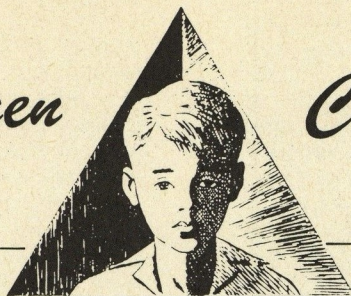


# OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

*Retarded Children*

*Can Be Helped!*



VOL. XI — ISSUE No. 3

NOVEMBER, 1959

## SPECIAL CLASSES FOR EDUCABLES INCREASE RAPIDLY

### Mrs. Rockefeller Joins at Syracuse State Fair

This fall the Onondaga County Chapter of AHRC gave away a three-bedroom ranch home during the 9 day State Fair at Syracuse as an incentive to wide-spread membership in the Association. The name? "A Home That Really Counts — For Them and For You."



Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller accepts membership card from Mrs. Allan Coffey of Onondaga AHRC Chapter during New York State Fair at Syracuse.

The Association offered a "splitnik" three-bedroom ranch home fully furnished, as one of the prime attractions.

During the Fair visitors to the home were clocked at from 700 to 1,000 per hour for a total of more than 80,000. All of them learned something about retarded children and their needs. About one in ten became a member of the local association.

New members enlisted at the Fair included both Governor and Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller, Joe Louis, Carmen Basilio and Art Linkletter.

All new honorary members automatically qualified for the opportunity to win the \$8,995 home, plus free delivery anywhere in New York State in a 75-mile radius of Syracuse, plus a set of major General Electric kitchen appliances.

The AHRC hopes to raise some \$35,000 to provide schooling for the Syracuse trainable children.

### Last Five Years Show Over 30% Growth Classes for Trainable Lag

The number of classes for educable mentally retarded children in this State's public schools, the number served, and the school districts having such classes, last year showed the greatest increase since such services have been in existence in the State. Unfortunately, the growth of classes for the trainable in no way kept pace with the classes for the educable.

In the year 1958-1959, 22,651 educable children attended 1,565 special classes in 329 school districts. This compares with 20,350 children attending 1,407 classes in 271 school districts in the year 1957-1958. In the last five years, the increase has been from 16,889 children to 22,651, or an increase of 5,762 children attending special classes. Commensurately, the school districts offering such classes increased from 1,103 to 1,565.

The same growth was, however, not evident for classes for the trainable, which are set up under permissive legislation. Last year, 1958-1959, saw an increase of 30 classes for only 5 school districts, and an increase in the number of children served from 1,122 to 1,357. These figures must be modified by the fact that New York City has about 50 such classes and Nassau almost 20, so that, 70 of the 125 classes are in New York City and Nassau County.

Although the total number of children served still falls quite short of the figures of expectancy of the number of mentally retarded children within the State (it is estimated that 2% of school children are so mentally retarded as to need special services. There were approximately 2,600,000 children attending school in the year 1958-59 and therefore, the expectancy is about 52,000 children in special classes). The last few years have shown a striking increase in public school provisions to meet the needs of these children. Many factors have contributed to this development. One of the most important of these has been the increased public interest that has grown so much since the beginning of the AHRC. In addition, the State Education Department has been making a valiant effort to increase the number of these classes. This effort has been aided materially by increased appropriations for aid.

In 1955, an additional appropriation of \$1,500,000 was made raising the state aid per special class to \$1,654 from the \$800 per class which had been the figure for a number of years for that. The legislation resulting from the recommendations of Heald Committee increased this by far. Under the new

(Continued on page 8)

*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.

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

## Whose Responsibility?

(Editorial)

One of the famous cartoons by Nast depicted the famous Tweed ring in New York City as a circle of men each looking like Boss Tweed and each pointing to the other around the circle, saying "It's his fault".

In a sense, we feel in the same position with regard to the mentally retarded in New York State. In the last issue of OCV, you read of the statement by the Department of Education that the training of severely retarded children in the community is not the responsibility of the Education Department. In this issue you read of the lack of concern by any department to provide a diet necessary to prevent mental retardation in the case of those having Phenylketonuria. We must qualify this to state, in all fairness, that the Department of Mental Hygiene will provide this diet and does for those children who are committed to state institutions.

But what of those in the community? It seems to us that whenever there is any question of mental retardation with an accompanying physical defect, the Department of Health washes its hands. When it comes to education, the State Department of Education wants to limit very sharply its responsibility even to those children with I.Q.'s over 50. In neither case is provision made by any other department for the services that all are agreed are necessary and valuable.

Again we say, Whose Responsibility? We in the Association, of course, have a blueprint for responsibilities in the various departments, but we have never seen such a blueprint forthcoming from governmental circles. Let's bring this thing out in the open. Why talk about research and prevention when nothing is done to implement prevention in the community after we have discovered a cause. Are we really concerned with keeping children in the community, reversing, if possible, the ever increasing institutional flow, if we do not set up the network of services in the community necessary?

It is time that we stopped shamming about this. Responsibility must be fixed. We have asked that it be fixed and have stated what our views are. Education for Department of Education; health matters in the community, the Department of Health; Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; all other services, including institutionalization, Department of Mental Hygiene.

