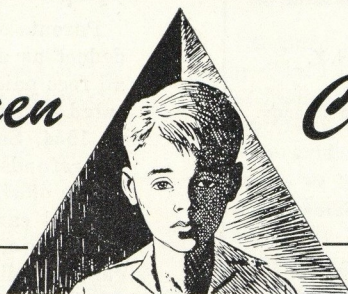


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children



Can Be Helped!

VOL. X — ISSUE No. 1

106

MARCH, 1958

\$302,000 Pledged on Telethon

AS REVIEWED IN VARIETY

Everything about telethons is getting bigger. This is the big-business of the charity field in which big names combine with big causes and result in big grosses. The enormity of the field is indeed impressive considering that a tremendous amount of organization is necessary to carry off such a venture.

It no longer matters too much who comes to the show; the star of the show is always the performer who stays through it all. In this respect, Martha Raye contributing 19½ consecutive hours on behalf of retarded children over WABD, N. Y. probably did one of the most impressive jobs in the history of such undertakings. Statistically, she was never off more than nine minutes during the entire grind. As the hours wore on, her sincerity in coaxing out the hidden and slowly forthcoming dollars increased, and her intensity in working for the cause of retarded children became more sincere as the hours wore on.

Miss Raye started out in a manner similar to that which became the trademark of her own teevee series. The terp number she did at the outset might have been choreographed by Herb Ross, who did her early shows. At the beginning there were skits and there was some effort to bring to the donating public more than mere acts. However, the star of the occasion was Miss Raye. There is the feeling, however, that she carefully tried to avoid being the big wheel. At every opportunity she tried to spotlight the facts in the case. Retarded children can be helped, they should not be hidden, but turned over to proper schools and agencies so that they can be returned to a near-normal life.

As a matter of fact, this show, the first for the cause of retarded children can be termed as a prevue for future shows. The total, \$302,104 with an anticipated \$50,000 to come in, is perhaps not impressive when compared with previous telethons. At the last one presided over by Jerry Lewis, about \$600,000 was taken in. But the projectors of the show wisely concentrated on a maximum of educational work, rather than showing shots of the battery of telephones or the prolonged pitches for funds. There were some of the latter, but Miss Raye, especially, tried to do a real educational job along with getting the coin. It's apparent that even after this start, the subsequent telethons, which generally become annuals, will have bigger payoffs.

It's true that there weren't of the first line names in New



Martha Raye on camera at Telethon with Henry Geller, soloist.

York. But there was a good show biz representation. Perhaps there might have been more, if Miss Raye retained her own video show and thus was in a hiring position. But without that secret weapon, Miss Raye and her cause pulled a lot of big-time people. The most valiant workers seemed to be Milton Berle himself a telethon vet, who stayed for a long time, commandeering telephones as well as entertaining and pitching. Jan Murray was another who pitched right in and remained for a long time. Names from all fields showed up.

There were also dignitaries such as Gov. Harriman, Mayor Wagner, Gov. Meyner, The Mayor of nearby Greenwich, Perle Mesta, Maria Callas and Elsa Maxwell, and personalities such as Eileen Barton, Ted Lewis, Paul Winchell, Ella Fitzgerald, Rocky Graziano, Jack E. Leonard, Eugenie Baird, Ted Brown & Redheads, deejay William B. Williams, David Wayne, Sugarfoot Will Hutchins, Eddy Arnold, Wade Preston, Guy Lombardo, Josephine Premice, Lonnie Sattin, Hy Gardner, Jackie Robinson, Caesar Romero, Julius LaRosa, Eva Gabor, John Wingate, Alec Templeton, among others.

9th ANNUAL DINNER SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU

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

THE TELETHON

(EDITORIAL)

The enterprise that AHRC undertook on February 8th and 9th, we know has been successful. It wasn't without considerable fear and trepidation that the decision was reached to hold a Telethon. The gratifying results again show that we who are so near the trees cannot see the forest.

It has been clearly demonstrated that the development of AHRC in this difficult field has been extraordinary, indeed, to gain the acceptance which resulted in the pledges on the show. But money alone cannot begin to measure the returns. The mere fact that so many people heard the word mental retardation in a hopeful context has, as Variety said in its review, given the Association stature in the voluntary health field.

We cannot but go forward with much more hope and enthusiasm because of this. To Martha Raye, who contributed so generously of her time and self, our grateful thanks. We can think of no one who could have done so good a job, and retarded children everywhere owe her a debt of gratitude forever.

Above the Law?

(EDITORIAL)

Once again the Board of Education has submitted its budget, including its requests for mentally retarded children in the public schools. This year, the laws and regulations are so clear cut that there would seem little room for playing around with the budget in this area. Nevertheless, in spite of the excellent although modest recommendations of Mr. William Hamm, Associate Superintendent of the Division of Child Care, and Miss Katherine Lynch, Director of the B.C.R.M.D., the Board once more cut this budget to ribbons and, in effect, thumbed its nose at the laws and regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

The Budget is totally inadequate to begin implementing the law to provide special education for the mentally retarded educable from 5 to 21. It provides almost nothing to reduce the registers of the low I.Q. classes from 18 to 10 as required by the regulations of the Commissioner. The suggestion for a special continuation school for the 17 to 21 who cannot make high school classes is completely ignored.

All of these tie in with state aid and we would be sad, indeed, if we were pushed into the position of having to evoke our rights and the rights of the children in the courts in order to force the Board of Education of the City of New York to obey education laws. If, however, no other recourse is open to us we cannot escape our responsibilities to do so. Isn't this a deplorable situation?

Income Tax Deductions Liberalized

Special School Fees Retroactive to 1954

Parents of retarded children who attend special schools can deduct as a medical expense on federal income tax returns, all fees paid to the schools. This ruling was recently incorporated in the final regulations under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, Section 213. This deduction is retroactive to 1954 but refunds must be claimed before April 15th.

The official ruling states: "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 a mental or physical handicap are a principal reason for his presence there.

"In such a case, the cost of attending such a special school will include the cost of meals and lodgings, if supplied, and the cost of ordinary education furnished which is incidental to the special services furnished by the school.

"Thus, the cost of medical care includes the cost of attending a special school designed to compensate for or overcome a physical handicap, in order to qualify the individual for future normal education or for normal living, such as a school for the teaching of braille or lip reading.

"Similarly, the cost of care and supervision, or of treatment and training, of a mentally retarded or physically handicapped individual at an institution is within the meaning of the term 'medical care.'

"It is immaterial for purposes of this sub-division whether the medical care is furnished in a federal or state institution or in a private institution."

AHRC GRANTED \$9000 FOR SUMMER PERSONNEL TRAINING

The United States Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has given us a grant of \$9000 to hold a workshop to train personnel in the vocational rehabilitation of the mentally retarded, thanks to the success of last year's workshop.

The Workshop will be held at Teachers College, Columbia University from July 7th to the 25th. The faculty will consist of Coordinator, Abraham Jacobs, Ph.D., and Assistant Coordinator, Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, AHRC.

Fees for the Workshop are: \$90 tuition, \$10 University fee, and \$15 Service fee for students enrolled for credit. For students enrolled on a non-credit basis: \$90 tuition and \$15 Service fee.

A limited number of \$300 stipends, payable upon completion of the course have been made available from the O.V.R. These stipends will be assigned to individuals living away from New York City, to help them meet their travel, maintenance and tuition costs. Application for a stipend should be made in a separate letter at the time the workshop application is returned. For applications write to Dr. Abraham Jacobs, Box 35, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y.

