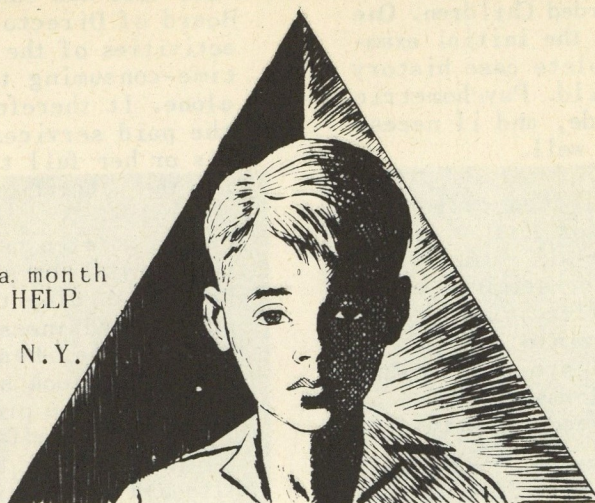


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Issued approximately once a month
by the ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP
OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.
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New York, February, 1949



Volume 2, Issue #1
February-March, 1950
President,
Joseph T. Weingold

Retarded Children Can Be Helped!

***** ANOTHER CLINIC! *****

AHRC ACHIEVES A CLINIC FOR RETARDED CHILDREN AT FLOWER-FIFTH AVENUE HOSPITAL.

NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE EFFECTS AFFILIATION

THEODORA LEAGUE ESTABLISHES FELLOWSHIPS

A clinic for the diagnosis, treatment and guidance of the mentally retarded will begin to function in a matter of weeks at the Flower-Fifth Hospital, in Manhattan, according to an announcement issued by Nat Feder, Vice-President of the A.H.R.C., who is chiefly responsible for this latest A.H.R.C. project.

All applications by parents for visits to the clinic will be made through the A.H.R.C. office according to the arrangements established between A.H.R.C. Executives and Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of Pediatrics at Flower-Fifth, and the Director of this new clinic.

The clinic will be affiliated with the New York Medical College, as envisaged by Dr. J.A.W. Hetrick, its President, who will schedule the training of medical students and the assignment of internes to serve the clinic's future needs.

The Theodora League, the philanthropic women's organization of the Bronx, through its President, Mrs. Helen Meyerson, has announced that it will support and sponsor the establishment of two annual fellowships for doctors who will be part of the clinic staff. The sum of \$4,000 annually has been pledged for this purpose.

Appointments for the first two fellowships have been made, naming Drs. Margaret Giannini and Cyrille Halkin to serve under Dr. Slobody.

The clinic, as planned, will provide services that will equal the relationship between private physician and patient, and the children will have the facilities of every specialty in the medical profession, e.g.:

Surgical, Orthopedic, Physical Medicine, Neurology and Neuro-surgery, Ear, Nose, and Throat, Eye, Endocrinology, etc. All the modern examining equipment will be available, including facilities for pneumo and electro-encephalographic diagnosis, laboratory tests, etc.

(Cont. on page 2)

DR. LLOYD N. YEPSON TO ADDRESS NEXT GENERAL AND FREE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE AHRC AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL OF NEEDLE TRADES

The next A.H.R.C. general meeting will take place at the Central High School of Needle Trades on Tuesday evening, March 28th, at 8 P.M. The guest speaker will be Dr. Lloyd N. Yepsen, Executive Vice-President of the American Association on Mental Deficiency, and Director of Institutions and Agencies in New Jersey.

Dr. Yepsen is one of our Professional Advisors. Important announcements will be made at this meeting.

AHRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLANS TO HIRE THE SERVICES OF A PAID DIRECTOR.

The procedure for visits will be as follows: All visits will be made by appointment through the Association for the Help of Retarded Children. One of the two Pediatricians will make the initial examination. This will include a complete case history and interview of parents and child. Psychometric evaluation (IQ, etc.) will be made, and if necessary, psychiatric examinations as well.

