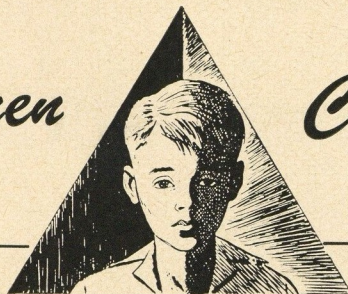


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children



Can Be Helped!

VOL. VIII. — ISSUE No. 4

106

Dec. 1956 — Jan. 1957

A.H.R.C. Urges \$2,000,000 Research Institute for Mental Retardation

BROOME COUNTY AHRC GETS MEDICAL SOCIETY AWARD

Chapter Cited for "Greatest Contribution to Community Health"

Because we feel that nothing we could say would be as meaningful as the following account in "Broome County Medicine", the publication of the Broome County Medical Society, we are reprinting their story of the awarding of the Society's Annual Service Award to the Broome County Chapter AHRC for their contribution to community health and/or safety during 1956:



Dr. Raymond S. McKeeby, President of the Broome County Medical Society, presents Annual Service Award to Joseph A. Stuckart, immediate Past President of Broome County AHRC, who accepted in behalf of the Chapter.

"Broome County Chapter, Association for the Help of Retarded Children, has been unanimously selected as the winner of the second Annual Service Award made by the Broome County Medical Society to the lay group or individual making the greatest contribution to community health and/or safety during the current year, in this case 1956. For 1955, the first such award went to United Service Clubs for Ideal Hospital in Endicott.

(Continued on Page 10)

Plan Proposed at Hearing of Senate Public Health Committee

On November 29, 1956, Senator George Metcalf, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Health, held a public hearing in New York City at which Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the AHRC, delivered a statement on behalf of the Association. This statement covered the scope of the problem of mental retardation and in many aspects in New York State, with the exception of education. A highlight of the presentation was the extraordinary need for research in this area. The statement pointed out that, of \$2,000,000 included in the 1955-56 Budget of the Department of Mental Hygiene for research in mental disorders, only \$39,141 is allocated for mental retardation in a special study in progress at Letchworth Village.

On the basis of the patients in the 6 state institutions, not to mention the over 400,000 in the community, the state spends \$1.95 per patient on research in mental retardation, while it spends over \$1,200 a year to maintain each patient in a state school. This is contrasted with \$16.50 per patient spent on research for those in mental institutions, in itself a niggardly sum, but almost 10 times as much as that spent on mental retardation.

"This is a rather curious state of events when we consider that 20% of all the patients in state institutions under the jurisdiction of the Department of Mental Hygiene, are in institutions for the mentally retarded. It seems reasonable," continued Mr. Weingold, "that on this basis at least 20% of the research funds should be spent on mental retardation."

He made the proposal on behalf of the AHRC that a Research Institute for Mental Retardation, similar to but separate from the Psychiatric Institute, be set up, with an appropriation of \$2,000,000.

This proposal has also been made to the Joint Legislative Committee which is now considering it for possible legislation. It is the plan of the AHRC that, if the Joint Legislative Committee does not pursue it further this year, we will request legislation to this effect. "To build institutions costing \$30,000,000 or more each, to spend another \$30,000,000 annually for institutional care of the mentally retarded; laying out millions of dollars each year for their special training and special education in the community; in short, to provide the many other millions that have here been asked for, and then to spend less than \$50,000 a year on medical research, is to me the height of business folly," concluded Joseph T. Weingold in his statement.

8th ANNUAL DINNER, MAY 25

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

issued four times a year by

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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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 Editors: MIRA EITONGON, CHARLES KLEIN

WHAT'S IN A NAME

(An Editorial)

The Governor's message to the Legislature dealing with mental retardation (less space was devoted to this problem affecting almost 500,000 people in New York State than to the subject of bingo) made an interesting suggestion, calculated to solve most of the personnel problems in state institutions for the mentally retarded.

The Governor proposes that the name of the state institutions for the mentally retarded, heretofore called "State Schools for the mentally retarded", be changed to "State Schools and Hospitals." The reason, as stated by the Governor, is that if the name is changed, more doctors and nurses will be attracted to these facilities. We understand that this change of name has been urged by the Department of Mental Hygiene. He have called this editorial "What's in a Name?", but it also could have been called "A rose by any other name. . . ." Would that all our problems could be solved so easily! This is an interesting exercise in semantics, and it would be nice to explore it, if it were advanced merely as an exercise and not as a serious proposal.

We are sure that the Department of Mental Hygiene and the Governor have considered many, many ways of attracting personnel to the state schools for the mentally retarded. We are sure that they have considered increased salaries, smaller institutions, institutions closer to urban centers, a more dynamic program of rehabilitation, better status for employees, etc., etc. It is obvious that they must have rejected all of these or found them unfeasible for one reason or another, and were therefore pushed to the final resort of a change in name.

We cannot but feel that this is a confession of failure for the rehabilitation program in state schools, if this is seriously advanced as a means of attracting personnel. Even if it were descriptive of these facilities because they are attracting more and more so-called custodial cases we just wonder—in our ignorance—how calling them a state "school and hospital" will make the program any better.

We think it is time to have done with these attempts to escape from meeting the problem head-on. Elsewhere in this issue is found a legislative program which is calculated to help meet the problem. Suggestions have been made before the Metcalf Committee and the Joint Legislative Committee for research institutes, increase in pay and all the rest of it. We object to the attempt at meeting these problems by a mere change of name, and feel that if this were done for the reasons stated, New York State would become the laughing stock of the country. Too many good things are happening in this state now and in the future for us to let this happen. We are determined to protect the Department from itself.

GREATER NEW YORK FUND SHARE FOR AHRC

Continuing its recognition of the importance of the AHRC and its aims, the Greater New York Fund recently forwarded a check for \$13,695.

This figure shows a 50% increase over the amount received last year, and represents our share, as a participating agency, in the Fund's 1956 campaign.

The appreciable dollar increase indicates not only the growth of AHRC and its activities, but more significantly, public acknowledgment of our work in the field of retardation, and its importance within the framework of our society today.

SECOND RATE CITIZENS

(An Editorial)

Once again we have come before the Joint Legislative Committee and before the Legislature to ask that public education for the trainable children be made mandatory. Once again this proposal is being rejected. The reason for the present rejection is that the permissive law has not been given enough time to operate and that local school districts should be given more time to implement the permissive legislation.

We feel that this begs the whole question and misses the point entirely. It is not a question of whether permissive legislation will bring these classes or not, and we will talk about that in a minute: it is the question of whether trainable children are second rate citizens or not. If they are children within the meaning of the Education Law and the Constitution of New York State, then this law must be made mandatory. If it is not made mandatory, then they are being considered second rate children and second rate citizens.

We have not received one intelligent answer why normal children, physically handicapped children designated by law as being partially or wholly incapacitated for education or employment, and educable mentally retarded children shall be protected by mandatory provisions, and why trainable mentally retarded children shall receive the doubtful protection of permissive legislation.

It is interesting to note that all the increases in classes for the trainable that have taken place in the past year and a-half, (since the original bill was passed in 1955) have been in areas outside of the 3 largest cities in New York State representing most of the population: New York City, Buffalo, and Rochester.

It is our educated guess that unless and until this legislation becomes mandatory, none of these cities will start a single class for trainable children other than those in existence.

This indeed is a case of the community treating the whole problem as the skeleton in the closet, instead of bringing it out in the open to deal with it constructively and as the children deserve. How much longer do we have to wait for what is our right?

STATE AID AND NEW YORK CITY

(An Editorial)

Our whole editorial consists of merely pointing out the article on Mr. Fineson's appearance before the Board of Education. It is indeed a sad state of affairs that the mentally retarded and other handicaps are being used as a wedge to receive additional state aid that is being thrown into the general educational fund without using it for additional services for these groups of handicapped children.