AHRC Materials Aid Teachers College Course

At the request of H. Bentley Hobart, Acting Executive Officer of the Institute of Adult Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, pamphlets, booklets and other material on retardation prepared by the Association for the Help of Retarded Children were supplied to Teachers College as a resource for students who are taking a course in "Community Agencies and Their Part in Guidance."

ARE YOU WORKING FOR THE MAY 18 DINNER?

Ninth Annual Dinner-Dance MAY 18th

The AHRC Ninth Annual Dinner-Dance will be held on the evening of May 18th in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton-Astor Hotel on Times Square.

For the first time this event is taking place on a Sunday evening instead of Saturday. Seymour Rubin, 2nd Vice President of AHRC, is our 1958 dinner chairman.

The dinner-dance promises to be the biggest and best ever with extravagant prizes ranging from large screen color TV sets to kitchen appliances. Dinner books and donation books have been distributed but the committee is ready and eager to send additional books on request as well as advertising blanks for the Journal.

Tickets cost \$25.00 or nothing! A free ticket is the reward for anyone who sells either two dinner books for a total of \$25 or an ad worth \$50. Additional tickets will be sent for each pair of raffle books and \$50 ad that is sold.

In addition to a superb dinner, gala entertainment, and awards to leading contributors to the cause of helping mental retardation, the annual dinner is the one event at which all members and friends have a chance to get together and just enjoy themselves. It gives all of us a chance to renew old friendships and begin new ones.

It's difficult to overemphasize the importance of this dinner. Without its eight successful predecessors the dramatic progress that has been made toward helping retarded children could never have taken place. It is the annual dinner that raised the funds to initiate our projects including — special classes with specially trained teachers, social groups, scouting, summer camping, sheltered workshops, parent guidance, and the research, treatment and diagnostic clinics that have wrought such marvellous advances in the fight for prevention, cure and amelioration of retardation.

But we can't afford to mark time now. We must have additional funds to pay for more research, more teachers and special classes, more sheltered workshops, more social groups, more scouting troops and camping scholarships, and we're depending on every parent and friend of a retarded child to sell at least enough raffle books or ads to insure a place at the dinner-dance.

You'll have fun, entertainment, prizes galore — and help us prove anew that "Retarded Children Can Be Helped" isn't just a slogan to impress the general public but an abiding creed, fervently believed in by everyone who knows and loves a retarded child. Sit right down now please and send for your books and ad blanks.

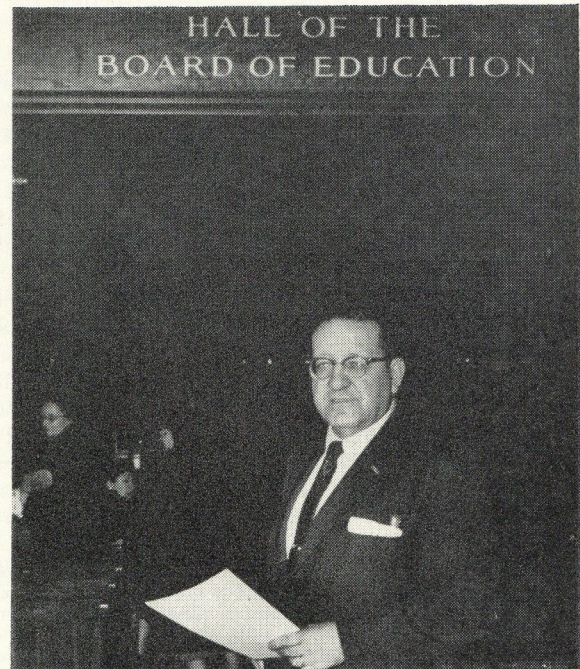
Address: Mr. Seymour Rubin, Dinner-Chairman, AHRC
200 Fourth Ave., New York 3, N. Y.

CAMP APPLICATIONS NOW BEING RECEIVED

The Camp Committee has requested that all those who wish to apply for camping for their children, day camp or sleep-away, do so immediately by writing to the office, 200 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y., Attention Camp Committee. As in previous years a certain number of scholarships will be available for this purpose and all are asked to apply as soon as possible so that they may be processed in plenty of time.

AHRC President Protests Board of Education Budget

Bernard M. Fineson, President of AHRC, appeared before the Board of Education's budget hearing to protest against the inadequate budget requests for the mentally retarded of New York City. Mr. Fineson pointed out that the education law provides that local school districts must provide special classes to provide instruction adapted to the mental attainments of retarded children from their fifth birthday until the end of the term during which they attain their twenty-first birthday.



President Bernard M. Fineson at meeting of Board of Education.
(Photo courtesy New York Institute of Photography.)

The new mandate must be obeyed and the Bureau for CRMD and the Associate Superintendent for Child Welfare made the necessary recommendations for a minimum program. However, the Board eliminated the extra teaching positions that would have made it possible to accommodate the children who are now denied their rightful place in the public school system.

Mr. Fineson told the Board that 253 CRMD pupils had to leave school last year because they could not get into high school and were over 17. At the other end of the scale, the children between 5 and 7 were not provided for although the law states that no retarded child age 5 or over can be refused instruction.

In addition to the mandatory provisions for the "educable" retarded the Commissioner of Education has issued regulations concerning children with I.Q.'s under 50. At present, these classes have registers of 18 although the regulations of the Commissioner state that no such class may have a register of more than 10.

A potent argument advanced by President Fineson was that the law and regulations are mandatory and the City has been receiving more than \$5,000,000 a year as a windfall for the past two years for special education. The money is there for services for the handicapped but has been siphoned off for other uses.

OF COURSE YOU'LL BE THERE!

State Convention Stresses Education Needs

28 Chapters Send Representatives

A record attendance at the State Convention of the AHRC held in Syracuse, November 1st, 2nd and 3rd, stressed immediate action to make the education law for the trainable children mandatory instead of permissive.

In a report to the Convention, the Executive Director stated that in the three years of the permissive law's operation, a total of 34 places will have started 58 classes for trainable children serving approximately 500 (plus the 600 served in 39 classes in New York City that were begun before the law was passed).

According to the figures in "The Census of Severely Retarded Children," a report of the division of research as the state department of education, made in 1956, the total number of mentally retarded children, ages 5 through 20 with I.Q.'s under 50 is given as 11,654, 5,434 of whom are in the community. Of these 4,573 are deemed eligible for classes for trainable children. The present status of classes, therefore, leaves some 3,500 children left unserved according to these conservative figures.

The convention also had the opportunity to hear informative and stimulating talks on vocational rehabilitation and sheltered workshops by Adrian Levy, Assistant Commissioner of Education for Rehabilitation, education in the public schools by Charles Becker, Associate in Education, Division of Handicapped Children, State Department of Education, and the formation of auxiliaries to chapters by Herbert Zeisler of Nassau County Chapter. In addition, there was a discussion of fund raising on a state level by our fund raising chairman Julian Banner.

