

OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Retarded Children Can Be Helped!

VOL. XI — ISSUE No. 2

JULY 1959

VETO!

THE GOVERNOR SPEAKS

This bill would mandate school districts to provide special classes for mentally retarded children who have intelligence quotients of less than 50. At the present time, the law permits school districts to establish special classes for children in this group. I am deeply concerned with the problem of severely retarded children. It is essential that there be some training adapted to the needs of children so afflicted.

There is serious question, however, as to whether our public school system should be charged with this responsibility. The Education Department has written:

"The Board of Regents and the Department have consistently opposed the proposition that these severely retarded children should have to be cared for and trained in the public schools. We have felt that the care and training of non-educable children was not a function of the public school system and to require that the schools make provision for such children would tend to dissipate the limited resources of the schools available for educable children. It has been our belief that the severely mentally retarded should be the responsibility of an agency other than the public school system.

"We believe the permissive legislation has been effective because it has enabled districts to provide training for those children in this group who had sufficient potential to derive benefit from it. Since the program is permissive selection of such children is possible, but of course a mandatory statute would change this. Of an estimated 3500 children in the State said to have intelligence quotients below 50, upwards of 1400 are already in 125 public school classes in 39 different school

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A MOTHER SPEAKS

Dear Governor Rockefeller:

In a few days you will be coming to Plattsburgh, and will say words in honor of education. While you are here, I wish that you would ask Dr. George Angell to take you out to Cumberland Head to visit the Lawrence West Lakeside School. This is a small school built and operated by parents and friends of "trainable" retarded children. There, anyone can see the practicable value of giving them help. I do not believe that you are familiar with such classes: those already existing under public school auspices, or those provided by great labors of love by parents' groups.

We were sickened with dismay at your veto of Senate #573, the "mandatory" bill—especially after hearing you, on TV, proclaim how you had helped the handicapped.

Well, you have vetoed it. Now what are your plans for helping these children, who do not need to be in institutions such as exist in our state at present? They are not retarded in their need for affection and home life—their emotional needs are those of any child.

We have a little boy, brain damaged, who lives at Letchworth Village. He needs custodial care. I have seen the overcrowded condition there. I know how far away from home are children from our area who are placed in a State School. If those who could live at home with understanding parents should do so, how much better the care could be for those who must be in the institution. But the community must have facilities for them. You can figure out the saving to the State in food, clothing and shelter if these were provided at home.

We are trying to change the social

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THE ASSOCIATION SPEAKS

On April 24, 1959, the last day the Governor had to act on legislation, he vetoed the Brydges-Steingut bill making mandatory the present permissive provisions of the Education Law for special classes for mentally retarded children with I.Q.'s under 50. Exercising the enormous power that the Chief Executive has to prevent the enactment of measures passed by the legislature, Governor Rockefeller dealt a severe blow to the hopes and aspirations of thousands of parents and their children in this state.

This was not hasty legislation. It was introduced at the request of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, a bi-partisan group, after years of study and many public hearings, at which all the evidence was sifted very carefully. At no time, did any department of the State come before the Joint Legislative Committee and declare itself opposed to this legislation. It was an attempt at further progress, an orderly progress, in the field of special education, after more than four years of permissive legislation had produced a total of 91 classes with not a single class formed in the major cities of Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse or Albany.

Two departments, Education and Mental Hygiene, opposed the signing of this bill. The State Department of Education, in its memorandum stated that the training of these children 'is not a function of the public school system'. What the Department of Mental Hygiene said, we have been unable to find out. In adopting the point of view of the Department of Education, the Governor does not state whose function the training of these children in the community really is.

The implication would seem to be that

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The State Association acknowledges with thanks permission of the New York Chapter to use the title "Our Children's Voice" for the State paper.

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

A.H.R.C. (N.Y.C.) Sheltered Workshop Grant Renewed for Fifth Year

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has renewed the grant to the A.H.R.C. Training Center and Workshop in New York City for the fifth and final year, in the sum of approximately \$65,000.

This Workshop is the prototype for all such Workshops now being supported by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation throughout the country. It is now entering its final year under these auspices. The reports of this Workshop have been used throughout the country to aid others in program development. Statistics are being gathered throughout the program to find out exactly what is happening to the mentally retarded in the workshop, and what refinements the program can develop.

The fourth year's report contains a follow-up study of 138 cases of retarded young adults who had some period of workshop attendance since 1953, and who had terminated for a variety of reasons. Of the 106 that the workshop was able to trace, 42 full or part time, and 12 in a sheltered or semi-sheltered employment were earning \$63,374 per year.

Further areas of study beyond the five year period are now being evaluated.

Warned of Danger In Domination by Federated Campaign

Dr. Ernest L. Stebbins, Director of the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health, speaking at the opening general session of the Annual meeting of the National Tuberculosis Association, attacked effects by "one shot" community fund drives to dominate collections by voluntary health organizations.

"I believe firmly," he said, "that success of the movement for federated fund raising would result in a gradual decrease in funds available for these (voluntary groups) activities, but more important, would result in a crippling of the educational aspects of health agencies, and, in doing so, impede progress in the health field." Dr. Stebbins exploded the myth that multiplicity of drives is driving away the giving public. "The facts," he said, "certainly do not bear out this point of view. Public giving to the voluntary health agencies during the past ten or fifteen years has increased phenomenally during a period when there was undoubtedly the greatest increase in appeals in the history of the country."