We are fully cognizant of the wonderful things that are happening in New York City, and are eternally grateful for the work that is being done; but we reiterate the position we took since we started: to maintain the status quo is to go backwards, and New York City must take the lead over and over again in New York State, which itself should lead the country. This editorial is prompted by sadness that our City is not equal to our pride in her.

DR. KELLEHER RETIRES

On November 1, 1956, Dr. James P. Kelleher retired as Senior Director of Rome State School after 46 years of state service of which 14 years were spent at Rome State School.

Dr. Theodore Baum, Supervising Psychiatrist at Rome State School, was appointed as Acting Director by Commissioner Hoch, effective October 1, 1956. Dr. Baum has been in state service since 1936, when he received an appointment as Medical Intern at the Rome State School. From July 1950 to 1952, he was Clinical Assistant Director at Wassaic State School.

FINESON URGES INCREASED SERVICES AT BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET HEARING

CRMD Not Getting Additional Funds

Appearing before the Committee on Finance and Budget of the New York City Board of Education on January 16th, Bernard M. Fineson, President of the AHRC, demanded that the City use the more than \$2,000,000 it has and will receive as additional state aid for the classes for the mentally retarded to increase services.

In 1955, the Legislature voted \$1,500,000 in additional state aid for special classes for the physically handicapped, mentally retarded, delinquent and non-English speaking pupils, of which sum New York City received more than one-half. In addition, under the Heald Formula, New York City will receive more than \$3,000 per special class state aid plus average daily attendance aid, instead of the \$800 which has heretofore been state aid for special classes. On the basis of 688 special classes for the mentally retarded, this represents over \$2,000,000 in increased state aid.

Mr. Fineson presented a 6-point program as follows:

1. **Recreation.** The Bureau for CRMD had asked for 2 recreation counselors for after-school recreation centers. Both these positions were cut out of the budget.
2. **More speech therapists** to help the retarded correct speech defects that inhibit their social and economic success.
3. **More remedial reading teachers** for CRMD pupils on the basis that many mentally retarded adults who have completed their CRMD training without having learned how to read, have been taught to do so by special courses, thereby raising their job and employment potential.
4. **Increase in guidance and placement.** Because of inadequate staffing of the guidance division of the CRMD Bureau, hundreds of young people who could work, are without jobs.
5. **A special occupational secondary school.** At least 20% to 25% of all CRMD graduates need further vocational training from 17 to 21 years of age in order to prevent them from becoming charges of the community and their families. Provision for such a secondary school was made in the 1951-52 and 53-54 budgets, but subsequently scrapped. Although approved by the Board of Superintendents, no provision was made in last or this year's budget.
6. **A program for trainable mentally retarded children.** A recent survey of the State Department of Education indicated that there are 2,192 severely retarded children in New York City on the basis of reports made to the survey team. At present, only 500 of these severely retarded children (I.Q. under 50) of school age are being educated in the public school system. Although the law for the trainable mentally retarded is permissive, Mr. Fineson felt that there is a moral obligation on the part of the Board of Education to implement this law without waiting for it to become mandatory.

Concluding, Mr. Fineson stated I "feel impelled to state that you have a moral obligation to use the additional state funds obtained because there are mentally retarded children to whom more services should be supplied. To do otherwise would be cynical and using the retarded insincerely as a wedge to obtain state funds."

THREE TO BE CITED AT 1957 DINNER

The 8th Annual AHRC Dinner, to be held on Saturday, May 25th, in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Astor Hotel, will spotlight the achievements of three men connected with our cause. Dr. Grover F. Powers, Professor Emeritus in Pediatrics, Yale University, and Chairman of the National Scientific Research Advisory Board, NARC, and the Hon. Stanley Steingut, Vice-Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, will be honored for their roles in the fields of medicine and community service, respectively. Sam Cook Digges, General Manager of WCBS-TV, and Greater New York Chairman of the National Campaign for Retarded Children, will receive a Special Award.

Dinner Chairman Emil Goldstein, aided by his Committee, is hard at work on the arrangements. The Committee consists of the following: Joe Gitter, George Greene, and Seymour Rubin, Coordinators; Leo Jacobs, Dinner Book Chairman; Anne Kraus, Queens, Sidney Herschkowitz, Brooklyn, and Murray Frankel, Bronx-Manhattan Chairmen.

The sale of two ticket-books or \$50 in ads or contributions will produce a ticket for AHRC's gala.

First prize is a 1957 Chevrolet.

PEARL BUCK AND MRS. FDR AT NEW YORK LEAGUE LUNCHEON

The New York League for AHRC, supporter of our Training Center and Workshop, honored Nobel Prize winner Pearl S. Buck at their 3rd Annual Luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, on November 13th.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt presented the engraved plate, citing the world-famous author for her "outstanding work on behalf of the mentally retarded."



Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt presents an award to Pearl S. Buck for her outstanding work on behalf of the mentally retarded at New York League for AHRC Luncheon in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

News Commentator John K. M. McCaffery was the m.c. of the Luncheon, of which Mrs. Robert F. Wagner was Honorary Chairman. Margaret Leighton, star of the current Broadway hit "Separate Tables" spoke briefly. Mesdames Emanuel Mangel and Jerome Levy headed the Luncheon Committee.

Following the Luncheon, the League presented a fashion show staged and coordinated by Lester Gaba and Eleanor Lambert and commented by Dorothy Kilgallen.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW BEING RECEIVED

All who wish to have their children considered for scholarships for either day camp or full camp, may now register in writing with the AHRC office. Address all communications to **Camp Committee, AHRC, 200 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y.**

ARE YOU WORKING FOR THE MAY 25 DINNER?

RETARDED CHILDREN'S WEEK CATCHES ON

Radio and TV played a major part in the exploitation of the 1956 National Campaign for Retarded Children.

The half-hour Jack Benny Variety Show was shown locally on Channels 2, 7 and 11, and upstate in Utica, Watertown and Binghamton. Word has reached us also that our local chapters succeeded in placing it in Buffalo and Rochester.

WCBS-TV gave time to "Tuesday's Child", as did WOR-TV, who ran both it and the new documentary "No Less Precious" in January in connection with a 4-week series on "Children". To highlight the topic, Jerry Weingold gave a 5-minute interview to Ted Steele on the air.

A camera crew invaded our Workshop and Training Center for an afternoon's shooting of trainee activities. The result: a 5-minute documentary shown on Bill Leonard's "Six O'Clock Report" over WCBS-TV. Because of the generosity and interest on the part of the producers and the station management, AHRC is not only being presented with a print of this film to be used for showing to parents and other groups, but we are also receiving all the unused footage which, by special permission and through donated effort, is being made into an additional film running 10-15 minutes in length. This should prove of great value especially to those units contemplating the setting up of a workshop for the retarded.

A panel discussion on WEVD's "Psychologically Speaking" brought together 2 new parents, Margaret Sparkes and Seymour Schurkman and Dr. Harold Michal-Smith and a director of a private school.



His Honor, Mayor Wagner of New York, and TV star Bess Myerson, help the cause.

Spot appeals on both radio and TV were used with increasing frequency, with listeners' reports still coming in. Stations mentioned most frequently are Channels 2, 4 and 7, and WNEW, and WCBS Radio, although each and every station in and around the vicinity aired our appeals at some time. The 20-second spot at 10:30 P.M. on Election Night over CBS was seen by at least 5,000,000 viewers. A conservative estimate of the time given us by one station alone (WCBS-TV)—if paid for—would have cost close to \$25,000 (the Election Night spot would have run to \$2,000, AA time).