Can somebody come up with a better plan? Let's see it. But let's stop saying, "It's his job."

### \$1,000,000 For Research

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation has made a contribution of \$1,000,000 to the Massachusetts General Hospital for the establishment of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Laboratories for Research on Mental Retardation.

Half of the funds will be utilized for construction, the other half set up as an endowment to provide for operating expenses. The Laboratories will conduct research in pediatric neurology, investigation into the causes, treatment, and prevention of brain diseases that occur during infancy and childhood.

## Chapter News

*Onondaga County Chapter* announces that Art Linkletter, popular radio and television star, kicked off their \$35,000 campaign at a Luncheon at the Hotel Syracuse in September . . . some 400 persons attended the event . . . *Cattaraugus County Chapter* proudly announces that the class for trainable children that they have been operating for the past year is being taken over by the Board of Education of Olean . . . Congratulations, this is a wonderful achievement that all should copy . . . *Schenectady Chapter* reports progress during the past year . . . 24 retardates between the ages of 5 and 17 were taken care of by the school program . . . 3 teachers, a part-time psychologist, and a speech therapist were on staff . . . Youth Training Center continued its operation and a summer day camp for 21 children for 6 weeks was provided this past summer . . . *Erie County* presents a very impressive format for an annual report . . . we are sure that all chapters have received this . . . the chapter is a participant in the Integrated Sheltered Workshop Program of the Cerebral Palsy Association, having referred 10 candidates for evaluation, training, and job placement . . . program was made possible by a grant of \$24,500 from the State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation . . . *Suffolk County* proceeds with plans for clinic . . . an interesting item in their newsletter of June 1959 is a listing of all the special classes for mentally retarded children in the public schools of Suffolk County. These indicate only 4 for trainable children in 3 school districts and 51 for the educable in 23 school districts . . . The Owasco Volunteer Firemen made a house-to-house canvas selling tickets for the famous *Cayuga County Chapter* Chicken Barbecue that was held in August . . . 2 months of camping was arranged by *Ulster County Chapter* and Kingston Jewish Community Center . . . *Putnam County Chapter* reports that the special education class (intermediate) of the Brewster Central School, Brewster, New York, under the direction of Mrs. Eleanor D. Lloyd, won the Garden Club "Junior Achievement" award at the Brewster Garden Club flower show on May 22nd, 1959 . . . 60 students participated, boys and girls ages 13 to 16, and submitted as a class project individual button gardens of their own creativeness . . . *Westchester Chapter* once more conducted the summer camp program at the AHRC School in Pelham with 40 enrollments . . . *Chautauqua County* reports that they have invited all other handicapped children in the County to join the retarded in a swimming class at the Jamestown Boys Club . . . The class was held every Sunday afternoon for eight weeks with 12 instructors on hand . . . many learned how to swim . . . others merely to overcome their fear of the water . . . Representatives of all service clubs and other organizations in the area met at a dinner of the chapter designed to acquaint them with the aims and needs of the area and accomplishments to date . . . working hard to get the County Board of Cooperative Educational Services to take over the classes for trainable was Sam Brown, President, of Frewsburg . . . Almost 300 children were serviced at the *Nassau County Chapter's* day camp . . . 30 children from *Queens Division of New York City Chapter* also came . . . Please get news items into OCV. (Editor)

### Cub Pack Expands

The John Golden Cub Pack No. 285 has expanded and formed a second group which meets in Queens Village, American Legion Hall. At the last meeting the Pack was awarded the "Onward for God and My County Program Plaque" from the National Council, Boy Scouts of America and the President's Standard Award from the Greater New York Councils, Boy Scouts of America, in recognition of its achievements. Paul Westerkamp is Chairman and Act. Cub Master for Cub Pack No. 285, and Helen Storm is Den Mother.



# STATE CONVENTION

November 6, 7, and 8, 1959 Spring Valley

As Convention time draws near, the program promises to be one of the best we have ever had. One of the new features will be a meeting of executive directors and secretaries of AHRC chapters on the evening preceding the Convention.

We are fortunate indeed this year to have Dr. Richard Masland, Director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, as our Banquet Speaker. In addition, Mr. Hyman Forstenzer, Director of Community Mental Health Services, State Department of Mental Hygiene, will chair a panel on the Community Mental Health Services Act, and our old friend, Richard Hungerford, Superintendent of Laconia State School, will head a panel on Friday evening before the entire Convention on "Institutions, The Responsibilities of the Institutions with Regard to the Mentally Retarded—Broader Horizons for Mental Hygiene Departments to Develop Community Programs." Participating with Dick Hungerford will be Dr. Arthur Pense, Head of the new Office of Mental Retardation, Dr. Ignacy Goldberg, Bernie Rosenberg of Westchester, member of the Board of Visitors of Letchworth Village, and Chris DeProspero, Advisor to the AHRC, and former president of the AAMD.

Reservations are to be made directly with the Bader Hotel, Spring Valley, New York.