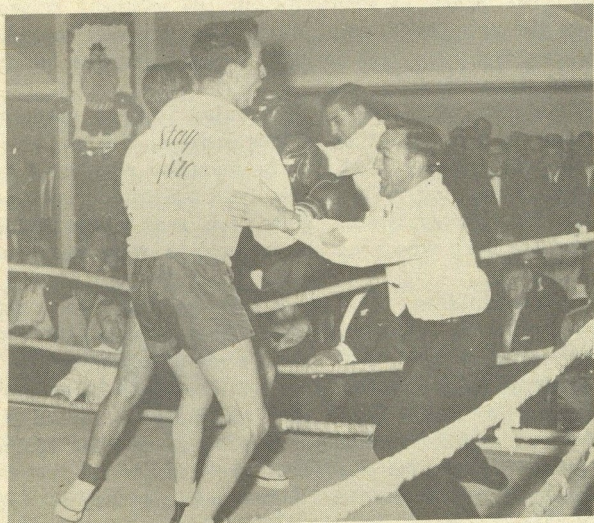
Chapter News

Sunshine League-Erie County Chapter publication, "Focus", is chock full of news and one of the most interesting of the publications put out by the various chapters . . . An interesting news item and one that should be copied by all chapters is the Erie County Chapter's plan to send a year's subscription to "Children Limited" to all pediatricians, obstetricians, and other physicians who are in contact with large numbers of children in the County . . . We should like to suggest that they might also send a year's subscription to "Our Children's Voice" to these professionals since "Our Children's Voice" concerns itself more intensively with what is going on in New York State and among the A.H.R.C. Chapters . . . At the Frank C. McCarthy School, *Onondaga County Chapter*, transition to a full-time and double session program was effected. This will have the possible effect of making the classes more acceptable for integration into the school system, if, as, and when . . . *Ulster County Chapter* had its kick-off for its first drive in the County on April 20th . . . Returns are not in as yet, but everyone is extremely hopeful . . . Had a weekend "camporee" for educable class together with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Ulster County at Camp Wendy, Wallkill, New York . . . *Schenectady Chapter* began its usually very successful campaign on June 1st to last through June 14th . . . *Niagara County Chapter* reports that the Lockport School for Mentally Retarded Children operated by our Lockport group, was recently decorated by the members of Delta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority and their husbands . . . Another instance of community cooperation . . . *Suffolk County Chapter* reprints in full the introductory remarks at the Conference on the Rehabilitation of the Mongoloid Child by our Executive Director, Joseph T. Weingold . . . copies may be obtained by writing to Suffolk County Chapter, P.O. Box 6289, Patchogue New York . . . The Chapter plans to have mentally retarded young adults included in the vocational rehabilitation program in East Islip, "Skills Unlimited" . . . Also plans a clinic for mentally retarded children in Suffolk County . . . Their auxiliaries continue to develop at a very fast pace . . . We note an interesting program put on by our *Ontario County Chapter* . . . had Mr. M. Maurice Chaccia, District Attorney of Ontario County, address the Chapter on "The Legal Position of The Mentally Retarded" . . . their swimming classes at the "Y" continue to meet every Friday and include "Supervised Splashing" . . . *Capital District Chapter* drive begins in June . . . their classes in the building provided by the City of Albany continue to flourish . . . activities are a powerful example of community participation . . . *Broome County Chapter* continues with plans for sheltered workshop . . . Joe Stuckart has accepted chairmanship of the Workshop Planning Committee . . . Rome State School Chapter continues its important work at the institution . . . Most recent contribution was 6 picnic tables to be placed in the picnic area to the front of the school this summer . . . Chapters continue to support Rome State School budget . . . Please, Please, ALL CHAPTERS Send in your bulletins or news items of interest to O.C.V. . . . We cannot print news if we don't get it . . .

Editor

BASILIO "DECKED" BY INNKEEPERS

The Oneida-Herkimer Chapter of AHRC staged a unique fight for retarded children. This one pitted William Giangreco, manager of the Hotel Hamilton, and Co-Chairman of the 1959 Drive, against Steen Weinold, manager of Hotel Utica. The star of the bout was the referee, former welter-weight and middle-weight champion, Carmen Basilio.



Carmen Basilio, referee, William Giangreco and Steen Weinold, Contestants.

Basilio had agreed to referee the main event of a six-bout amateur card to help the AHRC's 1959 drive. But he didn't know that the fight promoter was also scheduled to be a main bout contestant. In fact, the "promoter" didn't know it either until he was challenged to a 'fight-for-funds' for retarded children by a rival innkeeper, Steen Weinold.

Giangreco and Weinold wore Marquis of Queensbury ring attire for the bout-derbies, glasses and swimming trunks. They puffed extra long cigars and sipped cocktails while Basilio gave them their instructions. He then removed a couple of toy guns from the trunks of the contestants and a roll of nickels from Giangreco's glove.

After giving what appeared to be a jitterbug demonstration for a round and a half the boys stepped the action up furiously by going into a clinch.

When Basilio tried to separate them, they turned on him cooperatively and half bulled, half carried him out of the ring.

The winner was retarded children who gained \$1000 raised by the bout.

Monroe County Hires

In preparation for becoming a real operating agency, and taking over the bulk of the contracts for the new Community Demonstration Project in Rochester, the Monroe County Chapter has engaged the services of Robert Brandt as Executive Director. Mr. Brandt has had many years of experience in the field of social welfare, and has been Executive Director of the Coordinating Council for Mental Retardation in Rochester.

The Chapter has moved into new, even though temporary, offices in preparation for the big push, which will take place in the very near future.

Congratulations to Monroe County!

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR MENTALLY RETARDED

We have received many inquiries concerning the effect of the change in the Social Security Law on benefits to parents of mentally retarded children.

Briefly, the Social Security Law, before the amendment, upon the death of the father provided for benefits for a minor child only until the age of 18. With the change, benefits may be obtained for the life of the child if the handicap occurred before the 18th birthday. This handicap must be permanent and total in its character.

The following are examples of the benefits now available:

I. Death of the Father

- A. Child's income (based on maximum contributions) for life \$87.00
- B. Mother's income (as long as she does not remarry or exceed allowable earnings under covered occupation) \$87.00

\$174.00

- C. These benefits are *Income Tax Free*
- D. If you have other minor children under 18 this benefit will be increased.
- E. This income will continue *after age 18* for the child and the mother for the life of the child.
- F. There is a lump sum benefit at the father's death not to exceed \$255.00

II. Disability of the Father

- A. If a father is disabled to the extent that he is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity, at his age 50 the following benefits are available to the husband, wife and children:

Father	\$116.00
Wife	58.00
Child	58.00

Monthly Income \$222.00

- B. If there is more than one child, a different formula is used. (The above benefit is based on about maximum benefits.)

III. The same benefits for disability will apply at retirement.

IV. To apply for Death Benefit—

- A. Beneficiary should apply to nearest Social Security Board.
- B. Papers required to apply:
 1. (For wife or husband) Marriage certificate.
 2. (For Children under age 18) Birth certificate.
 3. (For handicapped child over 18) Birth certificate and medical report providing child's disability.
 4. Insured's Social Security number.
 5. Insured's service record.

V. For Retirement—

- A. At age 65 apply to nearest Social Security Board
- B. Papers required to apply: 1. Birth certificate, if available. Otherwise use life insurance policy purchased before 1935, family birth records, or baptismal records.

Oneida-Herkimer Provides Scholarships

Checks for \$1260 were presented by the Oneida-Herkimer Chapter AHRC and other organizations to provide Syracuse University Scholarships for 13 area teachers of retarded children.

The classes are held every Thursday evening at Washington Mills.

A.H.R.C. REGIONAL CONFERENCES

ATTRACT HUNDREDS

For the second year the A.H.R.C. has held regional conferences supervised by the vice presidents assigned to these various regions served.

Augustus Jacobs, Vice-President for Region I (Southeast), Burage E. Stiles, Vice President for Region II (Northeast), and Mary D. McCarthy, Vice President for Region III (Central), arranged most interesting programs which brought about full parent and professional participation.