National Retarded Children's Week was proclaimed by Governor Harriman in Albany and by Mayor Robert F. Wagner in New York. The ceremony in the Mayor's office was attended by our Greater New York Chairman, Sam Cook Digges, and by lovely TV star Bess Myerson.

A 1-day collection in the lobby of the New York Stock Exchange netted \$300. It was illuminated by the presence of beautiful models, among whom were the Toni Twins.

An article on retarded children by Dorothy Barclay, illustrated with a picture taken in our Joshua School, appeared in the New York Times Sunday Magazine of December 2. And Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, probably the best-known of the medical columnists, devoted one of his syndicated columns to the subject, citing our statistics.

Bloomington's, IBM and Alexander's built and exhibited displays for us during the drive, with the two last-named organizations donating the display panels to us for our future use.



Sam Cook Digges, Greater New York Chairman of National Retarded Children's Week and General Manager of WCBS-TV, between the Toni Twins in front of the New York Stock Exchange.

All this activity highlighted — we hope — the intense and concentrated efforts of our faithful and trusted volunteers, parents and non-parents alike, who staged the door-to-door, the outdoor campaigns and the collections at the New York Port of Authority, LaGuardia and Idlewild. This paper would be filled with nothing else, were we to list them individually. And so, although we know we are asking for trouble, we will mention just our indefatigable Chairman of Volunteers Anne Gitter and her Borough Chairmen: Sylvia Schachter (Bronx), Anne Kraus and Frances Greene (Queens) and Sid and Lydia Hershkowitz and Syd Safier (Brooklyn). Also the North Hills League for Retarded Children who, we understand, distinguished themselves gloriously.

What can we say but a heartfelt and sincere THANK YOU!

10-STATE GOVERNMENTS CONFAB PLANS FOR RETARDED

State mental health authorities and officers were urged to consider the need for providing federal funds to assist states in building facilities for the mentally retarded.

This recommendation, on a grant-in-aid basis, was made by the Northeast State Governments Conference on Mental Health, at their fall meeting in Providence, R. I.

The conferees also urged that the next Governor's Conference consider and take action on the need for the development of a common definition and legal interpretation of mental retardation.

Concerted action was called for to expand research in the area of the prevention of mental retardation and to develop not only care, training, and habilitation facilities for the mentally retarded, but also to establish a program for training personnel entering this field.

States participating were Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Hyman M. Forstenzer, assistant director of community mental health services of the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene, was chairman of the Conference's planning committee. Governor Dennis J. Roberts of Rhode Island was the main speaker at the conference dinner.

\$50 IN ADS WILL GET YOU A TICKET

"TEACHER'S POINT OF VIEW" THEME OF 4th TEACHERS CONFERENCE

Dr. I. I. Goldberg Keynote Speaker

The Fourth Annual State Teachers Conference called by AHRC is scheduled this year for May 3, 4 and 5 at the Carnegie International Center, 346 East 46th Street, New York City.

The theme of this year's conference will be "The Teacher's Point of View". Dr. Ignacy I. Goldberg, Educational Consultant for the National Association for Retarded Children, will be the keynote speaker. His topic: "Programs for Trainables Throughout the Country". Since Dr. Goldberg's work sends him on continuous trips to the various NARC units throughout the U.S., his discussion should prove highly enlightening.

Friday, May 3rd, will be devoted to a Seminar in Administration of Classes for the Trainables. Following Dr. Goldberg's speech on Saturday morning, there will be presentations and Workshops by teachers dealing with the different age- and intelligence-levels.

CITY PROVIDES TRANSPORTATION FOR LOW I.Q.'s AT P.S. 19, QUEENS

A little perseverance goes a long way in getting things done. Parents of mentally retarded youngsters in the North Queens area can testify to that. . . .

Not too many weeks ago, these parents were improvising in order to provide transportation for their children, who attend the Low IQ class at P.S. 19 in Corona. Traveling to and from such widespread points as Bayside, Flushing and Whitestone was a strain on both parents and children.

The Board of Education had previously decided against providing transportation facilities for the 4 children, feeling that the small number did not warrant the extension of bus service.

Effecting an official change of heart is not an easy thing to accomplish, but these parents, through their efforts and through the efforts of the AHRC on their children's behalf, did achieve this change. The Board of Education, thanks to the interest of Elkan E. Snyder, Assistant Director of the Bureau for CRMD, announced that the bus company had been asked to cooperate in arranging for this much-needed transportation.

We are pleased to report that riding a school bus is no longer a new experience for 4 youngsters from North Queens.

Liaison Bet. Bd. of Ed. and AHRC Clinics

The liaison program in effect between the two AHRC clinics and the Bureau for CRMD of the New York City Board of Education is most worthwhile, according to Miss Katherine D. Lynch, Director of the CRMD Bureau. So much so, in fact, that she is more than happy to spare the services of the badly understaffed Bureau to the tune of one-half day a week for each Clinic.

CRMD Supervisors Elkan Snyder and Leo Shainman are the liaison people for the Theodora Clinic at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital and the Morris J. Solomon Clinic at the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital respectively. They serve as the link between the clinician and the classroom teacher. "Through their close observation, they are able to give recommendations to both the clinic personnel and the child's teacher for the best handling and preparation of the child for the classroom. In their capacity as consultants, they bring to the clinician and the teacher a better understanding of the problems facing the child in each area, and thereby are able to effect a feeling of homeyness and 'oneness' that cannot be achieved in dealing through official channels only," Miss Lynch said.

The program has been in effect for a year.

CHILDREN'S BUREAU STAFF VIEWS AHRC FACILITIES

About 20 members of the Children's Bureau Regional Staff visited AHRC facilities and projects during a 3-day visit to New York City last November.

The team, consisting of doctors, nurses and social workers visited the 2 Clinics, the pilot classes, the AHRC Workshop and the Shield of David Institute. At the Joshua School, the visitors sat in on a case conference.

The program was arranged by Rudolf P. Hormuth, Specialist in Services for Mentally Retarded Children at the Bureau and former Assistant Director of AHRC. The visitors hold consultant positions for advising and initiating services for the mentally retarded throughout the United States. They represented three-fourths of the states, as well as Puerto Rico.

Retarded Children Week Window Display



National Retarded Children's Week Display at Alexander's Department Store.

CHANGES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Several resignations and new appointments were announced by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D. C. during the latter part of 1956.

Dr. Martha M. Eliot, after some 30 years' association with the Children's Bureau, decided to relinquish her post as its Chief to accept a position with Harvard University.

Dr. Lawrence Gridley Derthick of Chattanooga, Tenn., succeeds Samuel Brownell as Commissioner of Education.

And the new Surgeon General is Leroy E. Burney, an Indiana man who, in his capacity of Assistant Surgeon General during the past two years, administered all Federal grants in aid that go into state coffers on a matching basis to promote public health. Dr. Burney holds degrees in medicine from the University of Indiana and in Public Health from Johns Hopkins under a Rockefeller fellowship. He is a founder and diplomate of the All American Board of Preventive Medicine.

DR. DIMICHAEL RESIGNS N.A.R.C. POST

The first Executive Director of the N.A.R.C., Dr. Salvatore G. DiMichael, has resigned his post to become Regional Representative of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in the New York City Office of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Dr. DiMichael joined the N.A.R.C. in January 1954. In his new position, he will be responsible for assisting in the development of rehabilitation programs in New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

In 1955, "DiMike" received the Family Action Award from the National Catholic Welfare Conference. Last year, he was given the Award of Merit by Phi Mu Sigma, the national professional fraternity for educators of the mentally retarded.

We wish him success in his new job!

