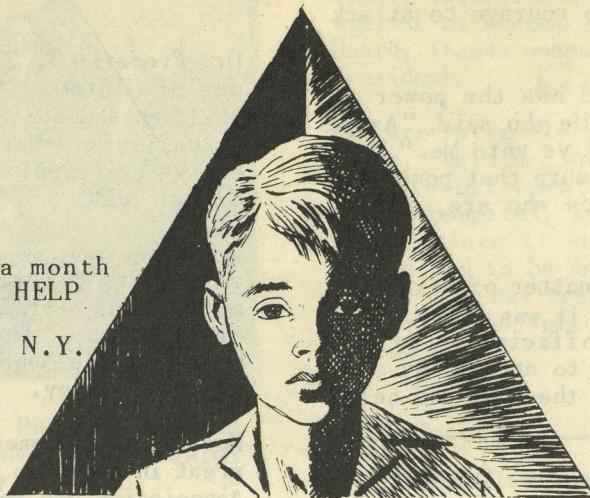


OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE

Issued approximately once a month
by the ASSOCIATION FOR THE HELP
OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.
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Volume 2, Issue #2
April, 1950
President,
Nathan Feder

Executive Director,
Joseph T. Weingold

Retarded Children Can Be Helped!

LATE BULLETIN:

S P E E C H C L I N I C E N D O W E D ! LENA INVALID AID SOCIETY TO SPONSOR.

As this issue of OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE was ready to go to press, announcement was made by AHRC President Nathan Feder that the Lena Invalid Aid Society, Manhattan philanthropic group, had agreed to donate \$6,000 a year for the establishment of a speech clinic for mentally retarded children.

The importance of speech therapy for mentally handicapped children has long been recognized. One authority in this field recently stated "We have noticed that speech therapy gives the child more than just language and speech. In training for speech, we train higher centers of learning, and thereby stimulate the child in multiple areas."

While detailed information is not yet available, it is understood that the speech clinic may possibly be

(Cont'd on page 2)

WHY WE FIGHT

(An Editorial)

On April 6th, State Senator Mario M. DeOptatis of Brooklyn delivered a wantonly cruel attack upon our children.

On that date, the Brooklyn Eagle published a full-column article concerning a letter written by Senator DeOptatis to Governor Dewey. His letter had to do with the question of extending the lease of Halloran Hospital, rather than turning back the facilities to the Willowbrook State School for Mentally Retarded Children. (See story on P. 4)

In voicing his opposition to the latter, the Senator — as quoted by the Brooklyn Eagle — characterized mentally retarded children in these cynically inhuman words: "CHILDREN WHO ARE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DEAD".

"PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DEAD"... These are the little ones whom some of the ambulatory wounded veterans at Halloran — for whom Senator DeOptatis professed to speak — have visited on the adjoining grounds at Willowbrook; for whom they have bought toys and candy; whom they have loved and taken to their hearts. For they have recognized these children as being as grievously wounded as they are themselves. Instead of an enemy bullet, it has been a cruel accident of nature which has hurt them; but they are equally alive, equally in need of sympathetic understanding and love. These veterans, we are sure, would be the first to reject the Senator's arrogant condemning of these children — in their name — to the scrap-heap.

Many of these men fought in Europe. They fought against an enemy whose pagan philosophy included consigning to the furnace-flame the physically and mentally handicapped, as being of no use to their master-state. Does Senator DeOptatis consider these

(Continued on page 2)

Plans for the establishment of the Brooklyn clinic for retarded children are rapidly taking shape, according to an AHRC spokesman. Negotiations are under way for affiliation with a hospital in that borough, and a detailed announcement is expected in the near future.

It was also announced that the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund, sponsors of the clinic, have extended their grant to a three year period. This action, it was pointed out, will permit planning on a basis of permanence which will enhance immeasurably the broadness and comprehensiveness of the entire program.

EDITORIAL
(Cont'd from page 1)

children similarly expendable? For of course, they can cast no votes. It requires no courage to attack them.