The full program follows:

- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH**  
 8:00 p.m. Meeting of Executive Directors, AHRC Chapters  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH**  
 9:00-12:00 Registration  
 10:00-2:00 p.m. TOURS — OPTIONAL  
 Letchworth Village  
 Pomona Center, Short Stay Home  
 2:30-4:30 p.m. CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS  
 A. EDUCATION—Chairman, James Maroon, Rockland County.  
 B. COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT  
 Chairman, Hyman Forstenzer, Director, Community Mental Health Services, New York Department of Mental Hygiene.  
 C. ADMINISTRATION—Chairman, Helen Kaplan, Nassau County.  
 4:00-6:00 p.m. Board of Governors Meeting.  
 5:30-6:30 p.m. Cocktails—Reception, Rockland County Chapter, Host.  
 6:45-8:00 p.m. Dinner.  
 8:00-9:30 p.m. INSTITUTIONS—PANEL DISCUSSION—AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION—Chairman, Richard Hungerford, Superintendent, Laconia State School. The responsibilities of the institutions with regard to the mentally retarded. Broader Horizons for Department of Mental Hygiene in the community program.  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH**  
 9:00-10:00 a.m. Registration.  
 10:00-12:30 p.m. General Business Meeting.  
 12:45-2:00 p.m. Luncheon.  
 2:15-5:00 p.m. Convention Reconvenes.  
 6:00-7:00 p.m. Cocktails.  
 7:30 p.m. Dinner.  
**SPEAKER:** Dr. Richard Masland, Director National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness.  
 9:30 p.m. Informal Dancing.  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH**  
 9:30 a.m. Convention Reconvenes.  
 11:30 a.m. Board of Governors Meets.  
 12:30 p.m. Buffet Luncheon.

## GENETIC CONTROL HELD THERAPY KEY

During the Ninth International Congress of Pediatrics at Montreal during the week of July 17th, discussions were held on the control of man's genetic heritage. 1600 delegates represented 65 countries at the meeting.

This study of cells and chromosomes, it was pointed out, could lead to the control of basic living material and the correction of birth defects now considered incurable.

One theory that was discussed at the sessions was the existence in some humans of an extra chromosome that was said to be responsible for a congenital defect such as mongolism.

## Department of Mental Hygiene Establishes Office of Mental Retardation

Organization of an Office of Mental Retardation in the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene to coordinate and develop all services for the mentally retarded, was announced by Dr. Paul H. Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene.

Dr. Arthur W. Pense, deputy commissioner, assisted by Dr. Joseph L. Camp, deputy assistant commissioner, is directing the new office.

This is the beginning of the implementation of what has long been part of the AHRC program, a separate Division for the mentally retarded. This was also part of the program of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation.

According to Dr. Hoch, plans call for the staff to visit the state's six institutions regularly, and coordinate the institutional programs and activities with the work of various units in the central office of the department. Emphasis will be laid on improving the care of patients in the institutions; developing new programs to improve training activities; and encouraging placement of suitable patients in the community.

The office will try to stimulate the development of community programs for the retarded, particularly those which would encourage community rather than institutional care; and the development of new institutions for those who cannot be cared for in community programs. Other areas of responsibility include handling special problems of family and convalescent care and periodic population adjustments in the institutions, particularly the current problem of selective admission for children under five years of age when there is a shortage of accommodations for these patients.

## Welfare League Opens Beauty Salon at Letchworth

The Welfare League, Letchworth Village Chapter, AHRC, formally opened a beauty salon at Letchworth Village last summer. Dr. Isaac N. Wolfson, for whom the Salon is named, cut the ribbon with a golden scissors in the presence of the President of the League, Michael Falk, Louis H. Kaplan, Master of Ceremonies, Eric Greenbaum, who directed the project for the League, Rev. Carl Rote, Rabbi Jacob Cohen and other dignitaries.



New Beauty Salon at Letchworth

The Letchworth Village Band played under the direction of Mr. Methas, and a group of colorfully costumed children under the direction of Mrs. Sherwood performed folk dances.

The beauty salon is modern in design, decor and equipment, featuring nine hair dryers with built-in radios. Patients will be trained in this work under the Education and Occupational Therapy Program. The salon is a morale builder as well as a facility for the training of beauty operators; patients and staff alike are delighted with the new project.



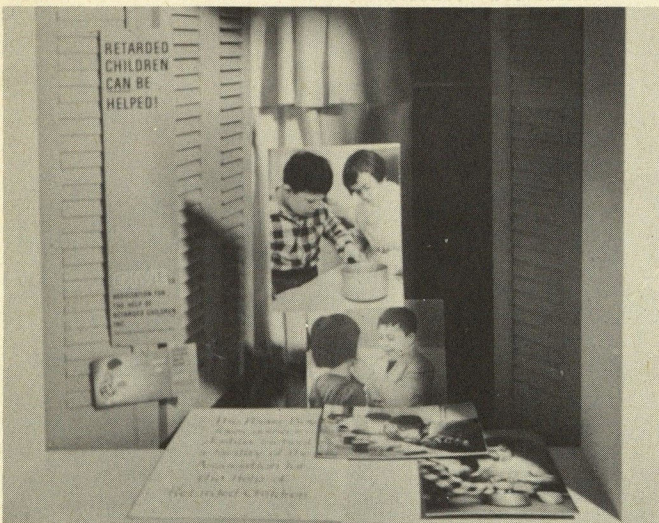
## The New York City 1959 Campaign Under Way

Mayor Robert A. Wagner started the 1959 drive, as he did last year, by posing on the steps of City Hall with George G. Hirsch, President of the N.Y.C. Chapter, and Pablo, poster boy for the 1958-1959 campaign. Pablo presented the first poster to the Mayor after charming everyone on the Mayor's staff by cheerfully obeying every command of the news photographer who covered the event.