SEND FOR MORE AD BLANKS

14-Pt. Legislative Program For Retarded Urged By AHRC

Mandatory Legislation for Trainable Rejected by Joint Legislative Committee

The legislative program for the mentally retarded in New York State will probably be the largest and most comprehensive ever introduced in the history of the Legislature. Both in number and in scope, it will exceed the 9 bills passed last year.

The program is the result of a number of conferences between the Joint Legislative Committee and its Advisory Board and the deliberations of the AHRC Legal and Legislative Committee at State Conventions. It divides itself into 3 parts. The first is legislation that will be introduced by the Joint Legislative Committee, the second legislation proposed by the Departments of Mental Hygiene and Education, and the third legislation that will be introduced at the request of AHRC because not yet accepted by the Joint Legislative Committee or the departments in question.

Among the more important bills that will be introduced by the Joint Legislative Committee are the following: 1. To change the definition of a mentally retarded child to eliminate the qualifications of social and economic competence. The definition will then be that a mentally retarded child is one who cannot profit from ordinary classroom instruction. 2. To amend the Education Law that instruction in special classes for the educable mentally retarded shall be provided from the ages of 5 to 21. 3. To amend the Education Law to provide that, if a local school district has less than the required number of children to start a special class, then it shall contract with another school district, etc. The present law is merely permissive. 4. To make transportation for classes for the mentally retarded mandatory. 5. To amend the Education Law so that the same duties that the Department of Education and local school boards now have towards the physically handicapped shall obtain for the mentally retarded. 6. To provide for an appropriation for scholarships for students who wish to enter the field of special education for the mentally retarded. 7. To amend the aid to local school districts for special classes to include psychologists in the formula for state aid.

In addition, the Joint Legislative Committee will memorialize the City of New York to provide for differential in pay for teachers of the handicapped, as it had in the past.

A.H.R.C. Program

We are also asking the Department of Education to increase its staff in the division for handicapped children so that there will be more personnel available to aid and stimulate school districts to start classes for both the educable and trainable mentally retarded.

There were a considerable number of recommendations and resolutions passed by the AHRC that are not being considered at this time or have been rejected by the Joint Legislative Committee. These recommendations are the basis for a series of bills that are being introduced by Assemblyman Frank Samansky and Senator William Conklin who long have had an interest in mentally retarded children. These bills are as follows: 1. To amend the Mental Hygiene Law to provide that the Board of Visitors of each state school shall include at least one parent of a mentally retarded child. 2. That the qualifications of Directors of state schools be broadened so that the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene may be able to choose a person trained in one of the other disciplines such as education, social work or psychology in addition to the discipline of medicine, to which he is now limited. 3. That the qualifications of "poor and indigent" be removed as a condition for commitment. 4. That the words "training and education" be added to the duties of the State

Department of Mental Hygiene in state schools for the mentally retarded in addition to "care and treatment." 5. That all state schools that will hereafter be built shall be limited to a population of 1,500. 6. That a differential of pay shall be provided for all teachers of the handicapped in the sum of \$480. 7. That the mandatory and permissive provisions of the State Education Law shall apply for all children who have been committed to a state institution and who would have been eligible for such services had they remained in the community.

Committee Rejects Mandatory Legislation For Trainables

Feeling that the local school districts have not been given sufficient time to implement the permissive law for classes for trainable mentally retarded children, the Joint Legislative Committee at this time has refused to sponsor legislation to make such classes mandatory. Under the circumstances, the AHRC has asked Assemblyman Samansky and Senator Conklin to introduce legislation to this effect. It is the feeling of the association that in large cities such as Rochester, Buffalo and New York very few, if any, classes for the trainable will be started unless and until such legislation is mandatory. Any increase in classes that has taken place has been in small cities and in rural or semi-rural areas.

Special Division For Mental Retardation

One of the most important recommendations by Joint Legislative Committee calls for the creation of a special division of mental retardation in the Department of Mental Hygiene. All who work in the field have felt for many years that there is not sufficient concentrated interest in this problem which is lost in the overall concern for mental health. It is felt that, if a special division with a high-ranking person at its head is created, much more planning and implementation of plans will ensue.

Two other proposals, one from AHRC for an institute on research and the other from the Department of Mental Hygiene to change the name of state schools and hospitals, are important enough to be treated in separate articles (see pages 1 and 7).

SURVEY OF SEVERELY RETARDED CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE COMPLETED

The report of the Division of Research of the State Education Department has been written up in an interesting book called, "Census of Severely Retarded Children in New York State". The figures, on a reported basis, show that there is a total of 11,654 children with I.Q. below 50 in the age group from 5 to 20, inclusive, in New York State. In the summary of findings, the article states "In the light of all aspects of the study, it is assumed that this figure represents an underenumeration of the severely retarded children in the state, but it is a figure arrived at after a serious effort was made to locate as many such children as possible."

More than half of all reported children were found in 7 state institutions, and 46% had their home residence in New York City. The report goes on to state that 27% had I.Q.s less than 25, 62% had I.Q.s 24 to 49 and 11% could not be classified.

This excellent report breaks down the state by towns and counties and gives the figures for each town and county with respect to male and female, at home or in institutions, and by I.Q.s. This will be an excellent springboard for planning educational services for the trainable in the various communities in the state.

Copies of this "Census" may be obtained from the Inter-departmental Health Resources Board, Albany, New York.

SATURDAY, MAY 25th, AT THE SHERATON-ASTOR

INCOME TAX REGULATIONS CLARIFIED

Medical Deductions Defined

A statement from the National Association for Retarded Children dated November 13, 1956, sets forth the proposed regulations with regard to deductions for care and training for the mentally retarded. A copy of this may be obtained from the NARC, 99 University Place, New York 3, N. Y.

This regulation states that "while ordinary education is not medical care, the cost of medical care includes the cost of attending a special school for a mentally or physically handicapped individual if his condition is such that the resources of the institution for alleviating such mental or physical handicap are the principle reasons for his presence there. In such case, the cost of attending such a special school will include the cost of meals and lodging, if supplied, and the cost of ordinary education furnished, which is incidental to the special services furnished by the school. Similarly, the cost of care, supervision, treatment and training of a mentally retarded individual in an institution is within the meaning of the term 'medical care'."

The regulations further state that it is immaterial whether the medical care is furnished in a Federal or State Institution or in a private institution.

These new regulations should go far toward clarifying the differences that have occurred from time to time in various parts of the country, when parents have deducted such cost from their Income Tax as "medical care."

SPECIAL CLASSES FOR RETARDED IN THE STATE INCREASE

Statistics from the State Department of Education show that there has been a notable increase in the number of the special classes for mentally retarded in the past school year. In a letter to the AHRC, Dr. Francis J. Daly, Director of Pupil Personnel, quotes Mr. Charles Becker as estimating that the number of approved classes for mentally retarded children this year will total 1,331, representing an increase of approximately 125 over the 1,206 classes in operation during the 1955-56 school year. He further estimates that the number of children served in these classes will total about 20,242, an increase of 1,875 over last year.

It is interesting to note, the letter continues, that the 1955-56 school year also shows a significant increase over the previous year, with 62 new classes serving 980 additional mentally retarded children. Thus the figures for the past 2 years show a total increase of approximately 187 new classes serving approximately 2,755 additional mentally retarded children.

Included in these statistics are the classes for trainable children whose increase is not at all as dramatic. In 1955-56, there were 10 communities in the state that had such classes, and 17 during 1956-57.

The number of approved classes for trainable children were as follows: Upstate: 1955-56—9, 1956-57—26. New York City showed no increase, the same 37 classes being in existence in both years. The number of classes, therefore, increased from 46 to 63. It is significant to note, however, that 8 of these classes were formed by the Vocational Extension and Education Board in Nassau County. The total number of children served in these classes upstate increased from 90 to 260. In New York City, the number remained the same.

