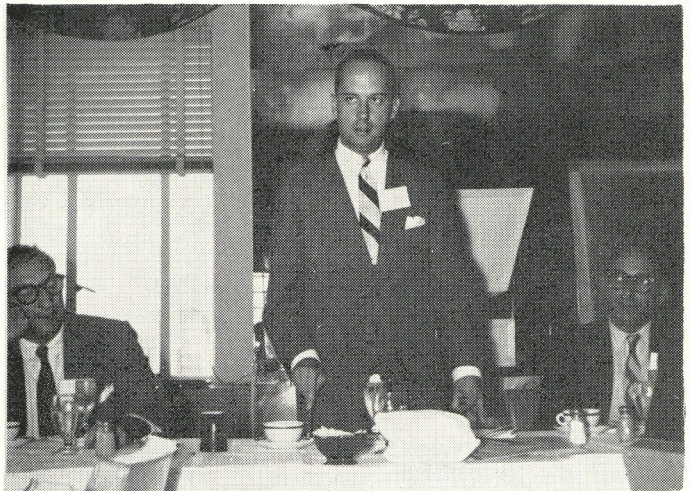
(Continued next column)

Luncheon Honors Campaign Committee

A luncheon was given at the Barbizon-Plaza Hotel to honor the members of the Commerce and Industry Committee headed by Campaign Chairman Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr.

The committee consists of men prominent in industry, finance, banking, communications and the professions.

Mr. Weingold, Executive Director of AHRC, keyed his talk to fit the interests of these men of business. He discussed the Economic Aspects of Retardation, and used a blackboard to illustrate dramatically how much tax money could be saved by training retardates in special classes and sheltered workshops.



Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr., of the Bristol-Myers Company, addresses the Commerce and Industry Committee at luncheon at the Barbizon-Plaza.

RESEARCH FINDINGS (continued from first column)

3. To provide preschool, school, and rehabilitation services.

(c) It is known that the retarded child who can be maintained outside an institution benefits most if he can be incorporated into the regular life of the community and served by its regular resources. This makes it necessary:

1. To make adequate provision for his education in the regular educational facilities, but making arrangements for—

(a) Increasing the knowledge and skill of teachers, through their original and subsequent training, in ways of understanding, and dealing with the retarded child.

(b) Increasing the resources of the school through—

(1) Increased diagnostic and consultation services available to it.

(2) The development of individualized programs for these children (but not necessarily or ideally through separate and therefore isolated classes).

2. To provide the pediatric and other care he needs through the usual facilities but making provision for any special medical care he may require. (This need pertains particularly to mental health care since child guidance clinics have sometimes avoided dealing with the retarded child.)

(d) Institutions for the care of retarded children can do more than provide custodial care; they can socialize and train these children and "graduate" some of them back to the community as useful citizens. It is important therefore that—

1. These institutions be treatment centers with adequate professional personnel for care and treatment as well as training and educative facilities.

2. These institutions be as near as possible (which is not always now the case) to the community and that the institutions and the patient have as many contacts as possible with the community, increasing the probability that many of the patients will return to outside life.

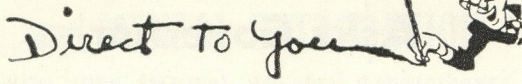
III. Advances in learning theory, knowledge remediation and preventive techniques and of the complex social and cultural influences upon intellectual development (as they apply to both normal and retarded children) are not being as rapidly reflected in schools, institutions, social and other community agencies, and in family management of children as possible or desirable, therefore we should:

(a) Increase public education in this area so that all will know that retardation is in some cases preventable, and in many cases partially remediable.

(b) Increase the communication between research workers and clinicians developing new knowledge and those who use this information in their daily contacts with children, normal or retarded, at home, in the institution, or under the continued influence of our community agencies.

GIVE A FEW HOURS A YEAR

Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director



Danger signals are flying.

My opposition to United Fund or Community Chest participation by Associations for Retarded Children is quite well known by now. Incidentally, I believe I am in excellent company when I march beside such men as Basil O'Connor. A recent letter I have received from a unit of NARC in Ohio points up another danger of United Fund participation. The letter follows.