The examining Pediatrician will then call upon other specialists, as indicated, for further examination. Upon completion of the over-all examination, all reports will be returned to the original examining Pediatrician, who will confer jointly with any of the required specialists involved in the case for a final diagnosis and prognosis. The parents will then receive this information from the original physician together with recommendations.

The A.H.R.C. will act in a guidance and advisory capacity in helping the parents find and use the available agencies and facilities for care, schooling, vocational training, etc.

The cost of examination will be about 75 cents (for those who can afford it) and all special tests and special examinations will follow the clinical fee basis, to be waived in cases of hardship.

The clinic is scheduled to open officially in April, with a number of outstanding dignitaries taking part in the ceremonies. In the meantime, the clinic will begin operating in early March, tentatively scheduling visits for Wednesday mornings. As planned, a member of the A.H.R.C. will sit on the Board governing the affairs of the new clinic.

"Once again", Nat Feder stated, "the A.H.R.C. owes a vote of overwhelming gratitude to our honorary chapter — the Theodora League, without whose support and keen interest and sympathies, the new clinic (as described) would not be possible. The step they are taking in aiding us set up these clinic fellowships has ramifications so wide, that they might affect hundreds of thousands of mentally handicapped children in the time to come, if not indeed millions, the country over".

Mr. Feder continued, "A vote of sincerest thanks is also in order for Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody who has planned and worked so selflessly and enthusiastically to make this clinic a great success, to Dr. Hetrick, and all the others from the hospital, the college, and the A.H.R.C."

Feder sees in the establishment of this clinic and the one in Brooklyn, not only the realization of point 1 in the A.H.R.C. long range program, but "the first of many steps which the A.H.R.C. plans, to attempt to check the relentless flow of children into our state institutions."

"The time has come", a spokesman for the A.H.R.C. Board of Directors stated this month, "when the activities of the A.H.R.C. have become too wide and time-consuming to be directed by volunteer-help alone. It therefore becomes necessary now to hire the paid services of a Director, who will devote his or her full time to supervising and coordinating the activities of the A.H.R.C."

It was pointed out that many of the executives of the A.H.R.C. have devoted so much of their personal time to running the organization that often their personal business interests suffered. One member, for example, has had to change jobs three times because he took so much time off during the business day to be present at meetings or to help conduct A.H.R.C. affairs.

Although applications are being considered for the position of Director from every available source, it is also thought that one of the present A.H.R.C. executives may be drafted for the job. He would be obliged to devote his full working day to the A.H.R.C., it was explained, and would therefore necessarily be paid a salary as a means of livelihood.

A further announcement on this matter may be forthcoming shortly, OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE was told.

FLASH: As we go to press, we learn that the Board of Directors has been successful in prevailing upon Mr. Joseph T. Weingold to become full time Executive Director.

**TICKETS FOR LEADING COLLEGE ALL-STARS BASKETBALL GAME ON MARCH 26th AT ST. NICHOLAS ARENA NOW AVAILABLE AT OUR OFFICE. PROCEEDS TO TO AHRC (THANKS TO ESTHER BAILA LEAGUE!)
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FORTHCOMING

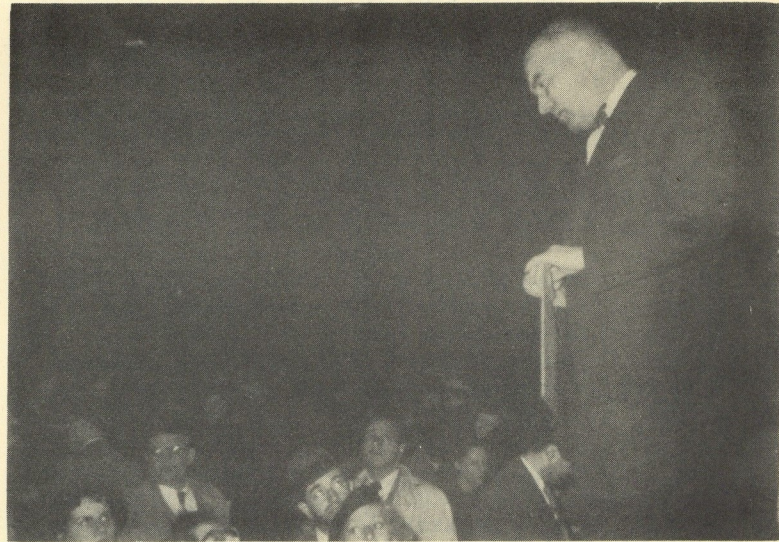
A very important announcement concerning the Brooklyn clinic sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund will be made in a future issue of OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE.