Region I had four concurrent workshops, "Institutions," Dr. George Ettling, Wassaic, Dr. Isaac N. Wolfson, Letchworth, Dr. George Jervis, Letchworth; "Religions Training for the Retarded," Father Thomas Skinner, Rev. Paul R. Ashby, Chapel at Wassaic, and Mrs. Rebecca Lister, Educational Consultant for New York Federation of Reformed Synagogues, "The Retarded Child in the Community," Miss Bernice B. Baumgartner, Director of A.H.R.C. Classes in New York City. Mr. Gabriel Sinches, Director of Special Education in Baldwin, Long Island, and Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, and "Short Stay Homes," Mrs. Ruth Jervis, Social Services Director, Pomona Center and Mrs. Alice Cicenian, program director.

The Afternoon session saw a Guardianship Workshop under the direction of Mr. Julian Banner, in which all those present participated. The meeting closed with a report on legislation by our Executive Director, and a closing address by Bernie Fineson.

Region III Conference at Rome State School was extremely stimulating and well run due to the effort of the committee and the hospitality of Dr. Greenberg, Director of Rome State School. "Parent and Professional Combination," a talk by W. Fowler Wilson was followed by "Utilizing State and Community Agencies" led by Tom Murphy, President of Oneida-Herkimer Chapter, and the playlet, "If I Should Die," with Tom Lotz, president of Rome State School Chapter as moderator. The luncheon was featured by an inspiring talk by Dr. Greenberg on Half-Way Houses.

Region II met at the Elks Club in Amsterdam and featured a talk by our Advisor and friend, Professor Louis E. Rosenzweig, "Hope Ladders-Life Long Planning for the Mentally Retarded." The afternoon session considered a "Total Community Program" for the retarded with Professor Rosenzweig, Jerry Weingold and Dr. Joseph A. Qualtere, Psychological Consultant on Education of our Schenectady Chapter as participants.

These regional conferences, representing a great deal of work on the part of committees, are most important and stimulating to the membership, many of whom find it impossible to attend state wide meetings.

Lollipop Tree Blooms In Olean House

A ten foot tall Lollipop tree was erected in the lobby of the Olean House in Olean, New York, for the benefit of retarded children.

Four thousand lollipops were placed on the tree which was donated by the Van der Horst Corporation. As lollipops were selected and picked off the tree, contributions were made to further the work of the Cattaraugus Chapter AHRC.

Progress Slow In Vocational Rehabilitation of Retarded, Federal Bureau Figures Show

Of the more than 74,000 persons with all types of disabilities rehabilitated in the fiscal year 1958, a record number of 4,799 mentally handicapped Americans were rehabilitated through the Federal state program of vocational rehabilitation, reports Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Arthur S. Flemming. The comparable figure for 1957 was 3,890. Of these 4,799, 1,578 were mentally retarded.

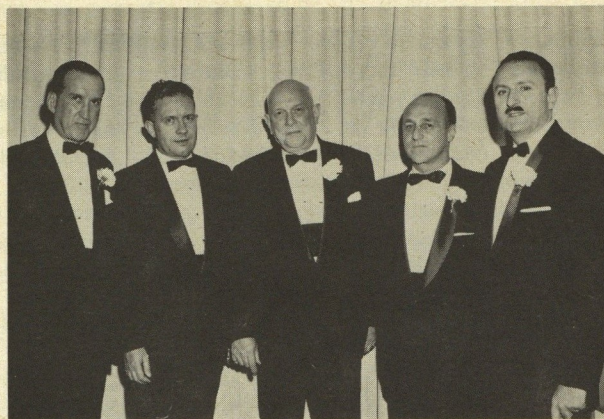
New York State, in rehabilitating 183 mentally retarded persons through the Federal State program was second in the nation, but only 24th in total number per one hundred thousand population.

The comment of Secretary Flemming is very revealing. "To point up the magnitude of this problem, I would like to refer to just one aspect of it—the mentally retarded," said Secretary Flemming. "There are about 4.5 million such persons in the United States. And each year about 126,000 children are born who need special help to overcome mental retardation.

"Of these children, 106,000, or 84% could achieve a measure of self-sufficiency with proper help. About 13% could achieve self-care while 3% would remain dependent.

"Certainly, the rehabilitation of 4,799 mentally handicapped Americans in 1958—3,221 were mentally disturbed and 1,578 were mentally retarded—was not a spectacular achievement, when we consider the overall problem and the fact that in the same year more than 74,000 persons with all types of disabilities were rehabilitated."

James J. Harris and Percy Magnus Honored



Left to right: Henry L. Lambert, Hon. John M. Murtagh, Percy C. Magnus, James J. Harris, George G. Hirsch, Pres. AHRC, N.Y.C.

FORGOTTEN CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS . . . REMEMBERED

Two Chapters, Sunshine League-Erie County and Cattaraugus County wrote Dr. Greenberg, Director of Rome State School, asking for the names of patients in their County with no apparent relations around Christmas time. Upon receipt of the names the Chapters followed through with gifts. This was no small job for Sunshine League-Erie County Chapter, as they had over 40 gifts to supply. This is a fine step forward in the program of the institutions' committees of the county chapters and we heartily recommend that others follow suit in the State.

We might add that the Upper Hudson Chapter contributed a Zenith Hi-Fi to Rome State School, that was placed in the recreation department.

Major Legislative Emphasis Fails

Governor Vetoes Mandatory Legislation

Any legislation that was passed and approved by Governor Rockefeller faded into insignificance beside the veto of the Brydges-Steingut bill, making mandatory, instead of permissive, the provisions of the education Law for classes for children with I.Q.'s under 50.

Passed on the last day of the legislative session at 2:30 a.m., the bill was vetoed by the Governor on the last day he had to act. The veto caused consternation among educators, parents and others, all of whom had expected the Governor to sign this important measure. It had been introduced after four years of study by the Joint Legislative Committee. Quoting the Education Department that the severely mentally retarded should be the responsibility of an agency other than the public school system, the veto message goes on to boast of the success of permissive legislation.

Commenting on the message, President Bernard M. Fine-son of the A.H.R.C. said, "The Department's statement that it would be better to continue the present permissive legislation until such time as the facts demonstrate need for and wisdom of mandatory action is completely unrealistic. The Department does not say what we are to do with the 4,000 children who in the meanwhile will have no training in the community except some in parent sponsored, and paid for classes, as they may exist across the State. This shows a greater concern for administrative convenience than for the welfare of the children. We hope that when the true facts are presented to the Governor with whom we have tried unsuccessfully to meet for months, this attitude will change."