"Dear Mr. Weingold:

We are approaching a serious problem in this community concerning integration and coordination of services to the retarded and disabled youngsters. Citing a study, 'A Regional Plan of Integrated Medical Services for Handicapped Children' by Esther Clark, M.D., Palo Alto, Medical Clinic from Pediatrics, April, 1957, the United Community Council has indicated the need to coordinate all services for disabled children. This includes, of course, common schooling. 'In the nursery school for mentally retarded children, much of the program fits all the children... No problem has been encountered in carrying out this plan regardless of the etiology of the mental disability.'

Would you have your educational director comment on this philosophy? I would appreciate it as comments from authoritative educators are difficult to find although it seems quite simple to find comments from people on educational matters from other disciplines."

Not content with forcing anonymity on the Associations for Retarded Children by compelling them to participate in United Fund and Community Chest fund raising, we now find a United Community Council spreading this doctrine of services for all together to the problem of education of the retarded. Eventually, there is no doubt that they will spread this to other areas so mental retardation will once again be submerged, as it has been in the past, in other causes that seem more fashionable or palatable to the public at that time.

What this MD is proposing is in fact the end of special education.

Assuming that she has the competence to comment on "integrated medical services for handicapped children" whatever that means, I wonder whether the cloak of the United Community Council also gives her competence to speak authoritatively on the education of the handicapped!

Although it is true that "in the nursery school for mentally retarded children, much of the program fits all the children...", it does not follow that retarded children and normal children should be put together.

The fact that much of the program does not fit the mentally retarded and creates problems for the retarded in terms of competition, frustration, etc., does not seem to be considered, but this is the very basis of special education.

I should like to quote from an answer to this letter, written by Bernice Baumgartner, Director of AHRC Classes:

"Coordination of services for all children can be of value in many areas where all concerned can profit. It can eliminate segregation. It would be extremely difficult, however, to meet the needs of retarded children by using the same methods for training the so-called normal. Curricula for the retarded child is adjusted to the level where he is functioning to help him develop to the best of his ability. It is not 'watered-down' from methods used for normal children. It is true that many retarded children can profit from methods used on the nursery school level. But the retarded child's chronological age may be six, seven, or even nine or eleven while the normal child who can profit from similar methods is three, four, or five years of age. Satisfactory grouping with so-called normal children is impossible.

No one realizes more than the teacher who tries to cope with the problems of all children in the regular classroom how impossible it is to try to find time for the retarded child—the child who becomes withdrawn or emotionally disturbed because there is just no time and no way of helping him."

(Continued next column)

DRINK OF WATER JAILS TWO RETARDED BOYS

Two mentally retarded boys were arrested in Forest Hills for loitering in a school where they had formerly been students in special classes for the retarded.

The custodian accused them of loitering in the hall outside of the girls' bathroom although the boys told him they wanted a glass of water and the fountain is in a corridor near the bathroom.

Although neither boy had ever been in trouble before they were arraigned in Manhattan Night Court before Magistrate Anthony Maglio of Brooklyn. The Judge held them in high bail of \$5,000.00 each. Neither child's parents could raise the bail and the boys spent two weeks in jail.

They might still be there if the case hadn't come up before Magistrate James E. LoPiccolo. "These boys have paid several times over for any possible crime," the Judge declared. "They committed no felonies. They didn't break anything. They said they only wanted a drink of water."

The Judge freed both youngsters on probation.

A spokesman for District Attorney Frank D. O'Connor said his office could have done nothing for the youngsters since it was the judge who set the high bail. The district attorney could have requested lower bail if the circumstances warranted. However, the district attorney doesn't investigate the circumstances until after the court hearing, the spokesman said.

As for Judge Maglio who set the high bail Chief Magistrate John Murtagh's office said Maglio is on vacation and can't be reached.