Most of us believe that only God has the power to confer life or take it away. Only He who said, "As ye do unto the least of these, so do ye unto Me." Does Senator DeOptatis stand ready to usurp that power; to proclaim "dead" these little ones who are, politically, "the least of these"?

The issue is far larger than the matter of returning Halloran to the children for whom it was built. It is a question of whether a public official — or any individual — has the moral right to attack, by such viciously false characterization, the weak and helpless.

Possibly this Association owes Senator DeOptatis a vote of thanks. For unwittingly, he has pointed up to us a vital function — perhaps the "reason for being" — of this organization. He has made crystal clear to us why we can never afford to relax our efforts; whether it be that of an individual member to sell one more raffle-ticket, or an attempt by the Association to launch some huge project.

Some day, it may be, we will have achieved all the physical facilities — the schools, clinics, sheltered workshops, institutions, and all the rest — that our children so desperately need.

But always, the need will exist for organized vigilance against those who would, for selfish reasons, traduce and betray "the least of these."

D.W.

SPEECH CLINIC

(Cont'd from page 1)

established as an adjunct to the Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital clinic recently opened.

"Another big step forward" said Mr. Feder, "has been taken by the AHRC in its program for total training of the mentally retarded child. And once more, that step has been made possible by a great-hearted group of women whose humanitarian spirit is matched by their enlightened approach to a problem so little understood by society through the ages. I wish I could adequately express to Mrs. Lillian Segall, President of the Lena Invalid Aid Society, and to all that wonderful group, how deeply grateful we are. So long as there are women and groups like theirs, we need never feel that we are fighting alone. By taking our children — and our cause — to their hearts, they have given us renewed hope and determination."

A full report on the contemplated organization and functioning of the new clinic will be carried in future issues of **OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE**.

**DR. ZIMMERMAN, GLUTAMIC ACID PIONEER,
TO ADDRESS NEXT PUBLIC MEETING OF AHRC
ON MAY 5TH**

Dr. Frederic T. Zimmerman, who has pioneered in the use of Glutamic Acid therapy on mentally retarded children and adolescents, and who is a distinguished authority in the field of mental retardation, will be the principal speaker at the next public meeting of the AHRC.

Dr. Zimmerman is research associate at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Department of Neurology. He is also assistant attending neurologist of the Neurological Institute's Department of Child Neurology, and a Diplomate in neurology and psychology.

Because Dr. Zimmerman's views are expected to be of great interest to both parents and professionals, the Association has reserved the auditorium of Stuyvesant High School in anticipation of a large attendance.

The meeting will be held Friday evening, May 5th, at 8 P.M.

Stuyvesant High School is located on 15th Street, between First and Second Avenues, in Manhattan.

PARENTS OF CHILDREN FROM 4 TO 6:

If you have not yet sent in your questionnaire, do so immediately. The survey of these children for possible public-school classes is still continuing.

**ESTHER BAILA LEAGUE MAKES
DONATION TO AHRC**

The Esther Baila League, Bronx women's philanthropic group, has donated \$500 to the AHRC, it was learned from officers of the Association. This sum represents part of the proceeds of an All-Star basketball game recently staged by the League.

In making the announcement, the Association said, "To Mrs. Yvette Greisman, President of the Esther Baila League, and to all its members, go the heartfelt thanks of every parent. Not alone for their financial aid — which we greatly need — but for the incalculable effect of their moral support."

Mrs. Greisman, on behalf of the League, declared that this donation represented only one step in what she hoped would be a continuing program of aid to the AHRC's fight for "the forgotten children."