Other legislation that was passed and signed was a bill making it mandatory, instead of permissive, that local school districts with less than 10 mentally retarded children contract for such education with another school district, a board of cooperative educational services, or a county vocational and education extension board. This bill applies solely to educable children, I.Q.'s between 50 and 75. Another bill makes it mandatory to provide transportation for the mentally retarded irrespective of the school they legally attend where there are such special classes. Still a third bill provides that when school districts have less than 10 mentally or physically handicapped children contract with a board of cooperative educational services, another school or county vocational education extension board, the cost of the contract, if approved by the Commissioner of Education, shall be counted for computing state-aid with such cost to be excluded and computing state-aid to the board of cooperative educational services. A fourth bill provides a windfall of \$2,300,000 additional state-aid to New York City on the basis of special classes for the handicapped under Article 89 of the Educational Law. It is not tied in to any additional services.

All other legislation failed passage, including such measures as the amendment to the Children's Court and Domestic Relations Court Acts to give the judges the same powers with regard to mentally retarded children that they now have for the physically handicapped, a bill to amend the definition of a mentally retarded child to add the words, "adapted to the mental attainments of such children" in speaking of the special educational facilities to which they might be expected to profit, a bill appropriating \$100,000 to

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the Department of Mental Hygiene to enable them to place mentally retarded children under 5 in private hospitals, (institutions, or other facilities, pending the provision of state institution space), a bill adding to the powers and duties of the Community Mental Health Boards the establishment of "day training centers for children who are mentally defective, emotionally disturbed or epileptic, under the age of 7 and not enrolled in any public school."

None of the bills introduced at the request of A.H.R.C. was passed, including a bill to amend the Education Law to provide that no person over 5 and under 21 shall be deprived of the right of free education by reason of commitment to a state institution for mental defectives, a differential of \$480 a year salaries for teachers of mentally retarded, physically handicapped and delinquent children, a bill that each boards of visitors shall have at least one parent of a retarded child as a member, that the director of a state school for mental defectives may be an educator as well as a physician, and a trained administrator of institutions of schools engaged in care, treatment, or training of mental defectives, with at least five years of actual experience, that all fees for institutional care of mental defective persons be eliminated, and finally that the Insurance Law be amended to permit group insurance to be written for members of associations with a common interest or in the same profession or calling.

It is interesting to note, however, that a bill giving the Commissioner of Mental Hygiene the power to establish waiting lists for the institutions was passed and signed by the Governor. Perhaps, some comfort should be taken from the fact that the bill to change the name of state schools to state schools and hospitals did not come out of committee.

"We must not lose sight of the fact," said Joseph T. Weingold, who was in the forefront of the legislative program, and an advisor to the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, "that considerable progress was made, even though it is overshadowed by the Governor's veto of the mandatory legislation. This, however, is a temporary setback which we will do all we can, and I am sure we will succeed, to rectify at this coming session of the legislature".

New York City Budget Eliminates Differential for CRMD Teachers

It was but natural that the first thing to be eliminated from the consideration of the Board of Estimate was the differential of \$480 contained in Superintendent Theobald's original budget for the Board of Education.

Amid cries of shortages of teachers for the mentally retarded this important measure did not go through even though more than \$2,000,000 in additional state-aid to New York City on the basis of special classes was provided by the Legislature.

It is interesting to note that Superintendent Theobald was able to find money for increases for all the teachers, but that this small item had to fall by the wayside.

"We must come to the unhappy conclusion", said President Hirsch of the New York City Chapter, "that the C.R.M.D. teachers must reinforce their own organization, and speak for themselves in a stronger voice. We as parents can certainly help, and we will, but we cannot do it alone."

S. R. O. AT TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

If Variety were describing the Tenth Anniversary Dinner of the New York City Chapter of AHRC on May 24th, it would probably read, "AHRC Produces Smasheroo-S.R.O." The guests may not have been hanging from the rafters but they were installed in the balconies of the Waldorf-Astoria's Grand Ballroom, and if that isn't equivalent to standing room, what is?

Anne Kraus, Chairman for the event, turned it into an imaginative, beautiful, elegant affair from fruit coupe to Fedora Flambe. Seldom has the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria looked so dramatic as it did with its huge simulated birthday cake and ten candles inscribed "AHRC" serving as background for the dais.

Sam Cook Digges, Vice-President of CBS-TV, was toastmaster. His eloquence and sincerity set the tone for those who presented the awards and citations for service to retarded children.

Rabbi Daniel L. Davis, Director, Federation of Reform Synagogues, delivered the invocation.

George G. Hirsch, President of the chapter presented handsome bronze plaques to Katherine D. Lynch, Martin Tananbaum and Martha Raye. Miss Lynch's work for retarded children as Director of the Bureau for Children with Retarded Mental Development, Board of Education of the City of New York, has served as an example that many other communities might follow with profit.

A second major award was presented to Martin Tananbaum for his herculean efforts during the 1959 Telethon. Mr. Tananbaum spoke movingly of retardation and his personal involvement with it.

Martha Raye was unable to accept her award in person because of a professional commitment but Mr. Hirsch promised that it would be presented to her at a later time.

Mr. Cyril Weinberg, Fund Raising and Telethon Chairman for AHRC, presented awards to Commissioner Louis I. Kaplan and Congressman Charles Buckley for their campaign efforts.

The Honorable Neil Lieblich presented Comptroller Arthur Levitt who received the last award and made the main address of the evening that reviewed the Governor's veto.

Reverend Raymond P. Rigney, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, made the closing benediction.

After the address by Jerry Weingold, Mr. Hirsch again took the microphone to honor Ann Greenberg, founder of the Association.

As a complete surprise, Mr. Hirsch presented a major award to our Executive Director for his "faithful and outstanding services to retarded children and their parents for ten years."

The enchanted evening ended in dancing.

State Convention Time and Site Set

The State Convention of A.H.R.C. will take place this year on November 6 to 8th at Bader's Hotel in Spring Valley, New York. That is in Rockland County.

A fine and interesting program is now being drawn up by the Program Committee with our Executive Director and announcements will be going out soon to all chapters. We hope that this will be the best and biggest yet. Don't we say that every year?

TELETHON PLEDGES TOP \$300,000 MARK

New York City AHRC sponsored its second annual Telethon over Channel 5 on Feb. 7th. It started at 10 P.M. Feb. 7th and ran until 5:30 P.M. Feb. 8th. Martha Raye starred again, and she sang, danced and clowning all during the 19½ hours. As the night wore on and the total was slow in rising, her pleas became more and more moving; and when she went into the audience and introduced, on camera, the retarded children and young people who had come to see the show, the pledges soared until they passed the \$300,000 mark.

Participating in the Telethon were AHRC Chapters in Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk and Orange Counties in New York State, the Bergen-Passaic ARC in New Jersey, and the Connecticut ARC.