It is evident therefore, that increases are taking place outside of New York City and very little, if any, in the larger cities of Rochester, Buffalo and New York. This forms a basis for AHRC legislation which asks that these classes be mandatory in order to obtain the services for these youngsters in New York City and other large urban areas.

AHRC OPPOSES NAME CHANGE FOR INSTITUTIONS

The Governor's message to the Legislature carried the surprising suggestion that State Institutions for the mentally retarded be called "State Schools and Hospitals" instead of "State Schools" as they are now called. This suggestion apparently came from the Department of Mental Hygiene on the theory, as the Governor stated, that calling them hospitals will attract more doctors and nurses.

This assumption has been labeled wishful thinking by the AHRC and is rejected by its membership as well as by many other thinking people, lay and professional, in the community.

Speaking in Albany for the AHRC, Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, stated "This is a mere exercise in semantics. We cannot conceive that the mere change of a name and calling a facility a 'hospital' will attract personnel. It is program, decent salary scales, in-service training, status for employees and a progressive rehabilitation-centered institution that will attract personnel. To us it seems that adding the name 'hospital,' which is the first step toward dropping 'school' altogether, is a confession of failure in the training aspects of the work of the state institution."

The Department of Mental Hygiene's position is that, with the growing community facilities for mentally retarded, the population in state schools is changing more and more to include the purely custodial and therefore the reason for the change of name to include the word "hospital."

"At best," said Mr. Weingold, "this step is very premature. Much more will have to be shown that hospital services, in the real sense of the word, are being offered in state schools to justify such a position."

A poll of the Joint Legislative Committee reveals that most of the members at this point are opposed to the change. Parents are urged to communicate with their representatives in the Legislature as well as with the Governor and the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene to object to the step which is indicative of a change of philosophy.

JOINT LEG. COMM. PROPOSES \$100,000 STUDY

One of the most important proposals being made by the Joint Legislative Committee this year on the basis of memoranda submitted by AHRC and others, is that of an appropriation for a complete study of the need, value and responsibilities for pre-school training of the mentally retarded, half-way houses for those adults who need social supervision and can live in the community, and for sheltered workshops.

The purposes of these studies would be to establish the needs, observe these programs wherever they are now in existence, explore the finances, and determine the responsibility for financing various aspects.

As the pattern of legislation is emerging, it becomes increasingly evident that the future deliberations of the Joint Legislative Committee will be concerned with areas other than those for school-age children. This must include those too young and too old for school, and those who are ineligible for school for other reasons. This study will be the first step towards fixing responsibility for such programs and finding financing.

DON'T KEEP RUMMAGE IN YOUR HOUSE

We need your old clothes, household goods, etc. for our Rummage Sales. Contact

in Brooklyn:

SID SAFIER, 1201 Ocean ParkwayCL 3-8198
LILY ISAACSON, 571 Greene AvenueST 3-0807

Bronx-Manhattan:

ROSE OSSIN, 1726 Davidson AvenueLU 3-8869
BEATRICE TAMA, 450 East 184th Street...CY 8-8056

Queens:

ANNE KRAUS,
63-50 Wetherole St., Rego ParkTW 7-9517

OF COURSE YOU'LL BE THERE!

Statewide...

Much of the news statewide is concerned with the National Retarded Childrens' Week fund-raising campaign. Heading the list is the **Sunshine League—Monroe County Chapter** in Rochester, which collected more than \$50,000 in its house-to-house canvass . . . This surpasses last year's total by more than \$5,000 . . . The chapter is the result of the merger of Sunshine League of Western New York in Rochester with our Monroe County Chapter under the new name . . . **Chemung**, in addition to the Sheltered Workshop recorded elsewhere, reports on their drive that was carried out through a mailing sent to 23,000 homes . . . The postmen working with the main Elmira Post Office gave up part of their holiday to make house-to-house calls for funds to support schools for retarded children and the Sheltered Workshop . . . The house-to-house march was instituted by postmen last year and was such an outstanding success that the letter carriers volunteered to continue the project . . . **Rockland County** has received an inspiring message from Dr. George Jervis, Director of Research, Letchworth Village. At their December meeting, he stated that "much more is being done today than was ever hoped for a few short years ago, and a great deal more will be done because of the inspiration of parent groups such as the New York State Association for the Help of Retarded Children." . . . They have established a committee to investigate a program for mentally retarded children of pre-school age in that area . . . Dr. Murray Hofstetter, President, **Cayuga County**, reports that the United Funds quota has been increased from \$1,900 to \$4,835, less than \$500 below the budget submitted . . . County authorities have created a mental health clinic that has agreed to do testing for the Cayuga Chapter school . . . the Health Education division of the Auburn School System has approached Dr. Hofstetter to give courses in mental retardation . . . most gratifying progress . . . **Putnam County Chapter** reports that district superintendents of schools have agreed to establish 3 additional special classes for mentally retarded in the county public schools . . . this gives a total of 5: 1 primary, 2 intermediate, 1 advanced in vocational training, and 1 for the trainable child . . . Children's Clinic operated by the Chapter reports that 30 children have gone through the medical department, 28 receiving psychological therapy in conjunction with parent counselling, and 18 are involved in the speech and hearing program . . . Mrs. Ann Goods, AHRC, **Erie County** volunteer, has been awarded the \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Buffalo to study teaching of the mentally retarded . . . grant was made possible by the Sunshine League of Western New York . . . 2 of the Erie County board members have been appointed to the Advisory Committee on Education and Mental Health to the Erie County Community Mental Health Board . . . John Avery and Dr. Joseph Manch . . . 18 children are participating in the recreational and gym program being held as a corporative agency venture between Buffalo Urban League and Erie County Chapter . . . Winnek Post of the American Legion aided **Ontario County** (Geneva) in a door-to-door canvass during National Retarded Childrens' Week . . . **Sunshine League of Rochester** coming into AHRC has inspired other chapters to invite parents with children still in state schools to join them . . . **Ontario** is one of the first . . . **Lewis County**, now a chapter in formation, has been most active in their publicity even though it covers one of the most sparsely populated areas in the State . . . Medina Journal-Register has a wonderful cartoon, "Lend A Hand" by Paul Berdanier, and a very fine editorial appeared in the Lowville Journal and Republican.

A contract for teaching 34 mentally retarded children was approved Tuesday night by the Board of Education of **Olean**

NASSAU COUNTY AHRC NEXT CONVENTION POST

The next AHRC State Convention is to be held at the Lincoln Hotel in Long Beach, L.I., on April 26-27-28. The format of holding Workshops on different subjects is being resumed, and convention planners are envisioning discussion of the following topics: Day Care Centers, Sheltered Workshop, Recreation Programs, Special Education, Legislation, and Chapter Administration.

Since the Nassau County Chapter, which is playing host, operates a full roster of facilities for the mentally retarded, the tours of the various installations which are being planned for Friday, April 26, should prove extremely fruitful.

Arrangements are in the hands of Chairman Norman "Bud" Lazarus.

CHAPTERS EXPAND SHELTERED WORKSHOP SERVICES

Nassau and Chemung Start Programs

On November 21, 1956, Nassau County Chapter started its Training Center and Sheltered Workshop for mentally retarded adults in Hempstead with 3 trainees. Under the directorship of Jesse Greenberg, it is continuing to expand and is attracting sub-contract work, especially in the area of assembly. The spacious quarters have room for 40 or more workers and it is hoped that such expansion will take place in the not-too-far distant future. Application for a grant-in-aid is being made.