AHRC OFFICIALS MEET WITH BORO. PRES. LYONS AND PROMINENT BRONXITES TO PLAN BOROUGH WIDE CAMPAIGN FOR ASSOCIATION

(l. to r.) Nathan Feder, Dep. Comm'r Albert M. Leavitt, Walter Holmes, Boro. Pres. James J. Lyons, Lawrence E. Gerosa, Thos. P. Lynch, Thos. V. Tozzi, Jos. F. Callo, Comm'r Anthony Masciarelli, Mrs. Adelaide D. Viggiano, John W. Neary

BOROUGH MEETINGS SPUR DRIVE FOR MAY 20th DINNER

Several meetings have been held in recent weeks in various New York City boroughs. These meetings have had a two-fold purpose: to bring into more intimate contact the AHRC members with their borough-neighbors; and to intensify the efforts being made in connection with the forthcoming First Annual Dinner of the Association on May 20th.

Speakers at the meetings included AHRC President Nat Feder, Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold, and Fund-Raising Chairman Jack Max. Members were advised of plans for various projects which it is hoped will be effectuated in the near future, and urged to redouble their efforts in selling raffle-books and Journal-ads for the Dinner, so that funds needed for the continued functioning at maximum level of the AHRC could be raised.

Refreshments were served, and a number of prizes donated by members were raffled off, with proceeds going toward the respective boroughs' Dinner Fund.

The Bronx meeting, held April 11th, at the Rivoli Plaza, was under the direction of Bronx Coordinator Shirley Hulnick.

In Manhattan, Dora Banner, Coordinator for that borough, held a meeting on April 13th, at the Westover Hotel.

A meeting for Brooklyn members was arranged for Sunday evening, April 23rd, at the Tropic Isle, by Brooklyn Co-ordinator Rose Nussbaum.

All of the Borough-Coordinators expressed deep appreciation to their committee members for their tireless efforts in planning and preparing for these meetings.

DR. SLOBODY JOINS BOARD OF ADVISORS

Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody, Director of Pediatrics at Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital, and Director of the recently established clinic for mentally retarded, has agreed to become a member of the AHRC's Advisory Board, it was announced by Nathan Feder, Association president.

"We are extremely gratified at Dr. Slobody's acceptance," said Mr. Feder. "The great part he played in the establishment of the clinic at Flower-Fifth Avenue Hospital, and his devoted efforts as its Director since it went into operation, have already proved him to be an invaluable friend of our cause. Add to this his recognized professional eminence, and we are indeed fortunate in having him as one of our Advisors."

BISHOP GILBERT BECOMES AHRC SPONSOR

The Rt. Rev. Charles K. Gilbert, S.T.D., Bishop of New York, Protestant Episcopal has agreed to join the Board of Sponsors of the AHRC, it was announced by Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold.

Bishop Gilbert thus joins the growing list of religious leaders of all faiths who are lending their support and encouragement to the Association's efforts on behalf of the mentally handicapped, "regardless of race, color, creed or age."

BORO. PRES. CASHMORE PLEDGES AID TO AHRC

On Monday April 3rd, Brooklyn Boro. Pres. John Cashmore met at his offices with AHRC President Nathan Feder, and Congresswoman Edna Kelly, who is an AHRC sponsor, to explore the methods by which he could actively participate in the Association's efforts. Also present was Deputy Commissioner Albert M. Leavitt, City Coordinator for the Association.

Mr. Feder, Congresswoman Kelly and Mr. Leavitt explained briefly the background and objectives of the AHRC, and the problems involved. President Cashmore expressed great sympathy and interest, and promised his vigorous support of any activities undertaken in Brooklyn. He immediately agreed to act as Honorary Chairman of the Brooklyn Sponsors' Committee. He also volunteered to call a special meeting in the near future, at his office, of prominent citizens in Brooklyn who could contribute materially to advancing the AHRC's program.

Further developments will be reported in future editions of **OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE**.

GOV. DEWEY WEIGHS NEEDS OF RETARDED. WILLOWBROOK PLANS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Despite present plans to return Halloran Hospital to the State for the use of mentally retarded children, Governor Dewey may take action to maintain the facilities as a hospital for veterans, according to an article in the March 28th issue of the N.Y. Herald-Tribune.

Originally built as the Willowbrook State School for Mentally Retarded Children, the facilities were taken over by the War Department upon completion. Three-fifths of the facilities were leased to the Veterans Administration in 1947, with the understanding that it was to be for short-term occupancy.