The End of the 19½ hours.

A choir from Letchworth Village and a band from the Willowbrook State School entertained, and each child who appeared received a handsome toy provided by the Toy Manufacturers of America.

The list of stars who appeared included Shelley Winters, Jan Murray, Steve Allen, Eyde Gorme and Steve Lawrence, and many others. Sid Caesar had promised to perform but he was ill. He pledged \$1000 early in the Telethon but doubled his pledge later.

Cyril Weinberg, AHRC Vice President and Chairman of Fund Raising, was Chairman of the Telethon Committee for the second year in a row and Anne Kraus, (Mrs. Walter E. Kraus) Queens Borough Chairman, again served as Chairman of Volunteers.

Jewish Parochial Schools

Jewish retarded children in Queens and other Boroughs for whom transportation can be arranged may avail themselves of a day school providing education and professional services for the educable retarded, at the Maimonides Institute at 69-10 75th Street, Middle Village 78, N. Y., L. I.

Rabbi Nahum B. Shulman, Director of Religious Education for the Institute, said that "The Maimonides Institute offers the Jewish educable child the special education and occupational training needed for this program with Jewish cultural experiences, values and studies."

Purely religious education for retarded children is available under the sponsorship of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues at Temple Israel of Jamaica, organized by Rabbi Daniel L. Davis, Director, N.Y. Federation of Reform Synagogues, and Temple Beth El of Great Neck.

Enrollment in these two groups is limited to children 8 to 15 who attend C.R.M.D. classes.

At the Telethon



Martha Raye, John Wingate and Alice Pearlstein on camera.



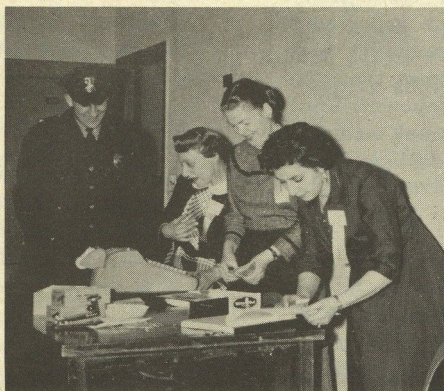
Early morning tote.



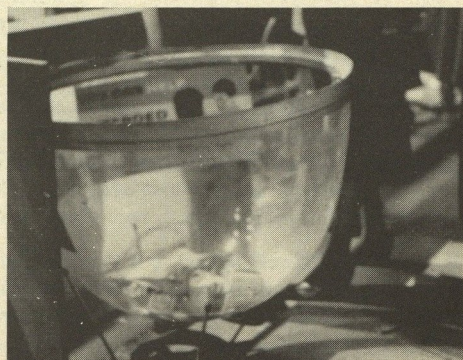
Martin Tanenbaum pleads for funds.
Joseph T. Weingold waits to make his plea.



Cyril Weinberg, Joseph T. Weingold, George G. Hirsch, Martha Raye.

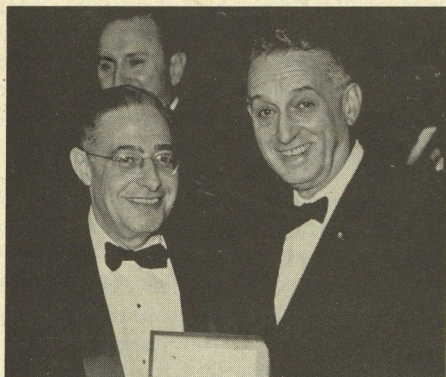


Guard, Sylvia Schachter, Dorothy Gometz, Lydia Herschkowitz. Counting contributions.



Gold Fish Bowl at studio.
All Telethon photos by Mildred Stagg

Seen at 10th Anniversary Dinner



Book Reviews

"THE MENTALLY RETARDED IN SOCIETY" by Stanley Powell Davies in collaboration with Katherine G. Ecob, 248 pages. Columbia University Press, \$5.50.

This book has long been overdue. Originally published in 1930 under the title, "Social Control of the Mentally Deficient," this is a study and review of what the title says, the mentally retarded in society.

It has a wealth of historical background of extreme importance to those who wish to study the mentally retarded in perspective. This is retained from the original version, but brought up to date by careful scanning of the developments in the last ten years and the programs that have come out of them. It is interesting to note how this book reflects the changing social picture. Beginning with the very title itself, this volume places much more stress on the development of community resources than did its predecessor some thirty years ago. Without in any way diminishing the importance of the institutional scene, it presents the community program in its true and much more important aspect than the institutional program at this stage in our development. Used for years in schools for social work as background material, the new volume will lend a new look to this problem, which is receiving only a small part of the attention it should in such schools.

It would be difficult to pick out specific chapters better than others, but each of us shows his own predilection in this respect. I would highly recommend, for example, the chapters on Vocational Training, Challenge to the Schools, and The Socializing Process. Characteristic of the whole attitude of this book is the last sub-heading, "The Retarded are people," which ends with the wonderfully touching story of Maggie in "Little Dorrit" by Dickens. The last sentence is "she earns her own living entirely. Entirely, Sir! said Dorrit in a lower and triumphant tone."

We heartily recommend this book to all professionals, parents, and all those who should know how this important segment of our society lives and what they are. "THE CHALLENGE OF THE RETARDED CHILD" by Sister Mary Theodore, OSF. 199 pages, The Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee, \$3.95.

It is rare indeed that a book as good as the Stanley Davies one comes across an editor's desk. How remarkable it is, therefore, that during the same period, another book equally as good in its way, although with a different focus, arrives. Sister Mary Theodore has spent a lifetime, since the age of 19, in contact with mentally retarded children. Most of this time has been at St. Colleta's, an internationally known Catholic school for the mentally retarded. Out of this experience has come this book as a solace, a source of information, and a guide to parents of mentally retarded children. Although this seems to be its primary purpose, we feel that many professionals could learn a great deal, both from the content and the attitude of this book towards the mentally retarded. Chapters such as Causes and Characteristics, the Child with Mongolism, the Retarded Child is a Child, and Cues from Differences must give everyone a new insight into this problem. We were especially moved by the chapter In Touch With God. No matter what our religious beliefs, or lack of them, certainly this points up the great moral and ethical responsibility of all of us towards the retarded.

We welcome these two books, each in its own way inspirational. (Continued next column)

New Pamphlets From Washington

Two extremely good pamphlets have just come out of Washington. One is put out by the Children's Bureau and the other by the Office of Education.

The Children's Bureau pamphlet is "The Mentally Retarded Child at Home," beautifully written by Laura L. Dittmann, Specialist in Home Training Programs for Mentally Retarded Children. This is an extremely practical booklet, long needed in this field. Some of the problems dealt with, for example, are toilet training, dressing, cleanliness and manners, play and group experiences for the young retarded child. The booklet goes on into school days and adolescence, with wonderfully practical suggestions right down the line.