DIRECT TO YOU (Continued from first column)

I feel impelled to write about this subject and what it implies at this time because I sense an ever widening effort to change the "jine them if you can't lick them" saying to "make them jine us." This is a result of the ever increasing demands from parents groups for the retarded for increased services which heretofore have not been considered when thinking of services for the handicapped. Now, along come all these groups and ask for specialized services because they are not included under any existing program and when such services are becoming more and more important in the community, the very forces which heretofore had done little or nothing about mental retardation now speak in terms of integrated services, over-all roof over services, joining in Community Chest and United Fund drives, anything, in short, to get away from the moral and, in many cases, legal responsibilities of providing services to this handicapped group which is larger than any other single handicap in the country and perhaps as large as all the other handicaps put together.

I feel as earnestly as I have ever felt about anything that these efforts, at this time in our development, when we still are feeling our way, when still we have not established ourselves as co-equals with all the others seeking help from the community, must be resisted with everything we have.

I am not saying that in all instances must we reject a co-operative effort. There are many times when a small unit in a sparsely populated area must and can join in United Fund or Community Chest; there are times when there just aren't enough mentally retarded in a community to establish some services such as sheltered workshops and we must join with other handicaps in order to obtain anything for any of them; but all these attempts must be watched with a wary eye and in any case where we can establish ourselves firmly on the basis of the needs of this handicap I believe we should do so.

NRCW WEEK — VOLUNTEERS CALL AL. 4-8203

Research Accomplishments In Mental Retardation

The Bulletin of the Social Legislation Information Service reports as follows:

"Mental retardation is among the disorders about which it is expected much will be learned during the broad, collaborative investigation into perinatal period morbidity previously discussed in connection with cerebral palsy. Today, the number of mentally retarded persons in the U.S. is estimated to be 4,500,000. About one-third of these are children. About 5 to 10% of the mentally retarded are institutionalized at a cost to the community of about \$50,000 per individual for that individual's life span."

"The need for extensive research into the causes and prevention of mental retardation is essential not only because of the great numbers of persons directly affected but also because of the economic, social, and other consequences both for the families of such persons and for the community as a whole."

"Dr. Richard L. Masland, of the Bowman-Gray Medical School of Wake Forest College in Winston-Salem, N. C., has completed a comprehensive survey of the research potential in the field. The survey was conducted under the joint sponsorship of the National Association for Retarded Children, the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, and the National Institute of Mental Health. A final report is in the process of preparation."

"On the basis of preliminary reports, however, it has been determined that there are numerous educational and allied institutions throughout the Nation commencing or engaged in research projects bearing on mental retardation. Furthermore, the survey itself has stimulated interest in such projects and the number of applications for related research grants received by the Institute has been increasing."

"The guinea pig and rhesus monkey experiments mentioned in connection with cerebral palsy also bear directly on the problem of mental retardation. Anoxia (lack of oxygen) has definitely been shown to be a retarding factor upon both guinea pigs and other animals. And, now that experiments have begun utilizing rhesus monkeys, the nature and symptoms of induced mental retardation can be studied in a situation more comparable to that of man and there is the likelihood that a much more precise relationship can be established between cause and effect."

"Given a more precise definition of the role of anoxia in mental retardation produced in primates, a good start will have been made toward determining the specific impact of oxygen lack upon the central nervous system of man. And this, in time, will lead to both effective preventive and rehabilitative treatment methods for mental retardation."

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY TRAIN TEACHERS OF RETARDED

The Graduate School of Education of Yeshiva University, 110 West 57th St., New York City, is offering teaching fellowships of \$2,000.00 each to qualified liberal arts graduates who are interested in teaching mentally retarded children.

The prospective CRMD teachers will be able to earn while learning by serving as salaried trainees in nearby public schools while they are taking the one-year program leading to the degree of master of science in education.

The grants are given as part of the university's new teaching fellowship program, an experimental training program that was set up with the partial support of a \$500,000.00 grant from the Ford Foundation.

More Retarded Child Research, Asks Governor

On an inspection tour of Newark State School, Governor Harriman called for an "intensified" research program into the causes and prevention of mental retardation among children.

The Governor said that more research is needed "if we are to make any significant progress in checking the growing number of children so afflicted".