Mayor Wagner Accepts First poster from Pablo while President George G. Hirsch of N.Y.C. Chapter looks on.

Pablo and his classmates at the Joshua School in the Bronx were also honored by Bloomingdales with a 59th St. window devoted to photographs of their class activities. The series of photographs was contributed by Doris Pinney, noted photographer of children who creates color illustrations of the Gerber Babies, Ivory Soap Babies, and television commercials featuring children. Other windows were contributed by leading shops including Bergdorf Goodman, Hattie Carnegie, DePinna, Polly's and Saks Fifth Avenue.



Bloomingdales Window Features Joshua School, New York

Lord & Taylor devoted one of its large Fifth Avenue windows to photographs of the Training Center and Sheltered Workshop, contributed by famed magazine photographer, Hal Reiff. International Business Machines used Mr. Reiff's latest photographic spread of the Occupation Day Center. Gimbels and Altman's designed special windows around other AHRC facilities.

one person expert in the field of mental retardation in view

*(Continued on next column)*

## American Legion Urges Education for Trainable Local Grange Units Back Legislation

As part of its campaign for the welfare of mentally retarded children, the American Legion of New York State, at its State Convention in Syracuse in July, passed a resolution calling on the State to amend the education law to provide mandatory public education for retarded children with I.Q.'s under 50.

The present provisions of the education law are permissive. A bill introduced by the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation was passed in 1959 by the legislature but was vetoed by Gov. Rockefeller.

Through the efforts of Helen Kaplan of the Nassau County Chapter, a resolution was introduced by Commander Carvino of the William Clinton Story Post #342, Freeport; Commander William Seifert, Nassau County; and Commander Arthur Petty, 10th District, (Nassau, Suffolk, Queens.)

The resolution was introduced by the Nassau County Command of the American Legion.

It states in conclusion: "That the Legislature of the State of New York be memorialized to enact legislation making it mandatory for local boards of education to establish classes for trainable mentally retarded children. And that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President Pro Tem of the Senate, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate; the Speaker of the Assembly, the majority and minority leaders of the Assembly; all members of the legislature, and Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller."

The Denmark Grange #535, through Peter Keischgens of Watertown, has passed a similar resolution to be introduced at the Grange State Convention which starts October 27th.

### N.Y.C. CAMPAIGN (continued)

4400 car cards were placed in subways and buses; and 200,000 brochures were distributed by volunteers enrolled in the house-to-house division headed by Mrs. Anne Gitter, a member of the Board of Directors.

Telops of the official poster and hundreds of individually slanted appeals for volunteers and funds were used by Channels 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 13. Local radio stations were also cooperative. A spot featuring the telop and a plea for funds were placed in close juxtaposition to a daily TV serial over Channel 2. When Dr. Gunnar Dybwad, Executive Director of the National Association for Retarded Children, was announced as guest expert for the Sept. 29th showing, it was arranged to have the AHRC spot shown near the same time segment.

WNYC's "Around the Town" with Gene Fallon taped an interview with Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director for broadcast on October 13th. Mr. Weingold spoke movingly of the evolution and progress of the AHRC from a handful of anxious parents to its position as one of the most effective organizations in the city.

In addition to the normal flow of newspaper publicity on the campaign and its goals, special features were placed in leading metropolitan dailies.

The Commerce & Industry Division, headed by James J. Harris, President of Guest Pac, Inc., with Charles S. Thorn, Publisher and Advertising Director of McCall's Corporation, and S. Irene Johns of S. Irene Johns, Inc. as Co-Chairmen, held a cocktail party at the Barbizon-Plaza so that the members of the committee could get to know one another and key members of the AHRC. Joseph T. Weingold was the principal speaker and he cited statistics to prove that helping the retarded to help themselves was good business as well as good hearted.

The party itself was a contribution of one of the Commerce and Industry Committee, David S. Racusin, President of the Barbizon-Plaza.



## Fund Raising In Chemung

The Associated Press carried a story postmarked Albany, and titled "Public Aroused—Fund Drive Evaluation Proposed." In the article the following paragraph appeared; "Only 10 Stricken—Residents of Chemung County gave \$16,000 in a recent drive for funds to fight Cancer, which had claimed 147 lives in the previous year. They gave \$23,000 to fight tuberculosis, which struck fewer than 10 persons.

"A one-night solicitation by mailmen raised \$9501 to help retarded children. There are 27 such children in the county who benefit from the fund. Heart disease had claimed 583 lives. The Heart Fund realized only \$10,370."