The other booklet is a bibliographical review, "Education of the Severely Retarded Child" prepared by Harold M. Williams, Specialist, Exceptional Children and Youth, Office of Education, and Prof. J. E. Wallace Wallin.

It is a broad working bibliography, brought together as the pamphlet says "for the convenience of a wide range of potential users: school administrators and supervisors, college and university instructors, teachers, research students, workers in related professions, parents, and interested civic leaders." The bibliography covers primarily the education of the trainable child and goes up to June 1st, 1958.

The Mentally Retarded Child at Home may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. Price 35c. It should be ordered as Children's Bureau Publication No. 374, 1959. The bibliography may be obtained from the same source for 15c under Bulletin 1959 No. 12.

Genetic Clue to Mongolism

According to British scientists, Mongolism and other human defects are associated with an irregular number of chromosomes inside the cells. Chromosomes carry the hereditary-transmitting genes, and scientists have developed a new and delicate technique through which they have discovered that chromosomes inside blood and bone marrow cells can be fixed and stained with chemicals at critical stages in their evolution, then magnified some 2000 times and photographed.

Through the use of this technique, researchers have learned that instead of the normal 46 chromosomes in each cell, the six Mongoloids that were investigated had 47 while sufferers from other abnormalities had 45 or 48.

The Lancet (British medical journal), calls this the "first fruits of a technical advance which may revolutionize human genetics." It continues, "an enormous territory awaiting exploitation with nothing less than the first real exploration of the human chromosome map as the first prize if the early promise is even half fulfilled."

BOOK REVIEWS (Continued)

tional. We wish that the precepts taught in these books, especially the latter might be taken to heart by local religious groups. We of course cannot refrain from comparing this attitude and the many statements by Catholic educators with the attitude of the New York Catholic Welfare Committee in opposing the mandatory legislation for trainable children. Perhaps, this book should be a must not only for nuns but administrators and higher in the parochial schools as well.

JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH GRANT TO NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

The National Institute of Mental Health has made a three year project grant to the New York City Chapter, A.H.R.C., in the sum of \$184,180 for an "Occupation Day Center for Mentally Retarded Young Adults." The grant is to begin September 1, 1959.

The application for this grant grew out of the experiences in the A.H.R.C Training Center and Sheltered Workshop, where it was found that there were retarded youngsters who were not profiting and apparently needed a different school. For these it was felt that a special program to develop them to their capacities was needed. The aims of the proposed project are, therefore, 1) to establish a facility for those considered unfeasible for vocational rehabilitation, 2) presently considered to be functioning at a level too low for participation in any existing community program for mentally retarded adults, 3) presently residing at home and devoid of any service related to training or rehabilitation and 4) presently considered potential institutionalized retardates in view of the lack of community facilities available.

The Center will serve between 50 and 60 young retarded adults in these categories and help them remain in the community by providing a socially accepted way for them to spend their days, train them in the skills of daily living, ascertain the extent of growth possible as a result of such training, and determine the significance of such training to the ability of the individual to function better in the community or, if institutionalized, in an institution, to help the parents develop greater positive attitudes towards the retarded adult in the family and finally, through this plan to devise training methods, techniques and procedures that can be used by other communities and the institution.

The Occupation Day Center of the New York City Chapter has been operating since January 1959 with 40 youngsters attending on a part-time basis in a building whose use is donated by the Daughters of Israel.

CURB ON CREPINISM REPORTED

The University of Michigan Medical Center at Ann Arbor, reported a major discovery in the treatment of cretinism, a congenital disorder caused by malfunctioning of the thyroid gland which results in irreparable damage to the brain.

For the first time in history, according to the Medical Center, its doctors have succeeded in counteracting the disease by treating the patient before birth. While emphasizing the fact that work has been on a limited scale up to the present time, nevertheless it had stopped cretinism in one child successfully, without ill effects on either mother or child.

Massive doses of thyroid extract, seven times the normal daily dosage prescribed for underactive thyroid glands, are administered before birth in this treatment. Two women who were statistically likely to give birth to cretins were administered the treatment and both delivered non-cretinous children.

Subsequently the doctors found out that one child had no thyroid gland and would definitely have been a cretin if the treatment had failed.

PHENYLPYRUVIC OLIGOPHRENIA, CAUSE AND CURE

The National Institute of Mental Health believes that it has discovered the answers to at least that form of severe mental deficiency known as Phenylpyruvic Oligophrenia. This condition is caused by the inability of an infant to metabolize phenylalanine, a chemical substance that the normal human body is able to handle. Untreated, the condition results in irreversible and almost complete mental deterioration during the first years of life.

It has now been proved conclusively that the disease results from a hereditary metabolic defect. Equally important, its presence in infancy can be detected through a relatively simple urine test. If the infant is given a phenylalanine-free diet until the age of 4 or 5 there is no longer any danger of brain damage from the metabolic defect.

Further research has made it possible to detect carriers, i.e., people who do not themselves have the disease but who can pass the chemical defect on to their children. Such people have an abnormal ratio of phenylalanine to tyrosine.

These persons can now be advised what to do when they have children. The babies should be given the urine test for phenylpyruvic oligophrenia, and, if the condition is present, the children should be kept on a phenylalanine-free diet until the age of 5.

Since Phenylalanine is an amino acid, present in practically all proteins, such children must be fed on a synthetic diet. Research has brought this disease, formerly considered hopeless, to a point where early detection can bring about a cure.

YOUNG RETARDED ADULTS TOUR U.N. AS GUESTS OF VISITOR'S SERVICE

Two groups of young adults who participate in AHRC sponsored social activities were given guided tours of the United Nations Buildings through the kindness of Glenn Bennett, Chief of the United Nations Visitor's Service.

Mr. Bennett, who took his degree in sociology, is very much interested in retardation and the work that AHRC is doing to help retarded children and young people. He offered the Director of Public Relations of AHRC a trial tour for 20 young adults to see if the young people would enjoy the experience, and perhaps profit from it.

The Sunday of the trip dawned bright and sunny and a group of our young people arrived. Some brought their parents, others came alone. They were taken in tow by Judy Carmely, a young guide from Israel, especially selected by Mr. Bennett because of her sensitivity and experience. She didn't talk down to the visitors at all but she keyed her speech to their level and made the U.N. story interesting and important to each of her listeners. The beauty of the architecture and furnishings were appreciated by the retardates, and so was the genuine friendliness and warmth of their young guide.

At the conclusion they thanked the guide. The next week they all contributed to a letter that was prepared under the guidance of Jack Rubenstein, Supervisor of Recreation for AHRC. Mr. Bennett, promptly arranged another tour and the second group was just as receptive to the opportunity as the first.