REMEMBER THE THEODORA LEAGUE LUNCHEON ON MARCH 18th, SATURDAY, 12 P.M. AT THE HOTEL RITZ CARLTON, MADISON AVE. & 46th STREET, NEW YORK CITY, PROCEEDS TO THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP OF RETARDED CHILDREN.

PICTURES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 10th AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL OF
NEEDLE TRADES



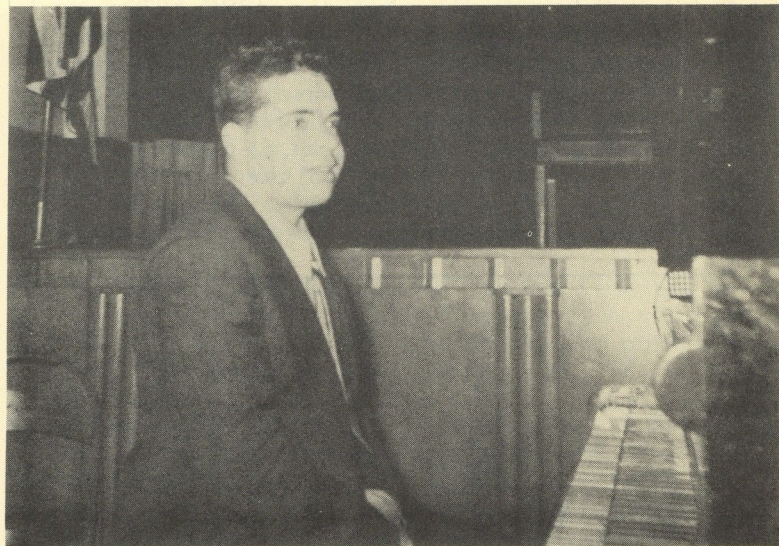
JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD PRESENTS CHECK TO NAT FEDER
ESTABLISHING FELLOWSHIPS AT NEW FLOWER HOSPITAL
CLINIC



RICHARD H. HUNGERFORD, GUEST SPEAKER ANSWERS
QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR



DISTINGUISHED GUESTS CONVERSE ON PLATFORM:
l. to r.) CHRIS DEPROSPO, RICHARD H. HUNGERFORD,
PROF. LOUIS E. ROSENZWEIG.



HERBERT TELLER, SON OF MR. & MRS. JOSEPH TELLER,
RECEIVES OVATION AFTER PIANO RECITAL.

YOU ARE URGED TO SEND IN THOSE QUESTIONNAIRES!

Questionnaires were recently issued to A.H.R.C. parents in connection with the new CRMD pre-kindergarten classes to be started by the Bd. of Education. These classes will be for children over 4 but under 6 by September, 1950. They are, of course, free of charge.

If you have not received a questionnaire, or have misplaced the one sent to you, you are urged to request another one without delay. Fill it out and send it in to the A.H.R.C., 1133 Broadway, New York 10, N.Y.

URGENT—HIGH CHAIRS NEEDED FOR THE TOTS AT WILLOWBROOK STATE SCHOOL FOR RETARDED

The Parents of children at Willowbrook, Staten Island, who have recently become incorporated into an organization have issued an "S-O-S" and the appeal is herein passed on to A.H.R.C. members. They are in need of high chairs in *any usable condition*.