Chemung County Chapter (Elmira) may be showing the way to the rest of the State in the creation of "Capabilities, Incorporated", a sheltered workshop for all handicapped persons. It is located in the Connie Rathbun Handicapped Club Building with rooms provided by the club. The workshop actually began October 29, 1956, but until the past few weeks the 3 persons now employed and the director, Mrs. Shirley Collins, have been occupied with orientation. Pay for the first project, a tailoring job, went into the shop's cash register late in November.

It is interesting to note that the 3 workers reported there as of December 1st were an arrested tuberculosis patient, a victim of cerebral palsy, and a victim of polio—no mentally retarded.

The Sheltered Workshop was started as a project of AHRC to provide work for all handicapped persons who are unable to find employment in industry, such as mentally retarded, cardiacs, cerebral palsied, arrested TB.s and victims of polio or other crippling diseases.

When the Workshop becomes a going concern, it will have its own Board of Directors and will operate independently of the AHRC, although in close connection with it.

. . . Contact was signed with Cattaraugus County Cooperative Board for the instruction of the children in the Cooperative Board district . . . How about a chapter up there, says the Ed. . . The big news from **Broome County** is reported elsewhere . . . Want to report however that Willie and Al Satina, founders of Rome State School Chapter, have moved to Phoenix, Arizona . . . If ever out that way drop in at 912 West Verde Lane . . . Did you know that most of AHRC Nassau County Chapter classes for trainable children have been taken over by County Vocational Education and Extension Board? . . . Lou Rosenzweig is consultant . . . Nassau County is now conducting classes for pre-school children and for children not acceptable in public schools . . . clinical facilities now being provided in conjunction with Long Island Jewish Hospital . . . Schenectady's original 4 classes are under supervision of the City Education Department . . . Chapter still sponsors 3 other classes . . . Suffolk County announces purchase of building and property in Patchogue . . . old country club . . . near a lake . . . are we invited . . . ?

SELL 2 BOOKS AND A TICKET IS YOURS

GIVING CHRISTMAS BACK TO THE KIDS!

A spontaneous idea which fired the enthusiasm of several public-minded citizens has resulted in a new share of revenue for the AHRC.

In December 1955, the Revere Camera Company altered its usual practice of sending gifts to people in the radio-TV industry. Instead, it made a substantial contribution to the Herald Tribune Fresh Air Fund and sent cards out telling of this. One of the people thus apprised was Jay Jackson, radio-TV announcer. He felt that this was such a splendid gesture that it ought to be extended. With the help of several professional colleagues who became sponsors and who contributed money to cover operating expenses, and the Greater New York Fund who submitted a list of 10 agencies whom they felt would participate, the movement of "Let's Give Christmas Back to the Kids" was launched.

An attractive appeal letter, for which Milton Caniff contributed a cartoon, and a Christmas Shopping Guide detailing what each sum would enable each agency to do, went out to over 15,000 people in the entertainment field. Each donation was promptly acknowledged to the donor and the donee by the agency that received it. In this way, a total of over \$11,500 was collected, with AHRC's \$1,100 among the top three agencies in contributions.

Thanks to Mr. Jay Jackson and his associates, among whom are our own Campaign Committee members Arlene Francis and John K. M. McCaffery, the true spirit of Christmas giving is being restored to a holiday that was being increasingly commercialized.

God Bless You Each and Everyone!

YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING GUIDE!



	\$5 WILL PROVIDE	\$10 WILL PROVIDE	\$15 WILL PROVIDE	\$25 WILL PROVIDE	\$50 WILL PROVIDE	\$100 WILL PROVIDE
ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN	One psychological test for a mentally retarded child	Separated social activities for mentally retarded young persons for one year	One psychiatric consultation	Transportation to a special school for one month for a child — not eligible for public school	Schooling for one month for a mentally retarded child	Three weeks or camp for a mentally retarded child
REVERE DAY NURSERY	One psychological test for a child	One rubber wedding pool for a small child	One rubber wedding pool for a small child	One rubber wedding pool for a small child	A set of large hollow building blocks for 30 days use only	33 dolls for 33 days use only
CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY	Lunch for a week for five children whose mothers work	Psychiatric advice for a troubled boy	Neighborhood health service including medical check-up and dental care for a needy child	A week's vacation for a handicapped child in a camp built for his needs	"Homemaker" care for a week in a family of five children whose mother is hospitalized	One month's foster parent care for a neglected child from a broken home
CHILDREN'S CENTER of the N. Y. WELFARE DEPT. (for children without homes)	Two pairs of roller skates	One doll carriage for a little girl	A complete first-aid kit	One bicycle (light or bell)	Complete toilet items with	A much needed public address system
CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICE sponsored by N. Y. DIST KITCHEN	Christmas treats for 50 small kids	Refurbishment of conference for 13 kids and their mothers — (transportation, feeding instruction, etc.)	Coverlet "Wool Rally" care for one infant for one year — (transportation, medical care, and public show)	Interpreter's service for one Spanish-speaking children in one center for one month	Conference on tubercular conditions of children for qualified pediatrician	Help in expansion of service to areas of changing and increasing population

OUR CHILDREN EQUIP OWN GYM AT P.S. 72

Because of the interest shown in our projects by Miss Frances Coloraffi, Principal of P.S. 72, and by Dr. David H. Moskowitz, Associate Superintendent of the Board of Education, our classroom space in the Queens School has been augmented to four rooms.

Group I, consisting of the youngest pupils, has now moved into the 7-window, sunny corner-room, formerly used by the kindergarten at P.S. 72, which sports a sink and toilets. The vacated room is being turned into a junior-sized gym for all classes, for which equipment is being designed and built at this very moment at a furious pace. Wall-attached ladders and balance sticks with pulleys are being installed—to teach muscular coordination—the cost of the whole being underwritten by the Queens P.T.A., under the leadership of Raphael DeCecio, president. But the most heartening and significant aspect of the entire undertaking, it seems to us, is the fact that this equipment is being built by the pupils of Group III, our 13 to 16-year olds, under the supervision of their teacher, DeVino Riondato, who also designed it all.

YULE CHEER FOR OUR CHILDREN

The Holiday Season just past was particularly exciting for our children. Seems that everybody and their uncle decided to play Santa to mentally retarded children, with the following results:

The ladies who form The Giving Hand, Inc. in memory of Charlotte Schwartz, gave a party with an individual gift for each child to our pupils at P.S. 84, Brooklyn. They also purchased a tape recorder for the use of these classes.

The U.S.A.A.C. Emergency Corps Association, through Mr. Frank Hyman, sent new large chairs for the older school children to replace the little chairs they had outgrown.

The D. M. Employees Sunshine Fund sent a Webcor phonograph for the use of the pilot classes.

The 6th Grade of P.S. 84 denied themselves a Christmas Party in order to spend that money on puzzles for our children.



At the Brooklyn Holiday Party, sponsored by the 40 & 8, American Legion, held at the Brownsville Boys' Club. Posing with the kids and the Indians is Hugh McLaughlin, Chef de Gare of Kings County 40 & 8.

The annual parties took place as usual in our Clinics at the Brooklyn Jewish and the Flower Fifth Avenue Hospitals, thanks to the ladies of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund Auxiliary, the Lena Invalid Aid and the Theodora League.

And then there were the Big (and we mean big) Borough Parties. The Cunningham Women's League staged a big shindig for our Queens kids on December 11th at the American Legion Hall.

The Welfare Committee of the Savings Bank Women of New York, under the chairmanship of Lilly Giaquinto, sponsored The Bronx holiday party which was held—as it has been in the past several years—at the North End Democratic Club on December 23rd.

And the 40 & 8, Voiture 17 of the American Legion gave our Brooklyn children the time of their life on the premises of the Brownsville Boys' Club. Besides all the usual treats, that party featured rides on the 40 & 8's "locomotive" and performances by Chief One-Arrow and his band of Indians.