The Association Speaks

(continued from page 1)

perhaps these children should not be trained in the community at all. The only alternative to this training that we can see is institutionalization. Certainly, no thinking person would advocate this with its enormous cost. Yet, we see no other road, nor is one suggested.

The opposition of the Department of Education coming so suddenly, is surprising, but even more surprising is the opposition of the Department of Mental Hygiene. We wonder what they could possibly have in mind. Certainly their expressed philosophy is that children, whenever possible, should be kept in the community. How does this jibe with opposition to a community facility for such children?

We cannot help but feel that the Governor's action was hasty and did not take all the available facts into consideration. The statement that this program "tends to dissipate the limited resources" of many school systems is of doubtful validity in the light of the Heald Commission Formula under which the State is committed to reimburse each school district for the difference in cost between educating a normal child and educating a mentally retarded child, whenever such a class is set up. How then can we be dissipating the limited resources of any school district?

There were other sources of information available, prepared by the Education Department, that, if used, might have changed the Governor's statement that permissive legislation is succeeding. And, incidentally, how can we square this with the statement that this is not a function of public schools?

An examination of the "Census of Severely Retarded Children in New York State", done by the Governor's own Education Department would have shown that in 1956 there were over 5,000 trainable children of school age eligible for such classes. Even if there are 1,400 (1,375 to be exact) children in such classes today, as the Governor states, there are still some 4,000 who are not yet in classes. At this rate of development, it would take 20 years under permissive legislation to bring this number under the protecting umbrella of our school system. And what about the children who are growing up each day into school age?

But, numbers should not be on what we base this action. We must think of them as children, not numbers, and whether there are five, ten, fifty, one hundred, or one hundred thousand, the principle that *they have a right to public education*, if they are to be educated at all in the community, should obtain. With this veto, New York State falls behind all those states that have mandatory legislation, including our sister states of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New Jersey. We wonder what more has to be done to demonstrate that this program is successful. A study of the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board, following up 1,500 such children from 1929 on in New York City, showed a startling story of success for these children in the community and at home. Not one school district has discontinued these classes when started, and all are proud of them.

Frankly, we, the parents, are frightened by this veto. We are frightened because of its implications. We are frightened because it says to us in almost direct language "you parents are not entitled to any help in keeping your children at home except at the whim of some board of education or a superintendent of schools. If you do not like this, we have overcrowded institutions to which you can send your children." We are frightened because the work of more than four years of the Joint Legislative Committee is being discounted. We are frightened because these children have been prejudged and that studies seem to be window dressing only.

(Continued next column)

The Governor Speaks

(continued from page 1)

districts in the State. Of these 125 classes, 91 have been established since the enactment of the permissive law four years ago. At that time only three communities had such classes. Additional classes for next year are already being planned both in these 39 school districts and in other school districts. Thus, provision is rapidly being made for these children under the permissive legislation.

"Despite the public training grants authorized by the Legislature, there continues to be a grave shortage of teachers even for the existing classes for these children. The shortage of classroom space is equally serious. It is our feeling that the welfare of these children will be more effectively served by continuing the permissive legislation so that classes can be organized as qualified teachers are found and appropriate space made available, rather than under the mandated bill forcing the schools to make provision for these children before qualified teachers and adequate space are available. Thus the Department feels that rather than to mandate provisions for these children it would be better to continue the present permissive legislation until such time as the facts demonstrate need for and wisdom of mandatory action."

The Department of Mental Hygiene, the Mayor of the City of New York, the Board of Education of the City of New York, the New York State School Boards Association, The Citizen's Committee for Children, the United Parents Association, the New York Catholic Welfare Committee, the New York State Grange, and the New York State Teachers' Association all urge disapproval.

Accordingly, this bill is disapproved.

/s/Nelson A. Rockefeller

A Mother Speaks

(continued from page 1)

climate by putting Christian love and protective care into practice in the communities. The children can be accepted—it is good for the other children to be good to them. It can be done, it is being done. Children are not noble, nor cruel, per se, but must be taught and guided.

Perhaps you will note the motto of our Teacher's College, while you are here. It is such a good one:

"Let Each Become All He is Capable of Being".

Amen to that.

Dorothy H. Merritt

Plattsburgh, New York

We may take comfort, however, from the definition of "veto" in the dictionary. It is true that this is the power vested in the Chief Executive to prevent the enactment of measures passed by the Legislature, but the dictionary goes on to say "to prevent permanently or temporarily".

We are convinced, even though at this moment disheartened, that mandatory provisions for public education for these children is inevitable, and we shall never rest or give up the fight until this is accomplished.

Although our efforts to reach the Governor have been unavailing we are still confident that reach him we will, and talk to him we will, and that this measure will once again be passed by the Legislature this coming year, and be approved by the Governor. We still have unbounded faith that, knowing the true facts, he must be with us.

To our many friends, and especially the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, we say, "Please don't be discouraged. Continue to help us—and right will be done".

We have just begun to fight.

WESTCHESTER SHELTERED WORKSHOP

AIDS WASSAIC PATIENTS' TRAINING

Several patients from the Wassaic State School currently are receiving training preliminary to their return to the community at a sheltered workshop in White Plains, N. Y. sponsored by the Westchester Chapter of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children.

The training course is being carried out jointly by the state school and the Westchester AHRC with the assistance of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, State Education Department, according to Dr. Arthur W. Pense, deputy commissioner of the Department of Mental Hygiene and Mark Feer, Ph.D., President of the Westchester Chapter. It represents the first state and local venture of its kind in New York and is being studied with considerable interest. If it proves successful, it is hoped this pattern of training can be extended to other locations in the State.

The facilities of the workshop were offered to the patients of Wassaic as a stepping stone between the institution and the community.

The April report on this project from Don Friend, Executive Director of the Westchester Chapter, states that living quarters were found in a nursing home which had a separate wing with accommodations for five boys. There is a recreation room for them to use, and they eat breakfast and dinner there and bring their lunches with them to the workshop.

The first two boys of the five started training on January 26th, 1959 and the others on February 25th. The first two who were brought down were exceptionally well fitted for training and were soon clamoring for employment. They have now been placed on jobs as floor boys (dress factory) and stock work, porter (department store.) The third has been employed by a hospital in Yonkers. "The remaining two have shown need for further adjustment, counselling, treatment and training", states Don Friend.

\$2000 AWARDED FOR C.C.N.Y.

TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

The New York City Chapter of AHRC has renewed its grant for the City College of New York's Teacher Training Program. An award of \$2000 to maintain this program for teachers of the severely retarded was given for the fifth consecutive year.