The following slate of officers and directors was elected by the delegates. Pres.: Mr. Bernard M. Fineson, (New York City Chapter), 1st V.P.: Mr. Augustus M. Jacobs, (New York City Chapter), 2nd V.P.: Mr. Robert H. Wagner, (Monroe County Chapter), 3rd V.P.: Mr. Borage E. Stiles, (Schenectady County Chap.), 4th V.P.: Mary Dodge McCarthy, (Onondaga County Chap.), Treasurer: Mr. Max W. Schachter, (N. Y. C. Chap.) Secretary: Norman Lazarus, Members of the Board of Governors, 1 yr. term: Mr. Joseph A. Stuckart, (Broome County Chap.), Mr. Joseph P. Tholl, (Capitol District), Mr. Paul W. Readon, (Cayuga County Chapter), Mr. George Cameron, (Clinton County Chapter), Arlyne H. Miller, (Fulton County Chapter), Mr. Peter Keischgens, (Jefferson County Chapter), Mr. Marvin W. Paxson, (Onondaga County Chapter), Dr. Freeman L. McEwen, (Ontario County Chapter), Mr. William R. Gray, (Oswego County Chapter), Mrs. Deborah C. Cherey, (Putnam County Chapter), Mr. James Maroon, (Rockland County Chapter), Mrs. Walter Furman, (Ulster County Chapter), Mr. Seymour Bieher, (New York City Chapter), Mr. George Hirsch, (New York City), 2 yr. term: Lycey Murdock, (Chemung County Chapter), Mr. Donald H. Cohen, (Erie County Chapter), Mr. Eugene Lunken, (Niagara County Chapter), Dorothy C. Bingel, (Oneida-Herkimer County Chapter), Mr. Henry Cox, (Orange County Chapter), Mr. Thomas Lotz, (Rome State School Chapter), Mr. August Bischoff, (Suffolk County Chapter), Mr. Paul Cahalan, (Sullivan County Chapter), Mr. Sidney Van Dusen, (Upper Hudson County Chapter), Mr. Evald Gasstrom, (Westchester County Chapter), Mr. Julian Banner, (New York City Chapter), Mrs. Anne Gitter, (New York City Chapter), Mr. Sidney Leviton, (New York City Chapter).

The convention closed with the adoption of a series of resolutions which will be the program of the State Association for the coming year.

1. Resolved, that the State Association for the Help of Retarded Children, Inc., include in the legislative program for 1958 a bill which will enable the Department of Mental Hygiene to establish Community day centers for those mentally retarded persons who do not qualify for admission to any existing programs under the Department of Education.
2. Resolved, that the State of New York increase the salaries of institutional personnel engaged in the care and training

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

A.H.R.C. Continues Expansion New Chapters Being Formed

AHRC has welcomed a new member of its family, Montgomery County Chapter, (Amsterdam) as a chapter. The new unit is the result of the work of our friends in Fulton and Schenectady Counties who attended a number of the organizing meetings which finally resulted in application as a chapter after a visit from our Executive Director to Amsterdam.

The officers of the new Chapter are: President: Mrs. Ralph Manginelli, 300 Division St., Amsterdam, New York; Vice Pres.: Mrs. Walter Douglass, 359 Division St., Amsterdam St., Amsterdam, New York; Treasurer: Mr. John Silka, 30 Clark Ave., Amsterdam, New York; Financial Sec.: Mrs. Austin; Recording Sec.: Mrs. Flavia Myers, Mill Point Rd., RD 10, Amsterdam, New York; Corr. Sec.: Mrs. Shomar Hughes, 74 Wesleyan Ave., Amsterdam, New York.

It is interesting to note that Amsterdam has already started a class in the public schools for trainable children as a result of the effort of our new group.

A most dynamic group was formed in Olean (Cattaraugus County) under the leadership of Mrs. Reswick, 140 E. Riverside Dr., Olean, N. Y. This group has been organized and will make application to AHRC for chapter status.

Chapters of the Association now number 28 with only a few areas not yet organized.

UTICA STILL SEEKING HOME FOR CLINIC

Dr. Anna J. Gosline, Utica psychiatrist, has been appointed head of a proposed clinic for retarded children. Plans for the clinic are being made by the Oneida-Herkimer Chapter and the AHRC will operate the clinic. The new project is designed to provide testing, evaluation, parental counseling and clinical assistance to retarded children and their families; and the clinic will serve the public as well as members.

Miss Dominicia Staffler is chairman of the AHRC projects committee which laid the groundwork for the program. It had been expected that space would be made available at the Children's Hospital Home in Utica. These quarters have not materialized and the projected clinic is still seeking a home.

STATE CONVENTION (CONTINUED)

- of mentally retarded persons to standard which will attract and hold competent people.
3. Resolved, that education be provided for each child in an institution in the same quality and the same degree as that to which he would have been entitled had he remained in the community and that the responsibility for this be placed in the Department of Education.
 4. Resolved, that the Department of Mental Hygiene be urged to invite representatives of this Association to consult with it on budget preparation both at the departmental level and at the State Schools themselves.
 5. Resolved, that the major emphasis of the AHRC legislative program for 1958 be on the proposal to make classes for the trainable child mandatory.
 6. Resolved, that this Association deplores the use of waiting lists for the admission of youngsters to the State Schools and urge the Department of Mental Hygiene to take immediate steps to provide for and accept youngsters under the age of 5 years.
 7. Resolved, that proper state departments and agencies dealing with public health nurses be urged to include educational and in-service training programs for public health nurses in the field of home training and management of the retarded child.

The next convention will be held October 31st, November 1st and 2nd, at the Statler Hotel in Buffalo with Erie Chapter as the host.

SUNDAY, MAY 18th, AT THE ASTOR

Nat'l Figures Publicize AHRC



(Left to right): Tex McCrary, Pearl Buck, Mary Margaret McBride. Mary Margaret McBride interviewed Pearl Buck during the campaign on the Tex and Jinx TV Show, Channel 4. Miss Buck discussed retardation and urged help for the organization.

AHRC Accepted As State Member Unit of National Association

At the meeting of the AHRC in Syracuse, it was announced that AHRC has been accepted as the New York State member unit of National Association for Retarded Children. This is a recognition of the work of the AHRC and its all encompassing organization in the State.

One of the results of this admission as a state member of NARC is that all unit members of National, not now AHRC members, must, within 3 years, become members of AHRC so that all member units of National will operate under one state banner. Such units as exist in Poughkeepsie, Staten Island, Sunshine League of Western New York, as well as Welfare League, Community League and the Benevolent Society are eligible for membership in AHRC and we eagerly await their applications to be acted on by the Board of Governors.

New Brochure on State Schools

"A World to Grow In," a new booklet issued by the office of Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, State Office Building, Albany, New York, is an excellent booklet for parents of retarded children, especially those who may be considering institutional care. There is specific information on the role of the State School, the obligation of parents, and the school program.

The book is copiously illustrated with photographs showing the facilities at the six State Schools now in operation. While giving an inviting picture of the facilities and care available at State Schools, the text is careful to point out that the schools are overcrowded and that "if adequate services are available, many retarded children can remain in the warmer environment of their own homes, secure in the affection of their own families. Under such conditions, there is the greatest opportunity for the child to develop into a functioning member of society."

Single copies of the booklet are available free. Requests should be addressed to the State Department of Mental Hygiene, Office of Public Relations, 217 Lark St., Albany, N. Y.

Research Findings Published

Follow-up Study of Severely Retarded Adults in the Community

The result of a follow-up study of mentally retarded adults who had attended the low I.Q. classes in New York City in 1929 to 1955 has been reported by the New York State Interdepartmental Health Resources Board. The study, "The Adjustment of Severely Retarded Adults in the Community", was headed up by Gerhart Saenger, Ph.D., of the Research Center, Graduate School of Public Administration and Social Service, New York University.