This was brought out at a recent meeting between the two executive groups. If you have a high chair to offer, send a postcard to Institutions Committee, A.H.R.C., 1133 Broadway, New York 10, N.Y. You will make some little retarded child at Willowbrook very happy if you do.

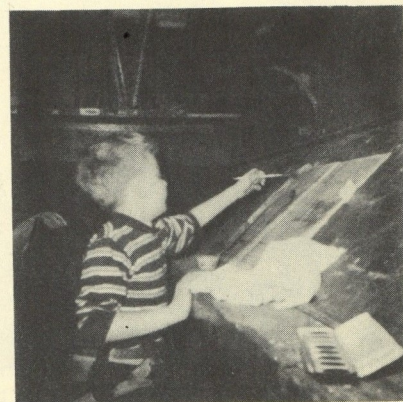
NOTICE

During the last public meeting of the A.H.R.C., posters of the AHRC ARTS-CRAFTS PLAY THERAPY CLASS were inadvertently removed. Inasmuch as these were hand-made posters, from which it was intended to reproduce a sufficient quantity for general distribution, it is important that they be returned to the A.H.R.C. offices. Please mark them for the attention of Carl Rappaport, Membership Chairman.

A CORRECTION

In our last issue, we published a letter from Lottie Cole. Through a typographical error, her address was incorrectly given. The proper address is: 1972-60th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

CANDID CAMERA SHOTS OF AHRC-BRONX HOUSE ARTS-CRAFTS PLAY THERAPY CLASS





(WITH THE MAY 20th DINNER)

BOROUGH COMMITTEES FORMED FOR MAY 20th DINNER

Committees have been organized on an intra-borough basis to advance the sale of tickets, raffle books and ads for the Souvenir Journal in connection with the First Annual Dinner of the A.H.R.C., it was announced by Jack Max, Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee. Each committee will operate within its own particular borough; and sub-committees have been formed which will concentrate upon particular districts. A number of the district-captains have already held meetings at their homes with their district-committee members, and procedures to be followed have been set up.

Mr. Max paid tribute to the efforts of these committee heads and members. "These men and women", he said, "are setting a splendid example for all the parents to follow. They are giving up their evenings and weekends—all their spare hours—and even snatching time from their daily household and family duties, to help make this affair the financial success it must be. Deepest thanks to all these wonderful, devoted people."

The borough committees are composed of the following:

BRONX: Coordinator: Mrs. Shirley Hulnick
Chairman: Mr. Irving Krakoff
Secretary: Mrs. Ann Greenberg

Members: Mrs. Evelyn Stitch, Mr. & Mrs. Irving Shiller, Mr. Sy Chicquor, Mrs. Evelyn Leckart, Mr. Carl Rappaport, Mrs. Ida Hausner, Mrs. Rose Krakoff, Mr. & Mrs. Lenny Finkel, Mrs. Rebecca Noble, Mrs. Jean Sadovnick, Mr. Seymour Bolts, Mr. Lester Glasser, Mrs. Gloria Herman, Mr. Nat Feder, Mrs. Margaret Rosenberg, Mrs. Sylvia Schachtman, Mrs. Schwartzman, Mrs. Blum and Mrs. Glaston.

BROOKLYN: Coordinator: Mrs. Rose Nussbaum
Chairman: Mrs. Freda Kleinberg
Co-Chairmen: Mr. & Mrs. Leo Jacobs
Mrs. Billie Shaifer

Members: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bakshy, Mrs. Ila Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Droutman, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Jason, Mr. & Mrs. Lou Yonofsky, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Pearlstein, Mr. & Mrs. M. Lewis, Mrs. Sylvia Landsberg, Mrs. Pauline Lachman, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Fliegel, Mr. & Mrs. Smolens, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Bilker, Mrs. Lillie Malmud, Mrs. Minnie Bober, Mrs. Rose Goodman, Mrs. Philip Imberman, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Max, Mrs. H. King, Mr. & Mrs. Linden, Mrs. Ruth Seinfeld, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Sternstein, Dr. Frederick Kleinberg, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Grossman, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Polono, Mrs. Wabnick.