Veterans' spokesmen have protested to Governor Dewey the June 30th termination of the lease. However, according to the Herald-Tribune, "State officials take the position that the V.A. has other facilities in this area, which can care for the patients now at Halloran; in particular the 1000-bed Fort Hamilton Hospital in Brooklyn." Dr. Frederick MacCurdy, until recently State Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, pointed out that the state has in its charge 20,000 mentally deficient children, crowded into six institutions.

The AHRC, together with other organizations concerned with mentally retarded children and child welfare in general, is voicing opposition to any delay in returning the facilities to Willowbrook. At the last general meeting of the Association, on March 28th, Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold urged all members to write or wire to Governor Dewey. He pointed out that, while other facilities are available to the veterans, and additional ones are under construction, no others exist at all for mentally retarded children, and none are in immediate prospect.

"The badly crowded institutions," he declared, "constitute a serious obstacle to the proper care and training of the children now occupying them; and act to deter many parents from applying for institutionalization of children now at home. In a great number of such cases circumstances are such that the health and welfare of both child and parents is seriously menaced as a result."

He concluded by saying that, while members of the AHRC — many of whom are veterans — are sympathetic to the needs of the veterans, a clear-cut issue of the greater need was involved in this instance.

Among other organizations which have voiced their opposition to extending the Halloran lease is the Welfare League for Retarded Children, composed of parents whose children are in Letchworth State School for the Mentally Retarded.

As we go to press, we learn that Governor Dewey has decided to permit the V.A. to continue using approximately half of the facilities it now occupies until December 31, 1952.

AHRC RECEIVES NATION-WIDE PUBLICITY

Mail Pours In From Entire Country

The widespread publicity which the AHRC has been receiving from a variety of sources, including articles in national magazines, has resulted in recent weeks in an amazing flood of mail, which has virtually swamped the Association's offices. A considerable portion of this has been inspired by an article in the April issue of "Better Homes and Gardens" entitled "Not Quite Bright" by Judith Crist. Miss Crist's article deals with the problems faced by parents of mentally handicapped children, and spotlights the work of parents' organizations in coping with them, with conspicuous mention of the AHRC. As a result, parents from almost every state have written to ask for aid in solving their individual problems, and for guidance in forming parent groups where none now exist. The Association is making every effort to answer all these letters as quickly as possible, and to provide such help and advice as it can.

A sampling of just two days' mail included letters from the following places: Terra Alta, W. Va.; Orlando Fla.; Chicago, Ill.; Sheridan, Ind.; Bartlesville, Okla.; Toronto, Canada; Mulvane, Kansas; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Bridgeport, Conn.; Sanford, Me.; Old Lyme, Conn.; Yuba City, Cal.; St. Joseph, Mo.; Hyannis, Mass.; Minden, La.; Oshkosh, Wis.; Galesburg, Ill.; Yeoman, Ind.; Saginaw, Mich.; Charleston, W. Va.; Colton, Cal.; San Antonio, Texas; Salisbury, N.Y.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Morgantown, W. Va.; Youngstown, O.; Williamsville, N.Y.; So. Norwalk, Conn., Salem, Oregon; Cleveland, Ohio; Elberon, N.J.

Many of the inquiries were from educational directors, university libraries, social welfare agencies, psychologists and other professional persons.

AHRC SPEAKER ADDRESSES COOPERATIVE COUNCIL

Mrs. Dora Banner, Manhattan Coordinator of the AHRC's Fund-Raising Committee, was a guest speaker at the March meeting of the Cooperative Council of Jewish Welfare Organizations. The Council is composed of about forty affiliated philanthropic groups, whose activities encompass a variety of community welfare projects.

Mrs. Banner gave a resume of the grave problems faced by parents of mentally retarded children, and explained the AHRC's long-range program for the amelioration of these conditions. Her address was warmly received by the attending membership.