The study was based on interviews with the parents of 520 severely retarded adults, conducted by trained social workers. The sample was chosen from specially constructed lists of 2,640 former pupils of all classes conducted by the Board of Education for the trainable retarded during 1929 to 1955. Some of the results are of special significance in the light of the question many have asked about the value of the special classes in the public school for severely retarded children. For example, the large majority, 83% of those living in the community were able to dress and feed themselves and take care of their bodily functions. Two thirds were living in the community, 26% were institutionalized and 8% had died. Significantly, institutionalization took place during school years or soon after. No relation was found between institutionalization and parental income, education, or family size.

"As with children of normal intelligence" states the report, "the presence or absence of problems was largely determined by the quality of family inter-relations."

A very interesting part of the report reveals that 27% of the severely retarded in the community worked for pay. One-half the group who worked earned more than \$20.00 a week, a few as much as \$40, \$50 and even \$60.00. Bearing out our workshop experiences, while only 16% of those between 17 and 18 worked, 30% of the group between 30 and 40 years of age earned some money "much depends on the availability of channels for securing jobs..." states the report.

Of great interest to us is that there was a heavy demand by parents "for day centers, workshops, recreation centers, as for example the center established by the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, Inc."

This study is a milestone in pointing up the hopeful aspects of the problem and that services for the severely retarded can be evaluated in terms of tangible returns.

NEW BIOCHEMICAL RESEARCH ON RETARDATION

An initial grant of \$3,655. has been made by the Sunshine League of Western N. Y. for a new Biochemical Genetics Research Fund to study the causes and possible prevention of mental retardation, according to an announcement by Mrs. John O'Donnell, Executive Secretary.

The joint research project is under the direction of Dr. Robert Guthrie, Chief research investigator of Roswell Park Memorial Institute and Dr. Robert Warner of Children's Hospital. The laboratory work will be conducted at Roswell Park.

Although using similar research methods to those of other hospitals this project will be unique in principle. Dr. Guthrie is using mutant bacteria which have been made abnormal by use of very large doses of X-ray instead of the ordinary biochemical methods of analysis.

Mrs. Sally Bloom is co-ordinator of the project and Mrs. Susi Ada is laboratory technician.

GET MORE BOOKS!

LI'L ABNER Party For A.H.R.C. Raises \$7,000

Kennedy Foundation Underwrites All Expenses

Mrs. Edmund F. Johnstone, Chairman of the Woman's Division for the recent AHRC Campaign and her assistants planned and held a Li'l Abner Party at the Hotel Ambassador with all proceeds earmarked for the AHRC Campaign.

The entire cast of the musical comedy including the new Daisy Mae, Joyce Gladmond, appeared at the party. The appropriate barnyard atmosphere was provided in the form of hound dogs, piglets, baby chicks and other domestic animals. The staid elegance of the Ambassador's Grand Ballroom made such an impression on the livestock that they behaved like Gothamites instead of residents of Dog Patch.



(Left to right): Mrs. Edmund F. Johnstone, Chairman of Woman's Division, AHRC Campaign, Joyce Gladmond (Daisy Mae) and Peter Palmer (Li'l Abner) backstage planning the Li'l Abner tea dance.

Greeting the guests were Mammy and Pappy Yokum in costume, while Marryin' Sam and other members of the cast sold "chits" to be exchanged for beverages. Stupifyin' Jones was enormously successful selling boutonnières to the male guests. Consensus of opinion was that Mrs. Johnstone and her hard-working committee had pulled the charity coup of the year by lifting the cast of a hit Broadway musical show right out of the theatre and moving it into the ballroom of the Ambassador.

The transported thespians won many new friends and influenced those who have not yet seen the musical into buying tickets. They gave generously of their time and talents until just before curtain time at the St. James Theatre. And they appeared to be enjoying themselves selling tickets, flowers and chances just as much as the guests enjoyed buying from these unusual salespeople.

Chauncey Grey, the society maestro, handled the musical chores well, introducing each member of the cast with the song associated with the comic strip character in the play.

FIRST P.S. RECREATION PROGRAM SPONSORED BY AHRC

Last term the Board of Education of the City of New York began its first after-school recreation group for CRMD classes at Public School 166 at 132 West 89th St. in Manhattan. The project, sponsored by the Community Education Division of the Bd. of Ed., is operated with funds supplied by the Association. The group is led by a qualified CRMD teacher, Milton Chaikin; and it meets every afternoon, Monday through Friday from 3:15 to 5:30 P.M. No transportation is furnished by the city so parents bring their children to school.

Dr. Greenberg, who was Assistant Superintendent of Schools while negotiations were proceeding between the AHRC and the Board of Education, actively encouraged the project which had been urged on the city for the past two years by the Executive Director of AHRC.

Free Space for AHRC Girl Scouts

Thanks to the generosity of Abe Stark, City Council President, and Alex Hesterberg, another famous Brooklynite, Girl Scout Troop 2-493, sponsored by AHRC has been given cheerful, rent-free quarters for its meetings.

In addition to having the scout's meeting place, (which consists of three rooms) freshly painted, the Flatbush Democratic Club of Brooklyn has offered its large auditorium to the scouts for the annual Investiture at which the troop will receive its new charter.

The careful planning by the committee enabled them to offer a handsome collection of prizes. Among the donations that were raffled off or awarded as door prizes were an Oleg Cassini gown, furs by Ritter and cases of vodka by Wolf-schmidt. The tables were gaily decorated with flowers by Windsor, perfume by Lanvin and Parliament Cigarettes.

Many of the committee members booked tables for their own parties and also wrote personal notes with the invitations they sent out to insure an overflow crowd for the party. The cooperative efforts of the theatre people and society personalities succeeded in raising a considerable sum for AHRC. During the party Mrs. Johnstone, Chairman, and Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr., Chairman of the 1957 Campaign, made short speeches in behalf of the AHRC, and announced that the Kennedy Foundation was underwriting the expenses of The Li'l Abner Party so that all the money raised at the event could be devoted to AHRC projects.

Among those attending were Gail Whitney and her fiance, Dick Cowell; socialite musician John Hammond and his petite wife; Mrs. H. J. Heinz, 2nd, comely wife of the 57-varieties magnate; Dennis McEvoy, polo playing Bil Nicholls and his Bea; Mrs. Peter C. A. Carpenter (Vice-chairman of the benefit); Edward Crozier (Ned) Rutherford with brunette Joan Braatz and the latter's youthful-looking mother; the Fletcher Aldens, Mrs. Owen R. Cheatham, Mrs. Robert C. Townsend, the Edward J. Schoenhofs, Mrs. William A. Waters, Mrs. Stanley H. Andrews, Harold Barker, Jr.; artist Mike Werboff, Mrs. Harley N. Cole, Richard A. Walsh and Mrs. William Doyle. Also Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr., J. Lawrence Bernard, Mrs. James H. Ewing, Mrs. Frank B. Graven, Mrs. John F. Haggerty, Mrs. William Harloe, Mrs. Walter M. Jeffords, Jr., Mrs. Winifred Rosston, Mrs. James Hart, Mrs. John A. Morris and Mrs. Charles M. Trunz, Sr.

Charles Ventura, society columnist of the World-Telegram & Sun, covered the event and it was reported in all the other metropolitan newspapers and Women's Wear Daily.

SEE YOU AT THE ASTOR!

STATEWIDE...