He continued that New York is faced with continued increases in the number of children requiring institutional care and treatment—a trend that cannot be reversed "until we know more about this affliction which causes so much heart-break".

The Department of Mental Hygiene has been charged with the responsibility for preliminary planning of an institute for research in mental retardation where basic research can be done into the nature, causes, and treatment of mental retardation and more effective means of prevention be found. \$25,000 has been appropriated for this study which will be presented to the Governor and the Legislature in time for the next session.

CUNNINGHAM OFFICERS INSTALLED

Bess Myerson, star of TV and former Miss America, acted as Mistress of Ceremonies at the installation of new officers for the Cunningham Women's League for Handicapped Children on Sept. 10th at Hollis Hills Jewish Center.



(Left to right): Bernard M. Fineson, President of AHRC; Mrs. Renee Sloane, new President of Cunningham; the former Miss America, Bess Myerson; Supreme Court Judge Samuel Rabin.

The officers who were installed included Mrs. Seymour Sloane, Pres.; Mrs. Roland Rice, Vice Pres. of Program; Mrs. Joseph P. Axler and Mrs. David Rouso, Vice Presidents in charge of fund raising; Mrs. Chester Schept, Vice Pres. of Membership; Mrs. Jerry Seidman, Vice Pres. of Liaison; Mrs. Samuel Seewald, Treas.; Mrs. Wm. Weitzberg, Corr. Sec.; Mrs. Louis Newman, Recording Sec.; Mrs. Chas. Lieberman, Financial Sec.; Mrs. Frank Pasternack, Soc. Sec.

Supreme Court Judge Samuel Rabin was guest speaker and helped Cunningham get off to a flying start.

GIVE A FEW HOURS A YEAR

LONG RANGE STUDY OF C.P. and MENTAL RETARDATION

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE PARTICIPATES

The Public Health Service announced a grant of \$168,820 to New York Medical College for research into the causes of cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and allied neurological disorders.

This brings to eleven the number of medical schools and hospitals which have joined the services of National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness in a long range nationwide study in this field.

The broad scale investigation, which may last for ten years or longer, is specifically concerned with brain damage occurring during the perinatal period, the period covering pregnancy and about one month after the birth of a baby. It will seek to evaluate such factors as lack of oxygen, brain injuries, blood incompatibility (the RH factor), and infections during pregnancy. Hereditary factors, though believed to play a relatively minor role in cerebral palsy and mental retardation, will also be evaluated.

Eventually, about fifteen medical schools and hospitals are expected to participate in the study and about 8,000 cases will be coming under investigation annually. Whenever possible, the mother will be studied through the entire period of pregnancy. Infants showing signs of neurological stress or brain damage at birth will be closely observed thereafter and given comprehensive neurological and psychological tests. Normal infants will serve as controls to provide an adequate base for comparison with those who show stress.

New York Medical College, Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospital, are the first to sponsor a clinic for mentally retarded children in New York City and perhaps in the country outside of an institution. The clinic receives part of its support from AHRC.

PATCHOGUE BUYS NEW BUILDING



(Left to right): Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director AHRC; Milford Kirkup, Comm. of Welfare for Suffolk County; August Bischoff, President of the Suffolk County Chapter, at dedication of new building.

\$120,000 to Study Institution Admissions

Two Year N.Y.U. Study Authorized

A grant of \$120,000 has been made by the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board to the Graduate School of Public Administration and Social Service, Research Center, of N.Y.U. for "a survey of screening and evaluation procedures applied to persons residing in New York City prior to admission to state schools for the mentally retarded".

One of the major purposes of the study is to find out whether institutionalization constitutes the best possible disposition for different groups of retarded now sent to institutions.

"The proposed study", states the introduction, "seeks an answer to the relative import of screening, work-up, and treatment, on decision to institutionalize".

The question will also be raised whether "extensions and improvements of existing services and the establishment of new types of services would tend to keep more retarded persons in the community under conditions advantageous to the retarded, the family, and the community".