MANHATTAN: Coordinator: Mrs. Dora Banner

Chairman: Dr. M. H. Hecht

Members: Mr. & Mrs. B. Tilem, Mrs. Mary Tarches, Mr. & Mrs. G. Kaplan, Mr. & Mrs. H. Coburn, Mrs. J. Kantrowitz, Mrs. M. Breimer, Mrs. M. C. deAnze Matienzo, Mr. A. Russetto.

QUEENS: Coordinator: Mrs. Evelyn Shulman

Co-Chairmen: Mr. M. L. Kallor

Mrs. Ethel Benson

Members: Mrs. George Dernell, Mr. John Firestone, Mrs. Goralnick, Mrs. Margot Gutman, Mr. Maxwell Herman, Mrs. Wini James, Mrs. Theresa LaVingi, Mrs. J. Lima, Mrs. Lichtenstein, Mr. & Mrs. Lippman, Mrs. L. Ravitch, Mrs. Margaret Riva, Mrs. Margaret Serge, Mrs. A. Schmitt, Mrs. Schulkin, Mrs. Wattstein.

MEMBERS WORK HARD TO MAKE FIRST ANNUAL DINNER A SUCCESS

The Fund-Raising Committee reports that a number of the members of the A.H.R.C. have already been conspicuously successful in sending in substantial amounts of money both for raffle-books and Souvenir Journal ads for the May 20th dinner at the Hotel Astor. Among those outstanding in their efforts to date have been: Henry Bilker, Ed Fliegel, Dr. & Mrs. Frederick Kleinberg, Mr. & Mrs. Pearlstein, Mr. & Mrs. Lou Yonofsky, all of Brooklyn, and Sol & Shirley Hulnick, Evelyn & Sol Stitch, Mrs. Evelyn Leckart, and Mrs. Rebecca Noble, all of whom have been responsible for sizeable sums from the Bronx.

In Queens, Mr. Maxwell Kallor has supplemented his valuable work as Borough Co-Chairman with a number of large journal ads which he personally obtained. Also, Mrs. Evelyn Shulman, Coordinator.

In Manhattan, Mr. & Mrs. G. Kaplan, Mr. & Mrs. A. Tarches, and Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Weingold have done remarkable work. And particularly gratifying have been the efforts in this borough of a member who - unlike most of the above - has not been an active member of committees; but who, nevertheless, has quietly and steadily been sending in a constant stream of Souvenir Journal ads, both large and small. This member, Bert Loewer, has, in the words of Manhattan Coordinator Dora Banner, "set a fine example for the many members, who, while they may not have time for committee work, should - and will, I hope - pitch in and work among their friends and acquaintances by selling raffle tickets and journal ads".

IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

The following letter addressed to our President is reprinted here because we believe it may strike a responsive note in the hearts of many of our members.

Dear Sir:

My husband and I attended the meeting last Friday at the High School of Needle Trades. I intend no reflection upon the fine speech of Mr. Hungerford, and the touchingly beautiful musical renditions of Herbert Teller, when I say that for us the most wonderful portion of the program was the announcement (I believe by Mr. Feder) of the opening of the new clinic at Flower Hospital. I know many of the other parents present, who have gone through the sickening experience of shuttling from one expensive doctor to another, shared our sentiments; which were "God bless the men who have brought this about".

On our ride home after the meeting, however, and as we discussed this subject, I was struck by a disquieting thought. I could not help realizing that - quite apparently - this great piece of work had been accomplished by a group of parents just like myself, whose name I do not know; but I do know this; neither my husband nor I had had any part of it. And I realized that, in the six months since we had joined the organization, we had made no real attempt, other than to pay our dues, and attend meetings, to do anything to achieve all the things we hope for. To sum up, I felt that we were letting others, whose stake is no lesser but certainly no greater than ours, do it all; and we were sitting back, waiting to reap the benefits of their work.