A letter to the Editor of the World-Telegram & Sun, was dispatched promptly by Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, New York State AHRC.

He wrote in part, "May I try to get some facts straight about the picture concerning mental retardation in Chemung County, described in your May 6th article.

"Although it is true that mental retardation is not a killer, this in no way dismisses the needs or the rights of those afflicted with retardation to community support. The sad fact is that 3% of the population is mentally retarded, and that Chemung County has over 2500 persons so affected. It is unfortunate that our Chemung County Chapter was able to raise only \$9,501 to service 27 children. This is about \$360 a child, a small enough amount to keep them in the community, when institutionalization would cost the State about \$1700 a year per child, without capital construction. If we are to compare this problem in numbers with others, it's the single greatest permanently crippling condition of childhood.

"We would be delighted to forego any fund drive if the communities and the Government would provide educational, vocational, and recreational facilities for these children, and the funds necessary for public education and research.

"As it is, we as parents are, in effect, pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps."

## Nassau Enlists Auxiliary Members

Mrs. John Gross, President of the Nassau County Chapter of AHRC thanks Mr. and Mrs. Leo Hausman who were hosts to over 200 people at a dinner party and fashion show at their home October 13th in Kings Point, L. I.

The occasion was a membership drive for the Great Neck Auxiliary of AHRC.



Left to right: Mrs. John Gross, Mrs. Leo Hausman and Mr. Leo Hausman.

Mr. Jerry Weingold was the key speaker. The evening was a tremendous success and surpassed our most optimistic hope. More than 50 people joined and apart from paying their dues made very generous contributions to aid us in our important work.

## Phenylalanine Diets Expensive

### Parents Ask For Help

With the discovery that a special diet may help younger children who have Phenylpyruvic Oligophrenia (see last issue of OCV), there has been more and more wide spread use of this diet to aid such children. In many instances the results have been spectacular and certainly justify this continuing aid.

Unfortunately, the diet at present costs about \$25 a week to administer and runs into a very considerable item when it has to be done over a period of years. Repeated demands from parents for help from the Department of Health and other agencies in the State and throughout the country met with little response until April 1959. At that time John C. McDougall, Chief, Administrative Methods Branch, Division of Health Services, issued a memorandum to regional medical directors stating that Maternal and Child Health Funds of the Children's Bureau may be used to purchase dietary products for phenylalanine diets. The memorandum further states that the regulations will be amended to include especial dietary products for restricted phenylalanine diets. In the light of this ruling the Association in July wrote a letter to Dr. Herman Hilleboe, Commissioner of Health, in Albany, New York, stating, in part, as follows:

"The various chapters of our Association have been receiving, in increased numbers, requests for financial aid to families for the purchase of phenylalanine diets for their children who suffer from phenylpyruvic oligophrenia. As you know, these diets are quite expensive, especially for middle income families and these families have not been able to receive any help towards solving this problem."

After quoting the ruling previously stated, we closed with "In the light of this new ruling, may we ask you to consider the provisions of such diets to qualified families by the Department of Health under the Maternal and Child Health provisions."

To date, three months later, we have not received even an acknowledgement from the Commissioner of Health or any other official body concerning this.

## Dr. Richard Masland—New Director of National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness

Dr. Richard L. Masland will succeed Dr. Pearce Bailey as Director of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, according to an announcement by Surgeon General Leroy E. Burney of the Public Health Service. Formerly assistant director of the National Institute, Dr. Masland organized the research study relating to the neurological disorders of the newborn in which 16 hospitals throughout the country are collaborating.

A neurologist and psychiatrist, Dr. Masland, while consultant to AHRC, co-authored the book "Mental Subnormality" which reports the results of an intensive research investigation into the biological, psychological, and cultural factors causing mental retardation.

## State Schools—Or State Schools and Hospitals?

For at least five years the New York State Department of Mental Hygiene has been sponsoring legislation to change the name of the State Schools for the Mentally Retarded to State Schools and Hospitals. This has been discussed at length in our legislative bulletins and in the pages of OCV.

What we wish to report at this time, is something of extreme interest with regard to a trend concerning this business of change of name. We are in receipt of the North Carolina ARC News which has an interesting article that the names of the Caswell, Butner, and Goldsboro Training Schools in North Carolina have been changed to Caswell School, Murdock School, and O'Berry School. The article states, "notice that the word training has been eliminated from our schools for retarded so as not to confuse them with our schools of correction and training."



## Wassaic Learning For Living Program

In September 1956, a new program in adult education was started at Wassaic State School. Its object was to return the young retarded adult to the community with a better chance of meeting the social and economic problems of the outside world.

The project involved workshop and classroom studies, and while occupational and social training were emphasized, academic training was also included. Dr. George F. Etling, director of the school, began the program with a class of 45 girls between the ages of 16 and 21 with I.Q.'s of 50 or over, broken down into small groups on an age basis. The groups were divided further according to social maturity and emotional stability in order to bring together girls with a similar range of social interests and training capabilities.