Afterwards, Mrs. Banner expressed her deep appreciation for the sympathetic understanding and cooperation of Miss Dolly Lyons, Executive-Secretary of the Council, at whose invitation she appeared before the meeting.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I am grateful to the Members of the Board of Directors who saw fit to elect me President. I am fully aware of the tremendous responsibilities of the office and pledge myself completely to the task ahead.

I approach the future with a feeling of great confidence, inspired by recent developments within our organization. We have to our credit the establishment of two clinics specifically set up for retarded children, one already in operation. Many other projects are either in a planning stage or close to actual accomplishment; all of which will bring us closer to our aim of helping retarded children of all age groups.

I am heartened, too, by the coming forward of interested professional people and public spirited citizens who have offered their help and are working with us. Among our new allies is our good friend, Deputy Commissioner of Markets Albert M. Leavitt, who is our New York City Co-ordinator, and who has taken our cause to his heart. Also Commissioner of Markets Anthony Masciarelli, whose sympathy and understanding is tremendously heartening. Mr. Richard H. Hungerford, Dr. Lloyd N. Yepsen and Dr. Lawrence B. Slobody are among the distinguished professionals who have proven to be a great source of confidence and encouragement by lending us their council and wisdom. Invaluable help has come from the leaders and members of various women's groups: Mrs. Helen Meyerson and the ladies of the Theodora League; Mrs. H. Rosen and the ladies of the Morris J. Solomon Sunshine Fund; Mrs. Betty Raden and the ladies of the Gertrude Vos Children's Fund; Mrs. Yvette Greisman and the ladies of the Esther Baila League; and many others who have offered a helping hand.

However, the great burden still lies with us, the parents. We need many more volunteers who can act on our various committees. I hope that many of you parents who have not yet done so will come forward and give of your time, your energy, and your talents. I can promise you great satisfaction in active participation in our Association's work.

Emerson said, "We should not let what we know be embarrassed by what we do not know." I would paraphrase that: We should not let what we have accomplished be embarrassed by what we have not accomplished. I know that with the cooperation and help of all the parents, the committee members, our Board of Directors and our new Executive Director; and above all with the help of the Almighty, we will continue to make progress toward our ultimate goals.



YOU NEED ONE OF THESE TO ATTEND THE MAY 20th DINNER!

OF THE
help OF RETARDED CHILDREN, INC.

TO BE HELD AT THE MAIN BALL ROOM

HOTEL ASTOR

BROADWAY AT 44th ST., N.Y.C.

SATURDAY EVENING

SEVEN
DINNER AT ~~THIRTY~~ THIRTY

DINNER CHECK
A.H.R.C.

Nathan Feder

Have you earned your tickets?
If not, get busy!
Sell those raffle-books and
Journal Ads!

Remember, you can't afford to
miss the First Annual Dinner!

SUBSCRIPTION \$12.50

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

(Editor's note: The following are excerpts from recent letters which attest to the wide-spread effectiveness of this Association's work in its brief period of existence. They are reprinted here because we believe our members will be heartened to know that our efforts are not going unnoticed.)

From a new member:

"I wish I had an adequate flow of words to tell you what the AHRC has done for me...I feel like a convert who...sees his salvation...I see for us peace of mind...wonderful vistas of adjustment...I've been eating, sleeping and waking with the AHRC indelibly on my heart and mind...I've taken a pledge to always further the cause of this organization...my humblest thanks to the pioneers of my AHRC....Sincerely, Clara Siegel."

From other parent groups:

"Our heartiest congratulations on your continued, splendid progress. We rejoice with you in your success in acquiring your two clinics. Best wishes, Council for the Retarded Child of Hamilton County, Ohio."

"Congratulations to 'Our Children's Voice'. Each issue seems to surpass the preceding, and my heart just soars with pride and gratitude for the wonderful job you are doing for 'all our children.' Your poem 'The Retarded Child' is a masterpiece. It was such an inspiration to me that I am writing for your permission to share it with all our members....though a continent separates our efforts, our devotion to the same ideal is a spiritual bond....Sincerely yours, Exceptional Children's Foundation, Los Angeles."