In fairness to ourselves, I must say that I do have three children and a home to look after, and my husband's work is one of irregular hours and great strain. But I also realize that many of the men and women who are responsible for what has so far been accomplished may have similar problems. And I reminded myself that I had not up to that evening even made an attempt to sell the two raffle-books for the Annual Dinner which you sent me. To be quite frank, I had thought of doing so; but I shrank from the necessity of having to explain about my child to any neighbors or local tradespeople I approached. (Up to now, we have, with a few exceptions, managed to keep from revealing to most people that he is retarded.)

I enclose with this letter the stubs of those two books, together with the \$25 I have since collected for them. Please send me two more books. I also received today the ad blanks for the Souvenir Journal. I promise you that I will send these in, filled in, very soon; and I hope to be able to fill in a number of additional ones. My husband is sharing in this; he sold most of the raffle tickets in one book to his co-workers at his shop.

I think, when our turn comes to take our son to the clinic, we will feel a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that, while we may not have done anything to bring that particular one into existence, we shall have some small part in the next one, and in bringing about all the other things for our children that we pray for. From now on, we are going to try to carry our share of the load.

Sincerely yours,
(Name withheld upon request)

RICHARD HUNGERFORD AND CHARLES ATZBACH ADDRESS AHRC GENERAL MEETING AT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL OF NEEDLE TRADES. HERBERT TELLER OF LETCHWORTH, GIVES PIANO RECITAL

Mr. Richard H. Hungerford, Director of the CRMD and an Advisor of the A.H.R.C. was the principal speaker at the last meeting of the A.H.R.C. on February 10th, at the Central High School of Needle Trades. Mr. Hungerford defined the mentally retarded, and generally covered the 10 points of his "Minimums of a State Program for the Mentally Retarded". These will be presented in detail in a future issue of OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE.

Charles Atzbach, Director of the new Arts-Crafts Class for the retarded now in operation at the Bronx House, described that project in his brief address.

Young Herbert Teller, son of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Teller, gave a piano recital of classical and popular selections ranging from Tschaikowsky to Boogie-Woogie. Herbert, who was on leave from Letchworth Village is a self-taught pianist, and his playing was warmly received by the audience.

RIGHT REVEREND MONSIGNOR MIDDLETON JOINS AHRC BOARD OF SPONSORS

Right Reverend Monsignor John S. Middleton, Secretary to His Eminence Cardinal Spellman for Education, has agreed to act as a sponsor of the A.H.R.C., it was announced by officers of the Association.

In his letter of acceptance, Monsignor Middleton commended the A.H.R.C.'s cause, and bestowed his blessing.

CHAPTER REPORTS

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER:

A series of classes for mothers has been inaugurated by the Education Committee under the direction of Mrs. William E. Weaver, Chairman, and conducted by Mrs. Karlene Kent Steele, of Chappaqua, psychologist, educator, writer and lecturer, on children's problems. The meetings, held in the Knights of Columbus Club in Mt. Vernon, are conducted every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 to 2:30. The first series, dealing in problems of children in the three to eight year age group is drawing parents from the southeastern section of the county. As the series progress, other age groups will be considered.

Similar series will be arranged for other sections of the county as the program expands. Subsequent meetings in the series will be conducted by Mrs. Cathinka Russell and Mrs. Ann Sutherland, both of Scarsdale. Enthusiastic response to the first two meetings has encouraged the committee to speed their plans to cover the entire county. The mothers have expressed themselves as learning a great deal about the handling of their problems, through their attendance at the meetings.

At the last regular meeting on January 23rd, the session was devoted to a forum by members who openly discussed their experiences. Mr. Weingold, President of the Parent Organization, spoke on the aims and accomplishments of the organization and discussed plans for future endeavors. Mr. Banner of the New York Budget Committee spoke on the forthcoming dinner and program, and outlined the methods that had been devised to raise funds as part of the social function.