The third annual banquet of the ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER was held at the Thayer Hotel at West Point . . . Col. James B. Stapleton, Post Surgeon of the U.S. Hospital at West Point, was a speaker along with President Fineson and Executive Director Weingold . . . The NIAGARA COUNTY CHAPTER was the recipient of a very successful Fashion Show and Card Party sponsored by the Elks Ladies Auxiliary for the Association . . . The South End Kiwanis Club donated the children's lunch milk for a year . . . and the Air Force



Mr. George M. Kutch, President of IBM Club presents check for \$1500.00, from the employees of IBM, to Sylvia B. Mahar, Fund Chairman of Putnam County Chapter AHRC. Standing (Left to right): Mrs. Max Freyberg, Mrs. Kenneth Totten, Mr. Kenneth Totten, Pres. Putnam Co. Chapter, Mrs. Deborah Cherey and Mrs. Frank Bambara.

Base wives provided tuition for a child for a year. . . . Mr. Daniel Berke, Knights of Pythias, Patchogue Lodge #790, announced that the Knights of Pythias will hold an annual Radiothon for the benefit of the SUFFOLK CHAPTER . . . The Knights of Pythias also were benefactors in Monticello and Fallsburg for SULLIVAN COUNTY CHAPTER through James Grogan Lodge #585 and for Liberty through the Catskill Mountain Lodge #326 . . . ERIE COUNTY CHAPTER has an active advisory board that meets monthly to consider, discuss and recommend approaches to problems referred to them by the Erie Board of Directors . . . members of the Advisory Board include a psychologist, psychiatric social worker, the director of a reading clinic, a State Senator, a County Commissioner of Health, pediatricians and educators . . . A volunteer unit was formed to assist the WEST-CHESTER CHAPTER of the AHRC . . . director for the southern part of the county is Mrs. Louis A. Rosett of New Rochelle and for the upcounty area, Mrs. Jacques J. Tisne of Chappaqua . . . The PUTNAM COUNTY Newsletter shows that this chapter had 35 members in 1956 and 52 in 1957 . . . in addition to acquiring new members PUTNAM opened the first adult classes in the U.S.A. set-up under the Adult Education Program . . . At a meeting held in the Sheltered Workshop Cafeteria by the BROOME COUNTY CHAPTER some of the children from AHRC classes participated in the program for the first time . . . The largest card party ever held in the city of Albany was held for the CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER . . . there were raffles, tickets, prizes, bazaar, hospitality and a fashion show . . . Mrs. Harold Segal was chairman and Mrs. Reuben Kohn co-chairman . . . Freeport Auxiliary for the AHRC NASSAU CHAPTER held a membership tea at the Rockville Country Club.

ROME STATE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Rome State School Chapter, AHRC, has embarked on an extensive program at the School, with the cooperation of the new Director, reports Mr. Tom Lotz, Sherburne, N. Y., President.

Dr. Charles Greenberg, Director of Rome State School, informed the Chapter that Rome State School's desires include tape recorders, record players, projectors and screens, a portable public address system, playground swings and chair swings. The new director has offered to distribute Chapter pamphlets to parents with his outgoing mail, and to place AHRC posters as well as a supply of pamphlets in waiting rooms.

The extracurricular activities at Rome include social gatherings, holiday parties, plays, visits to interesting places, and picnics, according to the weather. There is a softball league team and concerts; and it is hoped that a swimming spot will be available by summer. The education program is considered adequate for those with any academic or vocational aptitude although it falls short in planned play activity programs for the retardate with a lower I.Q. because of lack of trained personnel.

Rome State School Chapter is concerned that a child is evaluated only once upon entering the school because of lack of psychologists for retesting. However the colony program was praised and Dr. Greenberg gave assurances that he was modernizing the homemaking equipment so the students would be prepared to handle modern appliances when they enter the world to earn their living. Next he hopes to update the farm equipment.

Residency in Psychiatry at Letchworth

A series of four six-week courses of intensive training in mental deficiency for psychiatric residents of recognized training was begun last fall at Letchworth Village, Thiells, N. Y. under the direction of Dr. Howard Potter, Professor of Psychiatry at N. Y. State Medical College. Dr. Potter is former President of the A.A.M.D. and a member of the Board of Visitors of Letchworth Village.

The courses feature a three-day orientation period with guided visits, observation and group discussions: daily case conferences and lecture seminars of one hour each; and reading seminars of two hours on Saturday mornings. Lecture seminars are conducted by the Letchworth staff and guest lecturers prominent in their respective fields. Each session is limited to 10 students.

The 4000 patients at Letchworth present a wide variety of genetic, medical, neurological, emotional, social and educational aspects of retardation. Research has played a prominent role in the Institution for the past 35 years and it supports research laboratories in clinical physiology, biochemistry and neuropathology.

Until now the opportunity to obtain a reasonable perspective of mental retardation and to examine and evaluate a number of mental retardates has been deficient. These intensive six-week courses should help meet this deficiency.

The courses are open to any resident in an approved psychiatric residency in the U.S. provided he has completed six months of residency, has had a one-year internship in a general medical and surgical hospital, is a graduate of an approved medical college and is endorsed by the director of his residency center.

Further information may be secured by addressing: Program Director, Orientation Course in Mental Deficiency, Letchworth Village, Thiells, Rockland County, N. Y.

HAVE YOU SOLD YOUR BOOKS?

NEW YORK LEAGUE LUNCHEON



New York League Luncheon honors Henry Luce at Waldorf-Astoria Luncheon. Edward R. Murrow presents plaque to Roy E. Larsen, President of Time Inc., who accepted it in behalf of Mr. Luce, Mrs. Louis Silberberg, President of the League looks on.

Jefferson County Chapter Opens Sheltered Workshop

The Sheltered Workshop of Jefferson County, Inc., sponsored by AHRC, was formally opened on December 5th, 1957, as the keys of the building were presented to Mayor William G. Lachenauer by Sister Mary Enda, Administrator of Mercy Hospital, Donor of the building.

The first group of handicapped persons has already started in the Workshop and is employed on sub-contracts furnished through the Rubber Scrubber Corporation and the Car-Freshner Corporation. The Workshop is operating through the cooperation of all other agencies aiding the handicapped and is planning to provide a training program and steady employment to persons with varying disabilities.

The key man in the development of this new facility in western New York is Peter C. Keischgens, President of the Jefferson County Chapter, AHRC. This new service is the result of intensive work on his part in the community with the help of the Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold, until last year Chairman of the National Rehabilitation and Sheltered Employment Committee.

Congratulations to Jefferson County Chapter who are setting an example for many of the others in this state planning this needed service.

WORKSHOP NOTE

The AHRC Training Center and Workshop is now serving as a field work placement facility for graduate students from Teachers College, Columbia U.; New York University; Long Island University; and the University of Houston, Texas.

Mrs. Deborah C. Cherey of Mahopac Makes History

Mrs. Deborah C. Cherey, Vice President of Putnam County Chapter, recently made history when she was elected a vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America at its last convention. In the 60 years of its existence no woman has ever attained this rank.

On a trip to the Midwest Mrs. Cherey addressed the officers of the Maccabee Club, the Zionist district of St. Louis and the Zionist district of Kansas City.

"THE WORKSHOP STAR"

The AHRC Training Center and Workshop at 116 East 27th St., in New York City can boast of publishing a house organ all its own called "The Workshop Star." The Star is a four-page, mimeographed newspaper, profusely illustrated and it published its 23rd bi-monthly issue recently.