"I have a copy of "Our Children's Voice"....I am simply overwhelmed by your single years growth and accomplishments....your paper alone is amazing...your arousing of public interest to the amount of \$10,000 annually from a fund that is not normally concerned with the retarded child....Congratulations!...what prodigious public relations and awakening of social conscience this took!....we haven't begun to do in six years what you did in a matter of months...what (or who) is sparking your organization?....You people are terrific!

(From a member of a Massachusetts parents group)

PROGRESS REPORTED IN SOCIAL ACTIVITY PROGRAM FOR ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS

A plan to provide social activity for teen-agers and young adults, which was described in the January issue of OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE, has made considerable progress since that time, according to Mrs. Eveline Leckart, AHRC member who presented the idea.

Mrs. Leckart states that she has succeeded in helping about a dozen youngsters to find companionship with one or more of the participants in the program. Activities have included home "get-togethers" and attendance at various forms of public entertainment. With the approach of summer, it is hoped to arrange beach parties and other outings on a group basis.

"For many of these boys and girls," said Mrs. Leckart, "this has been the first time in their entire lives that they have known what it is to have a friend; not to be lonesome and alone. I hope that this program will be expanded to include more and more of these young folk."

Parents whose children fall into the age groups mentioned, and who are interested in having them join in these activities, can get in touch with Mrs. Leckart at 1165 Longfellow Ave., Bronx, N.Y. Her telephone number is D'Ayton 8-4564.

IMPORTANT!

PARENTS OF CHILDREN FROM 16 to 21:

If you think your child is capable of vocational training, and you are interested in a sheltered workshop for him:

Call Mr. Weingold, O'Regon 5-0686, to arrange for an appointment.

There is a possibility of starting a limited project in the near future. Don't delay; call O'Regon 5-0686.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES SCHEDULED FOR NATIONAL MAGAZINES

Following the trend established in recent months, a number of additional articles dealing with mental retardation are scheduled to appear in national publications according to a member of the AHRC's Publicity Committee.

While the exact dates of publication and the specific magazines could not at this time be divulged, it was stated that such information would be made available for forthcoming issues of "OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE."

CAN YOU HELP?

Your Association office needs volunteer help. If you can spare a morning or an afternoon now and then, please call the office and list your name. Help is especially needed in getting out our mailings, which are steadily increasing in volume.

TYPEWRITERS NEEDED!

We are in great need of typewriters for the AHRC office. If you can contribute one that is in good condition, please call: O'Regon 5-0686.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE REPORTS PROGRESS IN RADIO FIELD

Increasing publicity for the AHRC is being obtained in the field of radio, according to Eugene Gramm, Chairman of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee. Mr. Woodhull Hay, who has been largely concerned with this medium, has been successful in inducing a number of radio stations to include station-break announcements regarding the AHRC in their daily programs. At present, stations WOR, WINS, WEVD, and WWRL are broadcasting such announcements, and others are expected to follow in the near future. The effectiveness of these station-breaks is attested to by the fact that, every day, telephone calls are received at the AHRC offices from parents who have learned of the be enrolled as members.

Mr. Hay is also in the process of communicating and conferring with radio-station officials with a view toward arranging personal interview programs in which an AHRC member would participate. In addition, he is hopeful of persuading some of the network officials to consider the presentation of "documentary" programs dealing with the problem of mental retardation.

Other activities in the field of radio included a recent appearance by Executive Director Joseph T. Weingold on the John J. Anthony program over station WMGM. Mr. Anthony interviewed Mr. Weingold on the problems faced by a parent of a mentally retarded child, and the efforts being made by the AHRC to improve the lot of the mentally handicapped. This interview produced a sizeable telephone and mail response, and the enrollment of a number of new members resulted.

Efforts are also under way to initiate television publicity in the near future, Mr. Gramm declared.