The Executive Committee reported on the meeting held with Dr. William A. Holla, Westchester County Commissioner of Health, in which the Chapter was assured of Dr. Holla's complete cooperation. Dr. Holla had many worth while suggestions to offer on how to cope with some of our problems and accepted an invitation to speak to our group at one of our future meetings.

The next meeting of the Chapter will be held on February 27th at the Central Y.M.C.A. in White Plains.

NOTICE: A joint meeting of the A.H.R.C. and the Mental Hygiene Association will be held as part of "Mental Health Week" activities. Mr. Hungerford will be the speaker. Place: ROCHAMBEAU SCHOOL, White Plains. Time: 8:30 P.M. April 28th. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER:

The regular meeting of the Long Island Chapter was held in the auditorium of the Morris Avenue School, Rockville Centre, Long Island, on Monday evening, February 20th, at 8:30 with our Chairman, Margarette Reiss presiding.

Henceforth all regular meetings of this chapter are scheduled for the third Monday of each month. The

March and May meetings will be held in the Welfare Building in Bayshore, and the April and June meetings in the auditorium of the Morris Avenue School, in Rockville Centre.

Program Director James McConnell welcomed the new members and then proceeded to explain that membership was imperative in that it provided us with our chief means of ascertaining the names and addresses of the retarded children on Long Island - a must with school boards.

Mrs. McConnell is our Membership Chairman, and both she and Mr. McConnell together with Mrs. Bastian, have embarked on a concentrated membership drive.

Mr. E. Dye, Chairman of the School Committee said that he had already mapped out his preliminary program but that it was too early to make any comprehensive report.

Mrs. Reiss announced that the next speaker on the Adult Educational Program in Westbury would be Charles D. Becker, Associate Education Supervisor, State Department of Education in Albany.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS PROGRESS. PARENT-EDUCATION COURSES START.

The Education Committee of the A.H.R.C. reports considerable progress in setting up and effectuating a program for 1950.

The Committee has succeeded in establishing a course in parent-education, to consist of a series of lectures by professionals in the field of education for the mentally retarded. The course consists of 10 lectures. Brooklyn parents meet at the Central YWCA every Thursday night. Manhattan, Bronx and Queens parents are now meeting at our office every Tuesday night.

The first two sessions have already been held. They were conducted by Mr. Hungerford, and were warmly received by the parents. Mr. Hirsch, Chairman of the Education Committee stated that without the cooperation of Mr. Hungerford who arranged the topics and obtained the speakers, it would not have been possible to start these lectures.

Other functions of the Educational Committee will include preparation of complete files on all private schools; setting up of a library of literature pertinent to the subject of mental retardation; distribution of leaflets and other material to parents; advising parents on home-education and play methods; and acting as a clearing-house for questions from parents.

Mr. George Hirsch is Chairman of the Committee with Mrs. Etta Levine acting as secretary. Other members include Mrs. Weinman, Mr. & Mrs. Jervis, Mrs. Ruth Bennett, Mrs. Calisher, Mr. Woodhull Hay, Mr. George McGauley, Miss Rose Bianca, Mrs. Ida Shaffer, and Margot Gutman.

EDITORIAL

Some Thoughts...

FOR THE PROFESSIONALS TO PONDER

Among the chief reasons for the continuing growth and success of the A.H.R.C.; we must never lose sight of the invaluable counsel and guidance of the professional men in the field of mental deficiency. Men like Richard Hungerford, Dr. Lloyd N. Yepsen, Dr. Clemens E. Benda (our advisors) — and others in the fields of Education, Psychology, Medicine, Social Work, etc. They have given freely of their store of wisdom and experience that we might be guided along the proper paths. And as our organization and its responsibilities continue to grow, we look to them with ever-increasing respect and attentiveness.

They have taught us much this past year. They have taught us how to temper enthusiasm with patience, sentiment with reason, conviction with fact. They have taught us that while Hypothesis can excite great hope, in the final analysis, Truth is the divine law of Science...that without it, everything — even our love of our children, is devoid of meaning and purpose.