The paper is a source of interest and satisfaction to the trainees in the shop as well as the devoted personnel who run the workshop. But even more it is an inspiration to the young people who are preparing themselves to take part in a competitive society. When sixteen trainees visited the Long Island College Hospital they were being introduced to the kinds of jobs they might be able to secure in a hospital. Mr. Gorelick, Evaluation Supervisor, and Mr. Rudner, Vocational Counselor, accompanied the trainees but permitted them to return home alone after telling them which trains to take.

In addition to the actual practical experience entailed in being shown the types of work available, the 16 trainees were able to share their experience with their colleagues and encourage those who are not yet as advanced toward independence by giving the material to the Workshop Supervisor to write up in the Star.

Other articles in the Workshop Star deal with letters or visits from former trainees who have graduated into outside industry, letters from the current trainees containing compliments, complaints and suggestions, jokes, committee reports and descriptions of current work projects.

Workshop trainees point with pride in their paper to two people from Staten Island. Both trainees travel to and from the shop alone, going by bus, ferry and subway.

In a recent issue the Workshop Star carried a message that served as inspiration to the casual reader as well as trainees, parents and friends of retarded children. Rita wrote as follows: "I'm not saying I'm perfect because I'm not. At least I can read, write, spell, so I want to help others. I don't care even if I didn't get paid for it, to help others, because God gave me a present in sending me to the Workshop, and I'm very thankful even though God took my mother away, so in return He gave me something to live for even if I'm not happy half the time."

During coffee break the Workshop Star is read aloud by members of a committee formed for this purpose. The wording of the paper and the illustrations are the work of trainees in the shop.

SHELTERED WORKSHOP PAMPHLET AVAILABLE AGAIN

"A Sheltered Workshop Operation for the Mentally Retarded", a pamphlet on the operation of the AHRC Training Center and Workshop prepared for the office of vocational rehabilitation has been reprinted with the permission of that agency and is available at \$1 per copy.

The first edition of five hundred was rapidly consumed by those seeking information on a sheltered workshop for the mentally retarded. The pamphlet is very practical in its approach to the problem, giving tables, charts, a floorplan, pricings of contracts, evaluation and training processes, and standards for personnel. It has been found to be of valuable aid to many organizations who are planning this service.

Copies are available at the office of the Association, 200 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, N. Y.

9th ANNUAL DINNER, MAY 18th

13½ Minute Radio Script On Retardation



WNYC Broadcast — (Left to right): Anne Kraus, Ann Greenstein, Bernice Hoffeld, Catherine Travers. Rear: David Baumstein, Assistant Director AHRC, and announcer.

A group of parents from AHRC participated in a panel broadcast over WNYC with the assistant director, David Baumstein.

The questions concerned retarded children of all ages from babies to adolescents. Mr. Baumstein listed the symptoms that indicate mental retardation in babies and small children; and gave specific advice on how to cope with the cruelty of normal children in the community and the progress and training of retarded children in special classes.

Mrs. Anne Kraus and Mrs. Catherine Travers of Queens and Mrs. Bernice Hoffeld and Mrs. Ann Greenstein of Brooklyn took part in the discussion. Copies of the 13½ minute broadcast, which was prepared by the Director of Public Relations, are available for the use of any members of the AHRC.

Education of Retarded Cerebral Palsied Under Study

Special study groups have been formed by the Education Department to provide better educational opportunities for children afflicted with Cerebral Palsy in New York State. In announcing the creation of 10 special study groups, Dr. James E. Allen, Jr., Commissioner of Education, pointed out that this would lead eventually to a better understanding of the educational processes of such children.

The Bureau for Handicapped Children, Division of Pupil Personnel Services, is directing the study program and a grant of state money has been allocated to each group to assist in financing the program. Each group will prepare a report on its work and findings.

The second group in Metropolitan New York is studying "Curriculum Methods and Materials for Children with Cerebral Palsy Who Are Also Mentally Retarded." Dr. Frances Connors, associate professor, Teachers College, Columbia University, is chairman, assisted by Dr. Mary Harnett, assistant director, Bureau for Children with Retarded Mental Development, New York City Board of Education.

Teachers throughout New York State as well as allied personnel interested in the education of such handicapped children, are invited by the Education Department to join the group.

TWO YEAR NARC RESEARCH SURVEY COMPLETED

Report on New Methods of Research into Retardation

A recent luncheon was given at the Hotel Pierre in New York to disclose the report of a survey by Doctors Richard L. Masland, Seymour B. Sarason and Thomas Gladwin. Dr. Masland's section of the report dealt with retardation resulting from damage to the nervous system while Drs. Sarason and Gladwin analyzed the cultural factors involved in diagnosis of retardation.

Dr. Masland's talk mentioned a number of pre-natal conditions that are capable of bringing on mental retardation in the infant. He cited German measles, virus infections, maternal malnutrition, maternal poisoning, and psychological stresses to which the mother may be subjected.

Dr. Masland, a neurologist, also noted that cultural and socio-economic forces may play roles in causing pre-natal nervous damage, since environment and culture influence the mother's diet, her general health level and the preventive measures she takes to protect herself against disease and infection. Therefore an improved environmental situation can undoubtedly, according to the report, help to reduce the number of retarded children.

In spite of the improvement in obstetrical techniques and care some children are inevitably injured at birth, Dr. Masland pointed out. All three scientists emphasized the importance of research to discover exactly how the nervous system of the infant is affected. And they further noted that factors in the child's environment shortly after birth can also lead to retardation. Among such factors are various viruses, poisonous substances, and convulsive seizures — all of which may lead to some permanent damage of the brain and central nervous system.

Drs. Sarason and Gladwin spoke mainly of the inadequacy of the current tests for retardation.

The major recommendations made in the report dealt with defects in our study and treatment of the retarded. Dr. Masland recommended closer links between medical schools and centers for the care and treatment of the retarded. He further suggested that medical schools include provisions for the retarded within their diagnostic facilities and post-graduate resident training programs.

He also advised greater emphasis on long range research with a view to evaluating the nature and impact of the pre-natal, natal and post-natal factors believed to bring on retardation; as well as increased stress on the study and evaluation of bio-chemical methods for correcting the metabolic defects characteristic of many types of retardation.

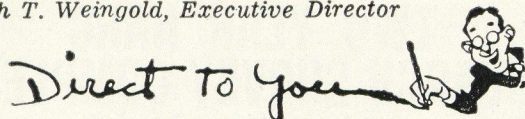
Reviews of the report appeared in Newsweek, the New York Times, the Herald-Tribune, Scientific American and Scope Weekly. The report was published in full in the January 1958 A.M.A. Journal of Diseases of Children and in Genetic Psychology Monographs, 1958, 57, 3-290.

New Religious School for Retarded

A religious school for retarded children has been established in Temple Israel, 188th Street and Grand Central Parkway, Queens. The school serves any Jewish child between 8 and 15 who attends CRMD classes in either Queens or Nassau Counties. Mrs. Vivian Witt, Corr. Secy., of the Jewish Religious School for Retarded Children, 70-43 174th St., Flushing 65, N. Y. may be contacted for information concerning enrollment.

HOW MANY ADS?

Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director



In our discussions and attempts to educate the many doubters we have frequently run into the statement "How do you know they are mentally retarded; how do you know they aren't emotionally disturbed?" This is usually posed as a deterrent to program development for the mentally retarded, with insistence on complete differential diagnosis before the services are offered. This sounds awfully plausible, especially for people not too familiar with the problem of mental retardation. It is especially plausible for those people who feel that this is money down the drain and don't want to see these programs developed.