Commenting on this study, Joseph T. Weingold, a member of the Advisory Committee on Mental Retardation to the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board, said, "This is indeed the nub of the question on institutionalization or development of community resources. Our experiences in AHRC can answer many of the questions, but it is gratifying, indeed, to see the forward movement in at least one aspect of the institutional problem. We feel that this will point the way to the decentralization of services under the Department of Mental Hygiene."

The study will be under the direction of Dr. Gerhart Saenger.

MRS. ROBERT WAGNER ENTERTAINS NEW YORK LEAGUE

Mrs. Robert F. Wagner, wife of the Mayor of New York City, invited members and guests of the New York League for AHRC to hold their first meeting of the season at the Mayor's official residence, historic Gracie Mansion.



(Left to right): Mrs. Louis Silberberg, President of the New York League; Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director AHRC; Mrs. Harry M. Pimstein, Membership Chairman; Honorable Bernice Rogers, Deputy Commissioner of Building and Housing for the City of New York.

Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, spoke on "Salvaging Human Lives." A motion picture, "Six O'Clock Report," showing a typical day at the Sheltered Workshop which owes so much to the New York League, was shown after tea was served.

Among the guests of honor was Mrs. Bernice Rogers, the Deputy Commissioner of Building and Housing for New York City.

JEWISH HOSPITAL CLINIC DEMONSTRATES IN TEXAS

The techniques of examining and treating mentally retarded children were demonstrated last month on a closed circuit TV hookup in Dallas, Texas. Taking part in the demonstration were a team of 6 doctors from the Morris J. Solomon Clinic of the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital. Observing their methods were 200 social workers, public health nurses and doctors, who were attending the last of three regional conferences sponsored by the Children's Bureau of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

These representatives of the Public Health Departments of five states — New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana, saw the Jewish Hospital team, under Dr. Joseph Wortis, Director of the Morris J. Solomon Clinic, examine a retarded youngster under clinical conditions, so that the child was neither embarrassed nor upset by the situation.

The Morris J. Solomon Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Retarded Children is recognized as one of the first to treat retarded children on an individual basis, believing that retardation may have medical, social or psychological causes, differing from one child to another.

Dr. Wortis held out high hopes for the solution of the problem of mental retardation. "We are now curing certain types of mental defectiveness," he said. "I am confident that in the future most forms of mental retardation will be preventable."

Mongolism Pamphlet Available Again

The first printing on the Symposium on Mongolism, amounting to 2,000, was sold out in a little over a year, and a second printing is now available from the AHRC office, 200 Fourth Ave., New York 3, N. Y.

Copies are \$1 each. The Symposium is a reprint of the proceedings of all-day Institute on Mongolism at the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn which were first published in the Quarterly Review of Pediatrics.

CONGRESSMAN FOGARTY TO THE RESCUE

Government-sponsored research in mental retardation almost lost \$1½ million in appropriation this past April.

But Congressman John E. Fogarty, of Rhode Island, wouldn't let it happen. After considerable, and spirited, debate, the amendment which would have slashed the Appropriations Bill of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and related agencies was defeated by one vote!

Congressman Fogarty pointed out in his plea to the House of Representatives that any cut in appropriation would not only prevent new projects from being instituted, but would cause immediate cutbacks in the vital research program presently underway in the field of retardation.

Our sincere thanks to Congressman Fogarty for his humanity and awareness of the acute problem of mental retardation!

Window Display For Retarded Children On Times Sq.



CAPITOL DISTRICT CHAPTER CENTER IS MADE READY

The city of Albany, as has been noted before in these pages, has given permission to AHRC Capitol District Chapter to use the precinct house on Madison Avenue for school classes as well as training center activities. The City has installed a sprinkler system, fire escapes, fire resistant doors and new lights. In addition, thirty members of Albany Painters Union Local mixed paint and wielded brushes throughout the fourteen room building.

Capitol District Chapter is planning a much expanded program with the enthusiasm engendered by the new center.

VOLUNTEERS CALL AL 4-8203 NATIONAL RETARDED CHILDREN'S WEEK

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