Is the tide turning for "society's stepchildren"? Is the public beginning to open its heart to them? If we read some of the signs as reported, it's beginning to look that way...

PARENT EDUCATION COURSE

is now being planned. If you want to attend, write to Parent Education, AHRC, 200 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y.

GET MORE BOOKS!

AGE PEAK FOR I.Q. DISPUTED

For the last 30 years there has been a general assumption that man reaches his peak of intelligence at about age 21.

This concept, supposedly supported by I.Q. tests, but which has not been popular with most adults, has been challenged by Dr. Nancy Bayley, head of the Child Development Section of the National Institute of Mental Health, Washington, D.C. Dr. Bayley told 600 leading educators who attended the recent Invitational Conference on Testing Problems in New York, that 50 years and not 21 was the more likely peak for intelligence.

Her remarks caused a stir among the educational testers, whose methods would be in for radical change if the projected theory were proved true. The conference was sponsored by the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, N.J., which comprises the testing activities of the College Entrance Examination Board, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the American Council on Education.

Dr. Bayley was critical of accepted testing results that show increased scores in the early twenties, followed by consistent decline throughout the adult years.

"Repeated tests on the same persons as they grow older," she said, "have yielded scores that do not follow this pattern, but indicate that at least some intellectual abilities may continue to increase slowly to 50 or older.

"These, among other findings of early development, such as the instability of infant scores, are forcing us to reconsider the whole subject of age changes in intellectual abilities. As part of this reconsideration, we need to review the methods by which intelligence can best be tested and evaluated at different ages and levels of complexity," she continued.

Dr. Bayley pointed out that both physical and psychological environment had improved in the last 20 years, and that there has been more schooling for more people. She suggested that it may be necessary to construct new norms for intelligence every ten years.

"In considering age changes in older people, we may need to evaluate their scores according to norms standardized at appropriate calendar years rather than for age only," she concluded.

FEDERAL RESEARCH GRANTS TO SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Several research projects centered on the education and development of mentally retarded children have been made possible through \$267,794 in grants made to Syracuse University's Division of Special Education and to be administered by the University's Research Institute.

Dr. Rudolph J. Capobianco, Research Assistant Professor of Special Education, will carry out 3 projects dealing with the social behavior of these children in public school and in institutions, reading processes of brain-injured and non-brain-injured mentally retarded children, and reasoning ability of the retarded.

Dr. William M. Cruickshank, Director of Education for Exceptional Children, will make a 2-year study of specialized teaching methods and will also study the transfer of training in retarded children. This will be carried out in the Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, Maryland.

Learning characteristics of retarded and normal children of the same mental age will be compared by Dr. G. Orville Johnson, Associate Professor of Special Education.

Drs. Louis M. DiCarlo and Charles V. Mange of the Audiology and Speech Departments will respectively make a comparative study of better and poorer learners and the relationship between the production of speech sounds and hearing skills in retarded and normal children.

The grants were made by the U.S. Office of Education and will be supplemented by Syracuse University.

ROME STATE SCHOOL CH. ISSUES NEW PAMPHLET

In a new pamphlet issued by Rome State School Chapter of AHRC, their aims were stated as follows: 1. To bring more enjoyment to the daily lives of residents in Rome State School. 2. To provide better visiting facilities for relatives and friends. 3. To back legislation relative to improving state schools.

The pamphlet goes on to tell of accomplishments of AHRC relative to state schools. These include that charges against state schools are to be investigated by the State Charities Aid instead of the Department of Mental Hygiene; that the new state school in Western Seneca be a cottage type; that 2 experimental programs in training with lower grade retardates are now conducted in institutions and that parents are no longer responsible for the difference between fee agreed upon at time of commitment and full amount set by the state.

The great vitality of the Rome State School Chapter, we know, will result in better living and training for all the children at Rome.

WORKING FOR THE RETARDED



Leading lights of Gertrude Vos Children's Fund enjoying themselves at their annual gala held this year at the Village Barn. The gentleman in the picture is—of course—our own Bernie Fineson.

Broome County Med. Award (Continued from Page 1)

"Making its selection from a field of several submitted, the public relations committee of the Medical Society based its decision on the 7-point list of accomplishments chalked up by the AHRC Chapter during 1956.

"The public relations committee cites the volunteer members of the AHRC chapter for their work in assisting retarded children in the public schools, AHRC classes and in institutions, and also for trying to make their children self-supporting and for educating the public to the problem of retardation.

"A. Earl Martindale, president of AHRC, cited the 1956 accomplishments as follows: acceptance by the Binghamton Board of Education of the first class of severely retarded children as a regular part of the school system; establishment of a Girl Scout troop to supplement the Boy Scout troop which is completing its first year; hiring of a part-time social worker to aid not only the retarded child but his parents as well; establishment of additional classes under AHRC aegis for the 3-5 age group; teen-age recreation program meeting twice monthly; national recognition given AHRC's summer camp program here, and the publication of a monthly bulletin going to 283 interested members and friends.

"The award was presented by Dr. Raymond S. McKeeby, Society president, at the annual meeting of the Medical Society held at the Carlton Hotel, Dec. 11. It was accepted in behalf of the AHRC by Joseph A. Stuckart, immediate past president, who headed the chapter during the first six months of the award-winning year."

WE NEED YOU FOR THE 8th ANNUAL DINNER, MAY 25

BAZAARS GALORE

As we go to press, the Brooklyn Bazaar and Card Party, which netted between \$1,500 to \$1,600, is an accomplished fact. This impressive sum was realized despite the fact that it took place on one of the worst evenings of the year—weatherwise, and should be credited to the gigantic efforts of the hard-working Committee, headed by Chairman Lee Frank and Secretary Florence Dash.



Modest Cyril Weinberg, guiding spirit of the Bronx Bazaar, is conspicuous by his absence in this candid photo which catches Messrs. Murray Watskin and Charles Campana preparing to unload new merchandise.

The Bronx Bazaar is scheduled for February 9-10, under the Honorary Chairmanship of Cyril Weinberg.

Bronx and Queens also held Card Parties in October, with gratifying results.

ENTIRE CRMD CLASS BECOMES AHRC MEMBER

One of the most gratifying requests ever received in the AHRC office came our way recently with the application for membership by the entire Low I.Q. Class at P.S. 93, Manhattan. An accompanying letter from Mrs. Estelle King, their teacher, set forth how it all came about.

Seems that when the need for augmenting the school library was brought to the attention of the L.I.Q. class, they decided to do something about it. First, they ran a book fair and bazaar, for which they had solicited the books and other material to be sold. This was patronized by the whole school during "Open School Week". L.I.Q. pupils were in complete charge of arrangements, stocks and sales. The financial results, according to Mrs. King, were "most gratifying". So much so, as a matter of fact, that the school officials decided to show their appreciation by subscribing part of the earnings to a membership in AHRC for the entire class.

P.S.: The stock of the library at P.S. 93 has risen considerably!

M. J. SOLOMON CLINIC TEAM INVITED TO DENVER CONFERENCE

Dr. Wortis to Lead Work Demonstration

A 6-member team from the Morris J. Solomon Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Retarded Children will attend the 3-day Conference that is being held by the Colorado State Department of Health in cooperation with the Children's Bureau on February 1-3. The Conference is being called to promote development of clinics for the mentally retarded in Colorado and states of the surrounding area.

The Morris J. Solomon team was invited to give a demonstration of its work. Planning to attend the Conference are Dr. Joseph Wortis, Director of Pediatric Psychiatry; Dr. Sue Browder, neuro-psychiatrist; Dr. Carl Drayer, pediatrician; Mrs. Elfriede Schlesinger, social worker; Miss Raya Lister, rehabilitation nurse; and Miss Elsa Haeusermann, educational consultant.