It is very interesting to see two statements recently concerning this. The first was made by Dr. Max Pollock of the Jewish Hospital in Brooklyn at the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in New York in November. Strict differentiation between mentally retarded and schizophrenic children may be unnecessary, he said. Neither childhood schizophrenia nor mental retardation is a distinct clinical entity encompassing homogeneous groups, he contended. It is interesting to read this in connection with the statement of Dr. H. V. Bair, Superintendent of the Parsons (Kansas) State Hospital and Training School, before the Ninth Mental Hospital Institute in Cleveland, Ohio, on October 3rd, where Dr. Bair says, "It is often indeed difficult to tell a psychotic and a defective child apart. Treatment needs of a patient often do not depend upon diagnosis — in fact, present day research is already finding more and more areas of commonness between mental illness and mental deficiency."

These two statements bear out much of the experience of the AHRC in its classes for severely retarded children and should give pause to those who doubt these programs on the basis that there is not sufficient differential diagnosis. They must be careful that this insistence does not preclude programming rather than aid it. There should be a very careful examination of whether or not the programs as developed for severely retarded children, and I now speak of the educational programs, are not equally effective for schizophrenic children who are functioning at a severely retarded level. At any rate, none of us should be dogmatic in statements or dismiss the experiences of those who have worked with the mentally retarded for many years.

Another interesting development has been that of the formation of splinter groups or limited interest groups in the field of mental retardation. I have spoken of this a number of times. The latest group to come to our attention is a group of parents of brain injured children who have formed their own organization to promote services for the "brain — injured". In this connection, I should like to quote a letter from Dr. Joseph Wortis, Director of the Division of Pediatrics Psychiatry at the Jewish Hospital in Brooklyn to an officer of this new group.

"Dear ———,

Our Retardation Clinic has no special facilities for so-called "brain-injured children", but we regard practically all our retarded children as children with cerebral defects. Some of these children are hyperactive, distractable, etc., but others are not, and each child is separately evaluated as an individual. We think the concept of a distinctive type of "brain-injured child" is scientifically unsound and educationally harmful, since it is based on the mistaken assumption that all children with cerebral defects act similarly and

Chemical Explanation for Some Types of Retardation

A team of biochemists of the National Heart Institutes of Health at Bethesda, Md., reported that phenylpyruvic oligophrenia, a condition which claims 6,000 victims in the U.S.A., may be caused by an abnormal chemical produced in the body of the victims. Phenylpyruvic oligophrenia is a hereditary metabolic disease which causes mental retardation in children. It is caused by the inability of the body to utilize properly the amino acid of the proteins due to a failure of the liver to produce a certain enzyme.

The chemical named ortho tyrosine has not yet been found in mammalian tissue, but the biochemists have found certain chemicals in the urine of the patients which appear to be derivatives of the abnormal substance.

These findings lend further support to the belief that mental disease is the result of some "chemical detours" from the normal paths of metabolism by which the body performs its normal functions.

DIRECT TO YOU (CONTINUED)

must be educated in a similar manner. Although we welcome and encourage all efforts of parents to secure better facilities for their children, we think that the creation of a separate society for the parents of brain-injured children will, in the long run, prove to be confusing and harmful by creating two groups of parents instead of one, and by helping to perpetuate false scientific concepts and poor educational practice.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph Wortis, M.D., Director, Div. of Pediatric Psychiatry"

I feel that there is room for all the different types of mental retardation under the one umbrella of a group such as the AHRC or other units of the National Association for Retarded Children. This division into special interests can lead to absurdities such as a parents group for mongoloid children with hangnail on the left pinky. How far can we go? Are we serving the best interests of the children by this specialization in terms of presentation to the public who will become more and more confused, with the result that perhaps there will be fewer and fewer services. We must beware of the temptation to say "A plague on both your houses".

One other interesting piece of correspondence in relation to the design of institutions for mentally retarded children. An article in the December 1957 issue of "Canada's Mental Health", stating that the Weyburn Hospital in Saskatchewan has received a grant to study the effects of space on interpersonal relationships within the hospital, brought a very interesting letter from Dr. H. Osmond, Superintendent of the hospital. He writes, "I believe that our work (space relations) will have distinct bearing on the design of living space for mentally retarded. — I have certainly seen living space for the mentally retarded designed with the very best intentions but whose effects were far from desirable. We know quite a good deal about the number of children with which children of different ages are able to associate. — It seems unreasonable to expect mentally retarded to do any better than well people. The maximum well group is from 8 to 11. It would be stupid to me to expect mentally retarded to function with any group larger than this and reasonable to expect rather smaller ones, say 4 to 6. We know that wild animals like private space of their own. Many of them will not survive without it. It seems reasonable to expect that mentally retarded children would require this space as well."

I have another very interesting letter from Dr. Osmond concerning the size of institutions which I would like to write on at length at some future date.

CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN

CALL FOR MORE BOOKS

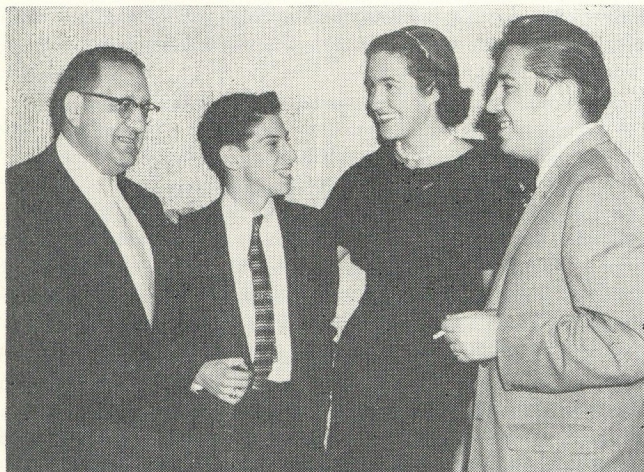
Boro Buzzings

MANHATTAN

The initial meeting of the Manhattan Borough AHRC proved that its members are cut from the same cloth as the U.S. postmen . . . December 11th, 1957 was the date of a real blizzard yet eleven hardy souls showed up to start the new Borough group going . . . the meeting was chaired by Irwin Kaminsky, Manhattan Chairman, and among the brave 11 were Cyril Weinberg, Campaign Fund Raiser and our Executive Director . . . Mr. Kaminsky hopes to hold future meetings at the same place, the United Order of True Sisters, 150 West 85th St. in Manhattan . . . Bernice Baumgartner, Director of Classes for AHRC addressed the second meeting of the MANHATTAN DIVISION and drew a crowd of sixty eager listeners.

BRONX

Our card party was successful, as usual, under the capable chairmanship of Boro Chairman Teresa Harris and Jean Katz . . . the \$700 raised was presented at a meeting . . . Cyril Weinberg, Campaign Fund Chairman rallied members and manufacturers alike to round up material for the annual Bazaar on February 1st and 2nd at which he raised \$5500 . . . our President, Bernard M. Fineson, officiated at the installation of new officers for the Gertrude Vos Children's Fund . . . new President Stella Zatorski, is a member of AHRC.



(Left to right): Bernard M. Fineson, Pres. AHRC, Jimmy Oster, star of film, Mrs. Anne Kraus, Queens Borough Chairman, and Abby Mann, author of "A Child Is Waiting", at premiere showing in Queens.