The course will be held at Hunter College during the summer, and features actual classroom teacher training with a student body of children who attend A.H.R.C. classes.

Professor Chris De Prosopo reported that there were approximately 40 registrants per course last year, and that three main courses were given in this area.

It is gratifying to know that these classes for teaching severely retarded children have attracted almost twice as many students as classes dealing with all other handicaps.

40,000 CASES TO BE STUDIED

A crash program by the National Institution of Neurological Diseases and Blindness has been set up to test the theory that a major source of mental retardation lies in the perinatal period—the time span from conception to about one month after the birth of the baby. Preparation has been begun for the processing of 40,000 cases over a five year period.

Until now, studies have involved comparatively small numbers of persons and have been conducted on a "retrospective" basis. In other words, after a child has been diagnosed as retarded, an attempt has been made to review the medical records of the child and the pregnancy records of the mother to determine the cause of the disorder. Even when records were rather extensive it has been difficult to establish relationships between cause and effect through this approach.

The program, involving sixteen medical centers across the Nation will follow the 40,000 mothers and their infants during pregnancy and until the children reach six years of age.

The personnel of the study include geneticists, epidemiologists, statisticians, psychiatrists, psychologists, sociologists, obstetricians, physiologists, pediatricians and neurologists. Frequent conferences will be held to strengthen these collaborative efforts.

During 1958, approximately 1000 cases were subjected to partial study in order to pretest protocols and develop a method for data collection for the program.

The processing includes a detailed interview on socioeconomic genetic data; repeated prenatal obstetrical examinations; observations throughout the labor and delivery; observations of the neonate in the delivery room and in the nursery; pediatric examination at four months; psychological examination at eight months; and neurological examination at twelve months.

Many disorders affecting the nervous system have already been solved through research and it is hoped that this broad-scaled collaborative study will succeed in finding some of the answers to neurological deficits of infancy and childhood.

Doctor Claims Water Balance Vital

Dr. Robert E. Cooke of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine declared at the University of Buffalo School of Medicine that the function of the brain is dependent upon a finely balanced relationship with the salt and water in its immediate environment.

The doctor believes that in certain clinical conditions in infants such as diarrhea, and post-operatively, there may be marked changes in the salt and water content of the body. "Such changes," he said, "may induce short-lived convulsions of no serious consequences or lasting nature or they may result in severe and irreversible brain damage.

"Salt intoxication," he warned. "or salt poisoning that results from too much salt in relation to the amount of water in the body, can damage the brain seriously and permanently with such conditions as cerebral palsy or mental retardation. It is like drinking sea water."

According to Dr. Cooke, salt poisoning in infants under five months of age is fairly common, particularly in the summer. Most people have the notion that salt is lost through sweat during hot weather and should be replaced. This is not especially true in infants, he warned and can lead to salt poisoning.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Last week I visited the new Occupational Day Center for the first time. Heretofore, the Center was a name to me. I never expected to see such a cheerful, warm, home-like atmosphere, with small tables, each covered with a bright colored cloth, centered with colorful artificial flowers, and the windows curtained with bright cheerful designs. Even more than this I was astounded at the well integrated program arranged for the children. In one room were samples of weaving, drawing, sewing, and examples of how the children were taught to sew buttons on, to sort various sizes; in another room were indications of learning how to tell time, and how to dial and use a telephone properly.

Another room was a completely furnished bedroom. In this room the children learn how to make beds, fold linens, and keep drawers neat. Then came the spic and span kitchen where cooking is taught. Interestingly enough, the boys do better than girls in cooking. Upstairs with woodworking and other hand work were samples of a project the children were working on, making souvenirs (with tiny intricate designs) for our annual dinner. I never dreamed that retarded children could do anything near like what I saw.

I guess that is why I came away inspired, and also gratified, to know how much our children can learn, and glad to know that through AHRC these children are having an opportunity to learn these skills.

Sincerely,
Betty Pendler

Dear Editor,

We had the privilege of listening to your speech at the Inaugural Evening for the A.H.R.C in Kingston.

It was an inspiring talk, and certainly gives us more hope for the future. Thank you for your time and interest.

Our son is going on 5 years of age, and since it has not been a year yet, when we were told what was wrong, retardation through brain-damage, it is still difficult at times to remain composed. Otherwise we would have thanked you personally.

We just hope that we will be able to accept our problem in time, as you have. And find the best possible help for our son.

Very truly yours,
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Vedder

Dear Editor,

I am a widowed mother of two children, one of whom is retarded. None the less I love him very much and want him to realize whatever potential he may have.

My son is a student at P.S. 248, Low I.Q., Brooklyn, New York. The child has made no progress in this time. He has a speech defect which could be helped by speech therapy. He has been in this class for the past four years. No such therapy is provided.

Perhaps the Board of Education feels they are properly
(continued in next column)

New Willowbrook Buildings for Small Fry

Willowbrook State School opened its specially designed buildings for young children in March. The new facilities (which are known informally as the babies' buildings,) are the first in New York State built specifically for severely retarded young children. These buildings will accommodate some of the children already at Willowbrook and also provide for patients on the current waiting list which includes 238 youngsters from New York City, Westchester, and Long Island.

The five new buildings, on a modified one-story cottage plan, will house 160 children apiece in four ward units, 800 children in all. Each unit for 40 has its own indoor play area and outdoor covered terrace for airing the children in suitable weather. An open terrace for play activities will adjoin each dormitory unit.

There is a dining area in each ward for children who can feed themselves. Special bathing facilities have been installed near each ward with stainless steel tubs at counter height.

Each new building has a large visitor's room to accommodate parents who visit their children.

The cost of the units is estimated at \$6,500,000.

Letters to the Editor (continued)

discharging their obligation to these children by magnanimously offering them space. My child specifically might have the potential to develop into low level factory help, but a self sufficient and useful adult none the less. Instead he is simply given custodial care. As a result, he is developing into a behavior problem.

Conditions have now deteriorated to the point where no regular teacher is provided for this class. A substitute is put in charge when one can be found. In addition, for rather protracted periods of time, school is simply not held. When school is not held, the school bus does not come to pick up my child, but no one has the common decency to advise the parents that school will not be held. The result is a long wait for a bus which never arrives.

One day when the bus didn't come, my son tried to walk several miles to school, was lost for eight hours, and only by the Grace of God did he escape severe frost bite.

These conditions are obviously intolerable. I have managed to support my children without outside help all these years. However, my resources and earning power have been taxed to their limit. Despite this fact I will be forced to withdraw my son from Public School 248.

I hope, someone, somewhere, will understand my position and help me give my son the chance he deserves, without imposing this almost unbearable burden upon me.

Yours truly,
Ruth H. Platt

Editor's Note: We are sure the CRMD Bureau deplores this condition as much as we do. What can be done?

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