MOTHERS' HEART DISEASE A FACTOR IN MONGOLISM?

Heart disease in mothers may provide a clue to mongolism, according to a report read to the American Public Health Association meeting in Atlantic City last November.

A Boston research team said they found four times as much heart disease in mothers of mongoloid children as in a group of mothers who gave birth to normals. Dr. Theodore H. Ingalls, of the Department of Epidemiology, Harvard University School of Public Health, and his collaborators, Drs. Joan G. Babbott and F. Randolph Philbrook, conducted a study of 52 mongol births and an equal number of normal births.

This study seemed to substantiate the finding of other studies that older women appear to be more susceptible. The average age of these women was 34.

Because of this finding, Dr. Ingalls suggested that chronic rather than acute physiologic processes may be at work. This is also indicated by bleeding during the first third of pregnancy in older mothers and a tipped uterus in the younger mothers who had mongoloid children. The tipped uterus may produce a chronic compression of the baby in the womb, Dr. Ingalls said.

BORO STEERING COMMITTEES FORMED

As a result of a meeting of AHRC Project Chairmen called on November 26th, it was decided to effect a closer liaison between all Committee Chairmen on a Borough level. To help our readers take a more active part in city-wide activities, we are publishing a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of those who should be contacted:

BRONX: Borough Chairman: Murray Frankel, 2100 Walton Ave., CY 5-6347. **Fund-raising:** Sylvia Schachter, 2125 Holland Ave., TA 9-0626, Chairman; **Committee:** Murray Frankel; Teresa Harris, 401 E. 142nd St., ME 5-8380; Jean Katz, 2105 Blackrock Ave., UN 3-3531; Sara Raynor, 1455 Townsend Ave., CY 3-1408; Rose Silver, 1203 Findlay Ave., JE 6-4916; Dorothy Watskin, 1791 Grand Concourse, TR 8-3704. **Program:** Elaine Blau, 1711 Davidson Ave., TR 2-1851. **Mail & Volunteers:** Helen Lusthaus, 2139 Daly Ave., FO 4-4145, Chairman; **Committee:** Rose Giampietro, 2120 Belmont Ave.; Lily Lees, 1170 Walton Ave., JE 6-5818; Rose Ossin, 1726 Davidson Ave., LU 3-8869. **Secretary:** Beatrice Safran, 1937 Walton Ave., TR 2-2312.

BROOKLYN: Borough Chairman: Lydia Hershkowitz, 696 Bradford St., CL 7-2724. **Membership:** Elizabeth Carubia, 26 Harden St., NA 8-2709; Sidney Hershkowitz, 696 Bradford St., CL 7-2724. **Rummage:** Sid Safer, 1201 Ocean Parkway, CL 3-8198; Lillian Isaacson, 571 Greene Ave., ST 3-0807. **Card Party & Bazaar:** Lee Frank, 4507 10th Ave., GE 8-8045. **Editors, Brooklyn AHRActivities:** Evelyn and David Mont, 2131 74th St., BE 2-8690. **Corresponding Secretary:** Shirley Waller, 1648 West 11th St., CL 9-9098. **Recording Secretary:** Ann Greenstein, 317 Montgomery St., HY 3-3277. **Chairman, Cabaret Night:** Evelyn Mont, 2131 74th St., BE 2-8690.

QUEENS: Borough Chairman: Anne Kraus, 63-50 Wetherole St., Rego Park, TW 7-9517. **Membership:** Minnie Lichtenstein, 43-30 46th St., Sunnyside, ST 6-8764, Chairman; **Committee:** Leah Appelbaum, 156-03 71st Ave., Flushing, AX 7-5861; Eileen Greenberg, 47-25 40th St., Sunnyside, RA 9-5001; Mary McKinley, 89-11 198th St., Hollis, HO 4-1529. **Fundraising:** George and Frances Greene, 34-07 211th St., Bayside, BA 4-1591. **Publicity:** Betty Mastoras, 61-26 156th St., Flushing, IN 3-3347. **Hospitality:** Dorothy Barrett, 8924 138th Place, Jamaica, OL 8-6408; Etla Newton, 111-30 147th St., Jamaica, OL 9-8264. **Recording Secretary:** Lilian Begun, 119-45 231st St., Cambridge Hgts., LA 7-2280. The Queens Program Committee is formed by all members of the Steering Committee.

SEE YOU AT THE ASTOR!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Last week, Bobby was transferred from the Pilot Classes and is now attending Public School. I wish to make it a matter of record, that without the preparation and training he received in the AHRC classes, he would never have made it.

Joe and I are most grateful.

Kindest regards,
Mrs. Joseph W. Gitter

Dear Sirs:

Class 5-1 recently held a book fair, in order to collect some money with which to send to a worthwhile cause. Before we voted, we took many charities in mind, and we realized that there were children, like ourselves, who were less fortunate than we, and do not have strong, healthy minds. So we are sending some money to you, the Association for Retarded Children, with the hope that it will help them. Thank you.

(Enclosed is \$3.80).

Very truly,
Hara Lynn Seltzer

Dear Editor:

As members of long standing of the AHRC, we are proud to notice the success of the projects sponsored by the Association, such as pilot classes, Workshop, Social Groups, camps, etc.

Don't you think that the unfortunate children that cannot partake of any of these activities should be given a thought also? Unfortunately, we have such a child.

May we suggest forming an agency that could supply sitters for an afternoon, evening, a few days, or possibly a week, as a change for these children, and at the same time to relieve the tension for the "shut-in" parents also.

It need not be run on a charitable basis. We are sure that parents interested in such a project would be willing to pay for the services rendered.

Of course, we will need lots of publicity, and who else can we look to for such help, but the AHRC.

Rae and Sam Olshever

ED.'s NOTE: This we cribbed from "Brooklyn AHRctivities",

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.

NO PRIOR LIABILITY FOR FEES

Numerous letters have been received by the Office of AHRC inquiring whether the amendment to Section 24 of the Mental Hygiene Law passed by the Legislature of 1956 relieves parents of prior liability. This amendment relieves parents and their estate from liability for the difference between the rates set for payment for their children in state schools and the maximum fee.

The question was asked whether parents and their estate are still liable for this difference prior to 1956, the year the legislation was passed.

This question was put to Commissioner Hoch and the answer received from Mr. E. David Wiley, Associate Attorney in the Department, states that "the Department applies this method of operation both to new cases entering our institutions after the effective date of the amendment as well as to all pending cases where the full reimbursement rate has not been paid by the liable relative."

"What we have felt," wrote Mr. Wiley, "was that the statute establishes a principle that estates of the liable relatives are not to be charged for differential payments between the amounts previously charged and collected under full standard reimbursement rates."

We have expected no less than this interpretation from the Department and are sure that parents everywhere who read this, will be much relieved from their anxieties relative to this financial burden.

OPTOMETRISTS STUDY VISION OF RETARDED

The nation's optometrists are beginning to consider the possible inter-relation—in some cases—of vision and mental retardation.

Among the many courses of study undertaken at the bi-monthly meetings of the Optometric Extension Program for Auburn, N. Y. and surrounding communities, the one that held the greatest interest for those present, according to one of the local newspapers—was on "Vision and the Retarded Child". According to Dr. Chester Lucas, the lecturer on the subject, "we as adults are unable to see elements of a figure without seeing the figure, as is the case in the retarded child."

"It is hard for us to visualize what the perceptual activity of a subject is like," continued Dr. Lucas, "when his behavior indicates that for him elements are of more importance than form. Form for us is so dominant and so compulsive that we cannot get away from it. We are prone to forget that this was not always true and that in some individuals it is not true now."

It is heartening to know that at last the countless ramifications of mental retardation are receiving the attention of the specialists.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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