QUEENS

Queens Boro Chairman, Anne Kraus, mapped out a busy schedule of events . . . first film showing of the Studio One film, "A Child Is Waiting" . . . Dr. Morrison Levbarg of Flower Fifth Avenue Mentally Retarded Children's Clinic addressed regular meeting . . . third annual card party and bargain tables at Italian Charities Building under chairmanship of Catherine Travers and Lil Begun raised \$1000 net . . . Living At Home With The Retarded, a new parent education course, began in 1958 . . . George G. Hirsch, is Chairman of the Education Committee . . . Three AHRC sponsored pilot classes for trainable children are in session at P.S. 72, Maspeth . . . Jamaica Social Group for young adults meets weekly in Grace Lutheran Church . . . Boy Scout Troop 322 under Andrew Paul, Scout Master, plans active Spring program . . . Cub Scouts under Cub Master, Sid Koski, Pack 285, meet Saturday mornings at the Red Cross Building in Flushing and Girl Scouts, under Leader Rita Harris, are forming a new troop in Cambria Heights . . . Dinner-Dance under Chairman Daniel J. Motto raised \$3000 . . .

RETARDED HARDEST HIT BY ASIAN FLU

While deaths from the recent epidemic of Asian flu were comparatively low throughout the nation, patients in schools and institutions for the mentally retarded were exceptionally hard hit. According to the New York Times seven retardates died of the flu at the Dixon, Illinois, State School for the Mentally Retarded. Another outbreak of the epidemic killed nine in a California school for retarded children; while at Pennhurst School for the Mentally Retarded near Philadelphia, Pa. 15 deaths were reported. These 31 confirmed deaths out of an estimated 300 for the nation as a whole is approximately $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ the normal incidence of the 3% which represents the percentage of retardation in the population of the United States.

Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of AHRC queried Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, on what steps the State was taking to protect its mentally retarded patients in institutions. An immediate reply was forthcoming from Dr. Hoch in which he stated that inoculation of personnel essential to maintain medical services in State Schools had been completed and the patients were being inoculated as quickly as supplies of vaccine could be received. While the death rate was somewhat higher than normal for the time of year, it occurred largely among older and debilitated patients.

POOR DIET DURING PREGNANCY LINKED TO RETARDATION

Studies by Drs. Hilda Knoblich and Benjamin Pasamanick, the husband and wife team of Ohio State University School of Medicine, revealed that the proportionate number of defective children born in the winter months was significantly greater than the number born in other months during the year. February had the highest number, almost 12% higher than August which has the lowest rate.

The scientists told the American Public Health Assoc. that hotter summer weather resulted in more mental retardates to a surprisingly and highly significant degree and they believe that improper diet by pregnant women during these hot summer months increases the possibility of the birth of mentally retarded children during the months of January, February and March.

The team of scientists also disclosed that their research had uncovered new evidence that diet during the early months of pregnancy can affect the development of brain and nervous tissues. They suggested that a hot summer reduces the protein intake of the mothers. By increasing the protein and vitamins in the diet, it may be possible to decrease the incidents of complications of pregnancy.

REGISTER NOW FOR PARENT EDUCATION COURSES

Registrations are now being accepted for the annual Spring Parent Education courses given by the AHRC at their offices, 200 - 4th Ave., New York 3, N. Y. Two courses are offered by the Association. One concerns living at home with the retarded; the other is a general course of interest to anyone with a retarded child.

There is no fee for the course but registration is limited on a first-come, first-served basis. To enroll write to George Hirsch, Chairman of the Education Committee, Association for the Help of Retarded Children, 200 - 4th Ave., New York 3, N. Y.

9th ANNUAL DINNER, MAY 18th

CRITICAL PERSONNEL SHORTAGE IN MENTAL HOSPITALS

Minimum A.P.A. Standards Not Met

In a fact sheet issued by the Joint Information Service of the American Psychiatric Association and the National Association for Mental Health in December of 1957, it is pointed out that regardless of the comparative superiority of a few states, no state could be said to approach an adequate staff as measured against minimum standards established by the American Psychiatric Association.

Categories listed are physicians, psychologists, registered nurses, other nurses and attendants, and social workers. At the end of fiscal 1956, the total number of personnel in all five categories employed in public mental hospitals was 96,728. However, estimates based on daily resident population figures and minimum A.P.A. standards indicated an additional 63,344 needed to be employed to meet the total needs for 160,072 employees. Of the additional number needed 47.2% were registered nurses where the most critical shortage exists.

Of the states holding top 10 positions in the five personnel categories, New York State makes the list in only one category, that of registered nurses, where it is 8th. In no other category does New York State make the first ten. In the ratio of patients to physicians, New York ranks 16th; in psychologists, 47th; in registered nurses, 8th; attendants, 32; and social workers, 22nd.

The adequacy of New York's staff as compared to minimum A.P.A. standards is as follows: physicians 49.6% of the minimum, psychologists 20.1%, registered nurses 27.2%, attendants 74.4%, social workers 29.5%.

These are shocking figures but do not reflect the enormous sums of money that are being spent in this state and others for these services. The figures merely point out the fact that means must be found for reversing the institutionalization process and concentrating more and more on community facilities, if the problem is to be met adequately.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SPACE FOR ERIE

Fourteen mentally retarded children in Buffalo, termed "uneducable" by the New York State Education Law, have been permitted to hold classes in two unused classrooms in the old School 24 Annex.

Until last spring the AHRC operated classes for children with an I.Q. below 50 in a home on Humboldt Parkway. The Fire Department told the group that it could no longer hold classes on the second floor of the home. This would have meant a cut of at least one-third in enrollment. However the two Public School classes can care for 14 of the school's 34 pupils while the other 20 remain on the first floor of the Humboldt Parkway building.

The Association, not the School Department, is providing the two teachers for the 14 children in the public school annex.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Mentally Retarded Patient

Harold Michael Smith, Ph.D.

J. B. Lippincott, Co.

This is a valuable book written by a psychologist who has been associated with the Flower-Fifth Avenue Clinic for retarded children almost since its inception.

Although sometimes difficult to discern whether it is directed to the physician or the parent, there is much useful information and analysis in it for both. For the physician the chapters on the Role of the Physician, Brain Impairment, Classification of Mental Retardation, contributed by Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of Pediatrics at Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital and the Psychological Situation are of extreme value. For the parent, an understanding of some of the basic matters discussed in these chapters, although some of it may be too technical, as well as the chapter on the problem of family adjustment, education and vocational prognosis can be of much use.

We recommend this book both to parents and to professionals, but still feel that the need for a simple exposition of the problem of mental retardation, its implications, and what can be done about it and for the retardate must still be written for the parents.

Barbara: A Prologue

Willard Abraham

Rinehart & Co., Inc.

This is a book written by the parent of a mentally retarded mongoloid child who had died at a young age.

On the whole it seems to be a justification for institutionalization of Barbara. The author, however, is careful to point out that this was an individual decision made from the facts as they had them for their child and by no means a recommendation for other parents.

We cannot judge any individual for the actions taken, but two paragraphs of the book are revealing: "And as we study, write, explore, discuss and reveal our findings in layman's language, parents and their friends and neighbors will open their arms to babies like you, take you in and make you one of them, instead of offering only the cold rejection which has been the pattern of your lives so far. We just aren't ready for you today".

"If you had come some fifty years from now, Barbara, your welcome would have been the happy, holding kind that parents now reserve for less afflicted babies."

ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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