Because of the success of the program, the following year classes were expanded to include boys. Today over 200 young men and women are enrolled and there is a waiting list. 61 of the trainees have already been returned to the community and reports indicate good adjustment to their new environment.

Vocational training was introduced during the second year. A sewing room with industrial as well as home machines was set up so the girls could learn to make and repair their own clothing. They were also given training in a factory sewing situation.

The boys concentrated on unskilled service trades because retardates usually require extra training to acquire confidence and overcome the fear of trying something new. In a restaurant setup, super market, service station workshop and home maintenance workroom, the boys were taught the duties of bus boys, counterman, dishwasher and kitchen helper. In the supermarket they were trained as supply clerk helpers, packers and porters.

Every year new facilities have been added; vocational training workshop for boys, another homemaking unit for girls, musical education for both groups, a motel unit, simulated delivery truck and hospital unit. Recreational training has taught the trainees how best to use their leisure time and what facilities and activities will be available when they leave school.

While it is too soon for a thorough analysis and evaluation, those who are conducting the program believe it is a step in the right direction. The young people who are participating in the program agree that "It has been a wonderful opportunity."

## Westchester Workshop Studies I.Q. and Earning Relationship

Westchester County Training Center and Sheltered Workshop was the scene of a study of the I.Q. as a predictor of success or failure in earning capacity of the mentally retarded in a sheltered workshop. Income per hour was compared with I.Q. from June 1, 1957 to May 29, 1959, by Jack M. Gootzeit, Supervisor of Evaluation and Training, and Anthony J. Lombardi, Director.

Fifty-one trainees were studied by comparing their I.Q.'s with their average hourly earnings during the period chosen. The findings were that I.Q. is a poor indicator of job success as measured by hourly income.

Additional information was gained from the study. For instance, of the 51 retarded adults used for the study, 17 were placed (I.Q. ranges 47-97) on jobs successfully. 5 (I.Q. ranges 42-66) were dropped because the shop could no longer serve them. 7 (I.Q. 60-87) unsuccessful job tries were made. One was institutionalized. 24 are under psychiatric care or in need of a workup.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Advisory Council On Rehabilitation Named By Governor

Governor Rockefeller has announced the appointment of a Council on Rehabilitation to advise him and the Interdepartmental Health Resources Board on strengthening and expanding the state's rehabilitation program.

Leonard W. Mayo, Executive Director of the Association for the Aid of Crippled Children will head the Council. Other members are: Dr. Theodore G. Klumpt, President of Sterling-Winthrop Co.; Paul G. Bulger, President of the State Universities College of Education in Buffalo; Thomas J. Miley, Executive Vice President of the State Commerce and Industry Association; Dr. Alvin R. Carpenter, Medical Director of the Binghamton Rehabilitation Center and Sheltered Workshop. Also, Dr. Arthur S. Abramson, Chairman, Department of Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Eugene J. Taylor, Member of the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, New York City Bellevue Medical Center; Dr. Robert T. Collins, Consultant in Neurology and Psychiatry for Eastman-Kodak; and Walter A. Miller, President of the Federation Employment Guidance Service in New York City.

The Association has urged the Governor to consider appointing at least one expert in the field of mental retardation in view of the great advances being made in this area, but no such person has been appointed to the Council.

The appointment of this Council is a voluntary act by the Governor since the legislative mandate for such a Council that was in the Vocational Rehabilitation Act was repealed in the last session of the legislation at the request of the Department of Education.

## NUMBER OF RETARDED SEEKING JOB ASSISTANCE RISES SHARPLY

A report made by Miss Janet Pinner, Director of Selective Placement of the State Employment Service, to the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation showed a sharp increase in the number of mental retardates applying to the employment service for job assistance.

Taking the figures for the "Employ the Physically Handicapped Week" in October, the report indicates that, whereas only one mental retardate applied for services during that week in the year 1954, representing .02% of the total handicapped intake, in the year 1958, 101 mental retardates applied for such service during that week, or 1.6% of the total handicapped intake.

It seems to us that this illustrates the enormous amount of public education and removal of stigma attached to mental retardation that has taken place in the last five years. This is something to be proud of. We hope that the future years will see the same rate of increase and that services will be provided.

## NEW YORK STATE SHOWS GAINS IN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION Still Lags Behind Other States

A statement by Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, in August 1959 revealed that 80,720 persons were rehabilitated in the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1959. This is the fourth new annual record in a row. In the number of rehabilitations, Pennsylvania leads all other states, with Georgia second, and New York, third.

Although New York State showed an 18% increase, from 4,664 to 5,504 in 1959, it ranked only 44th in the nation as to number per one hundred thousand population rehabilitated.

There may be many contributing factors to this, but it is evident that progress is being made in our State. We cannot rest, however, until we lead the nation.



## Huntington Site Confirmed for State School

Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Dr. Paul Hoch, Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, jointly announced confirmation of Huntington, Long Island, as the site for a new State School for retarded children.