Now, it cannot be emphasized too strongly that we parents know and respect the boundaries which separate professional and lay functions. On the other hand, there are zones where these functions must necessarily be more closely related than is presently imagined. For instance, when Dr. Humphreys recently issued his inspiring call for a world research center at Letchworth Village and a foundation devoted to mental deficiency, he named as a needed sum the round figure of ten million dollars. This is an enormous goal, but it can be achieved...with the help of parent organizations for retarded children. Such organizations are springing into being throughout the United States. Word of them comes streaming into the A.H.R.C. office every day from Illinois...Wisconsin...California...Texas...from states the nation over! With this great and growing force behind them, enormous and heretofore undreamed of projects can and will be undertaken for the help of the retarded. But in these and other undertakings, the professional minds must make accurate evaluations of our motives and methods, our position.

For example, by the very nature of our efforts, we are sometimes brought into intimate contact with the newest and most experimental steps in the treatment and amelioration of the conditions arising from mental deficiency. And when we are, we invariably encounter considerable doubt and trepidation on the part of some professional people. This is, of course, understandable. A parent of a retarded child can be an extremely biased individual, to say the least...one inclined to let his heart rule instead of his intellect in matters relating to his retarded child. But the fact is (and this is the main point of my brief) that the leaders of the A.H.R.C. have been chosen and appointed very carefully on the basis of certain specific intellectual qualities and modes of conduct to which they are solemnly dedicated. Paramount among these is the

resolution to be always objective, to place the welfare of children forever above the welfare of the child. For it is the very subjective (and even selfish) realization of every one of us in the A.H.R.C., that only by following this course can we do the maximum good for each individual child.

There is something to be said, also for the attitudes of the rank and file of the A.H.R.C. That they breathlessly herald each new panacea for retarded children (made known to them by the popular press and magazines) goes without saying. But I sometimes feel that professional attitudes of anxiety towards such enthusiasm is not entirely warranted.

Glutamic Acid is a case in point. It was considered by some, an unfortunate thing when Glutamic "therapy" was zealously embraced by parents on such a wide scale. But has any great harm come of it? If anything, the Medical field was provided with a quick evaluation of its merits and shortcomings. And what about the parents? Were they insufferably crushed with disappointment? I have spoken to innumerable parents and have been told the same thing over and over again: "We would rather have ten disappointments, ten unsuccessful experiments every month which showed that Science is trying, than to have ten calm years in which nothing — nothing whatever was tried...nothing whatever happened".

And now (once again due to the popular journals) the McKhann-Beck Revascularization procedure has captured the interest of many parents. In fact, it is worth mentioning that one member of a parent's organization, Mr. Morris Kleinman of the Welfare League, contributed importantly toward stimulating professional interest here in New York State in this newest experiment. Moreover, it is no secret that at least two of our own parent-members have had the courage and determination to submit their own children to a qualified surgeon, recommended by the Western Reserve Medical School authorities for the Revascularization procedure. Shall we characterize that gesture on their part as wild and irresponsible lay enthusiasm? I think not. For, success or failure, theirs has been a vital contribution to all professional persons everywhere, concerned with mental deficiency.

Let it be understood that the average parent knows (or is soon made to know in A.H.R.C. parent-education courses) that there is no known or proven cure for mental retardation, and that possibly there may never be one. He also knows and cares about the scientific possibilities of preventing millions of future cases of mental deficiency. And finally, he knows and feels that so long as Science continues to probe, to question, to test, to explore, then all is being done that should be done. He does not garner false hopes from this for his child, but what is even more important, he does cherish high hopes for Science, which in the end facilitates his adjustments to his problem, to society, to himself.

All questions and contributions for this newspaper should be addressed to OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE, Association for the Help of Retarded Children, Inc. 1133 Broadway, N.Y. 10 N.Y.

Eugene Gramm, Editor

David Weiss, Co-Editor