Congratulating the Mayor and Commissioner for standing fast in the face of strong, loud protests from a few residents, Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director, said "We're particularly pleased with the choice, because of the record of opposition from some unthinking Long Island residents to the proposal to build a school for the retarded in their vicinity. This location has two advantages. It will be easy for parents to reach to visit their children, and is near enough to metropolitan research facilities so that we may look forward to a close cooperation to help ameliorate the disabilities of the retarded and even discover ways to prevent the occurrence of retardation at some not-too-distant day.

"We are certain that the residents of Huntington will find, as have the people of other towns with state schools for the retarded, that retardates make good neighbors, and that, given an opportunity, they have a distinct contribution to make to the community in which they live.

"The Governor and Commissioner Hoch are to be congratulated on their humane and farsighted policy in this case."

## Board of Cooperative Services Takes Over Frank C. McCarthy School Only County Children to Be Served; Syracuse Trainable Out

Through the efforts of our Onondaga County Chapter, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of the Second Supervisory District will undertake a program for the training of about 40 of the trainable children now in the Frank C. McCarthy School, it was announced by Marvin Paxson, President of the Chapter.

According to Harley M. Glasow, President of the County Cooperative Board, the Board will utilize the Frank C. McCarthy School facilities, employing part of its faculty and staff, including Mrs. Edith Romano, who has served as Director of the School since 1955.

The Frank C. McCarthy school is one of the first established for trainable children by a Chapter of the AHRC, in 1951. In 1955, it was chartered by the Regents of the State of New York. This past year the School serviced 114 pupils, including a special group of 14 adults.

Unfortunately, this decision of the Cooperative Board does not include the children who reside in the city of Syracuse. There are about 45 of those registered in the School, in addition to the adults.

Dr. Paul A. Miller, Superintendent of Schools in Syracuse, said he would favor setting up a program for the severely mentally retarded in the State Education Department, if the State Education Department would reimburse the school system 100%. "At present," said Mr. Miller, "Syracuse has some 200 educable retarded for whom special classes are mandated whom they are not servicing because of lack of space and inability to obtain teachers. This city does have a program for educable retarded."

There is a possibility that the Board of Education will let the Chapter use one of the public schools to set up a program, again entirely at the Chapter's expense for the 45 Syracuse children.

A spokesman for the Association stated, "It is difficult to see why this city has been unable to obtain teachers and space both when the county school district and the former Frank C. McCarthy School were able to secure both. Since the law for the educable has been mandatory since 1917, doesn't this represent some 40 years of neglect by the city?"

Onondaga County Chapter is forced to raise \$35,000 in the present campaign in order to continue the education of these children who should be the responsibility of the school system.

## ATTITUDE STUDY OF PARENTS WITH MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN

(Medical Literature Abstract)

Data about the attitudes of the parents of 105 families with retarded children toward the pediatrician and general practitioner, related to diagnosis, care and counseling, were obtained by the clinic for the study of mental retardation at the Los Angeles Children Hospital. Eighty families were seen by a pediatrician or general practitioner; 14 by a pediatrician and general practitioner; the retarded children of the remaining 11 families were cared for in clinics or the outpatient department of the hospital. The study was limited to children less than one year of age at the time of referral.

47% were satisfied with the pediatrician while 55% were satisfied with the general practitioner. 8 of the 14 seen by both were dissatisfied with both. 5 others whose children were seen by both were critical of the pediatrician and satisfied with the general practitioner. 1 parent was satisfied with the pediatrician and critical of the general practitioner.

Criticism fell into two groups—*what* the parents were told and *how* they were told. And the data would indicate that many physicians are not well trained to cope with the problem of retardation in infancy.

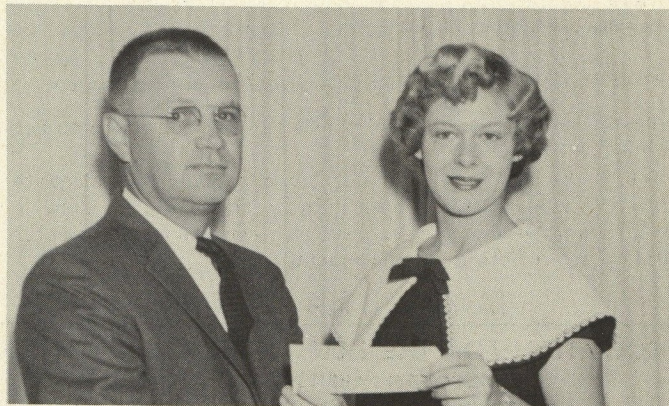
The general practitioner may understand the family unit better enabling him to deal more effectively with the parents. The pediatrician's failure may also be due to lack of adequate training in the field of mental retardation.

The curriculum of the department of pediatrics of the University of Southern California has now been changed to include 4, 3-hour sessions on the problems of retardation. Lectures have also been organized for the nursing and resident staff of the Los Angeles Children's Hospital.

## Broome County Scholarship Award

Broome County Chapter has awarded a four year scholarship grant to Miss Shirley M. Dodd of Binghamton for training in teaching retarded children. The recipient of the grant will study at Buffalo State Teacher's College in Buffalo.

By offering this scholarship as an incentive to qualified students, the Broome County Chapter of AHRC is acting in the usual practical manner of parent organizations to help alleviate the shortage of teachers which Governor Rockefeller gave as an important reason for vetoing mandatory public school classes for children with I.Q.'s of less than 50.



W. Fowler Wilson, Executive Director of Broome County Chapter, Gives Four Year Scholarship Grant to Shirley M. Dodd.

The Scholarship Committee consisted of Mrs. Ralph Perkins, Mr. Frank Merville, Miss Lyra Waterhouse, Executive Assistant to Mr. Martin Helfer, Superintendent of Schools, Binghamton; and three representatives of the association, Mr. Marvin Clark, President, Mr. Fowler Wilson, Executive Secretary and Mr. Paul Holmes, Chairman of Education and Scholarship Committee.



## REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

The establishment and operation of public school classes for the mentally retarded are controlled by Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. It is extremely important, therefore, that all be familiar with their provisions.

The regulations have been in existence for many years, but were revised, after careful study, in October of 1958. These revisions liberalized the regulations. The regulations in full follow:

### ARTICLE XXIII (Revised October 1958)

#### SPECIAL CLASSES FOR MENTALLY RETARDED AND NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING CHILDREN

##### § 185. Educable Mentally retarded children.

###### 1. Classes

a. In a special class for elementary school age pupils, the total number enrolled at any one time shall not exceed 15.

b. In a special class for secondary school age pupils, the total number enrolled at any one time shall not exceed 18.

c. Special classes for elementary school age pupils shall be located in elementary school buildings where there are classes of regular grade children of similar ages.

d. Special classes for secondary school age pupils shall be located in secondary school buildings where there are classes of regular grade children of similar ages.

e. In a special class the chronological age range of pupils shall not exceed four years unless approval is given by the Commissioner of Education.

f. Adequate classroom facilities and equipment shall be provided for each class.

###### 2. Pupils

a. When special classes for educable mentally retarded children are organized in public schools, children shall be eligible after an individual psychological examination by an approved psychologist and after comprehensive physical examination by a licensed physician provided they have (1) intelligence quotients of 50 to 75, and (2) chronological ages between 5 and 21 years.

##### § 186. Trainable mentally retarded children (I.Q. below 50)

###### 1. Classes

a. The total number enrolled at any one time shall not exceed 10.

b. Adequate classroom facilities and equipment shall be provided.

###### 2. Pupils

a. When special classes for severely mentally retarded children are organized in public schools, children shall be eligible after an individual psychological examination by an approved psychologist and after a comprehensive physical examination by a licensed physician provided that they are between 5 and 21 years of age.

b. No pupil shall be a member of these classes if it is determined after careful study, which may include a reasonable opportunity to be observed in the classroom, that said pupil cannot benefit from the training offered by such classes, or that his conduct is such as to (1) endanger the health or safety of himself or other pupils, or (2) be so seriously disruptive of class activities as to prevent other pupils from benefiting therefrom.

##### § 187. \* \* \*

As amended October 24, 1958

#### WESTCHESTER WORKSHOP (Continued from page 6)

The income of those placed in jobs ranged from 10 cents per hour to 29 cents.

While the sampling was not large enough for adequate statistical conclusions, it does indicate that the I.Q. alone is not a reliable predictor of success, but seems to have a greater validity in predicting job placement.

(continued in next column)

#### ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

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## Rome State School Chapter Seeks Coordinator of Volunteers

One of the most interesting items in the August bulletin of the Rome State School Chapter, AHRC, is that on the volunteer program.

Feeling that the development of this program is one of the most important aspects of community living in the State school, the chapter offered to finance the salary of a coordinator if one can be found. I quote from their bulletin:

"At the present time the volunteer program for Rome State School is at a stand still. People in the community are willing to donate their time and energy to present a variety of evening programs in the wards. The daytime hours are well filled with work and routine, but the evenings are long and movies and dances are scheduled only once a week. Rome State School Chapter wants to get the program underway and will finance the salary of a coordinator if one can be found."

## WANTED—Erie Educational Director

Paul J. Edwards, Executive Director of Erie County Chapter in Buffalo, is seeking an Educational Director with special training in work with mentally handicapped both at the educable and trainable levels. The director is expected to supervise a school demonstration program for trainables and work with the educational community on expanding mandated educational opportunities for the educables.

Three years experience in the field, including some administrative responsibility, is a requisite. The salary offered is \$6500 with a young and growing organization and an opportunity to live in "beautiful Buffalo," according to Mr. Edwards, who can be reached at:

Association for the Help of Retarded Children  
Erie County Chapter,  
253 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo 8, New York

#### SPECIAL CLASSES (Continued from page 1)

formula, regardless of the size of an approved special class, a school district is now entitled to state aid it would receive for an elementary class with an average daily attendance of 25. This also provides for full reimbursement for tuition and for one-half the cost of transportation when one school district has to contract with another for special instruction.

The enormous interest that has been shown in the field of education can be traced directly to the efforts of the Joint Legislative Committee on Mental Retardation, under the chairmanship of Senator Earl W. Brydges and Vice-chairman, Stanley Steingut. Their systematic reappraisal of the Education Law and legislation to remedy defects in services has been an enormous impetus for this development.

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