CARD PARTY HELD BY BROOKLYN MEMBERS

On Saturday evening, March 25th, a card party was held at the Brooklyn home of AHRC member Alice Pearlstein. Arranged as part of the campaign now being conducted by the Brooklyn Fund-Raising Committee, the gathering was attended by about fifty persons. Both as a fund-raising endeavor, and as a social function, the affair was described as highly successful by attending members.

DINNER COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN TIME; INSTRUCTIONS FOR SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

The First Annual Dinner of the AHRC, to be held May 20th at the Hotel Astor, will begin at 7:30 P.M. instead of 8:30 as originally planned, according to Dinner Chairman Jack Max.

Mr. Max also asked that members who wish to be seated together with friends contact their Borough Co-ordinators, who will work with the Arrangements Committee in this regard. For the guidance of such members, a table will seat ten persons. Arranging among themselves to make up such groups of ten will facilitate satisfactory seating.

READERS' GUIDE

(A list of recent and soon-to-be published books and articles which deal with the problem of the mentally retarded)

OF GENERAL INTEREST

Books:

"The Handicapped Child- A Guide for Parents

By Edith Stern & Elsa Castendyck

Publisher: A. A. Wynn, Inc., N. Y. C.

Articles:

"Not Quite Bright" -By Judith Crist, "Better Homes & Gardens", Apr. 1950 issue

"If You Had A Child Like Ours" By Katherine Kincaid

"The Woman", June 1950 issue

FOR THE PROFESSIONAL READER

"Psychological Problems in Mental Deficiency"

By Seymour B. Sarason

Publisher: Harper Bros., N. Y. C.

"Modern Practice in Psychiatric Medicine"

J. R. Ries, M.D., Editor

Publisher: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., N. Y. C.

CO-OPERATIVE FARM

Several AHRC parents are contemplating the cooperative purchase of a farm. If you are interested, contact:

A. Weiss, 1428 - 23 St., Bklyn, N.Y.

A. Haimowitz, 3031 Brighton 14th St., Bklyn, N.Y.

Mrs. Mollie Fox, 1420 Noble Ave., Bronx, N.Y.

Mrs. F. Kleinberg, 6414 Bay Pkwy, Bklyn, N.Y.

NOTE:

The illness of Eugene Gramm, Editor of OUR CHILDREN'S VOICE, has prevented him from participating in the preparation of this issue.

It is hoped that he will have fully recovered in time to resume his editorial duties for the next issue.

April 1958

CHAPTER REPORTS

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

At the last meeting of the Westchester Chapter, it was voted to set up a cooperative day school for our children, using the facilities of the Pelham School for Children in Pelham Manor. Facilities there would be adequate for about 60 children at capacity. Initially, it is planned to establish small starting classes in three age-groups: nursery, school-age, and above-school-age. It is proposed to have two daytime sessions for each group, and we hope to start organizing these classes before the end of the year. A building-fund committee has been set up, with a kick-off meeting scheduled for April 18th at the White Plains YMCA.

A joint meeting of the Westchester Mental Hygiene Assn. and the Westchester Chapter of the AHRC will take place on Friday April 28th at the Rochambeau School in White Plains. This date falls within Westchester National Mental Health Week. Mr. Richard H. Hungerford will be the guest speaker; and Dr. Robt. E. Bell, superintendent of the first supervisory school district of northern Westchester, will also be present. New York members who are interested are invited to attend.

Plans are under way to start a school for retarded children in the northern Westchester area which, at the present time, has no special classes for such children. This will be a public school project, supported by the schools of the surrounding area and the northern Westchester Junior League. We are, at present, listing parents of retarded children who would be interested in having their children go to these special classes. Such parents are directed to Mrs. Emma Rosenberg, Croton 4622.

PUTNAM COUNTY

Mrs. Sylvia B. Mahar, AHRC member from Mahopac, N.Y., who is heading up the drive to form a chapter in Putnam County, reports that she hopes to have a sufficient number of members enrolled to formally organize this chapter in the near future. Her task has been complicated by the fact that communities in Putnam County are so widely scattered, and her own recent incapacitation due to an automobile accident.

Mrs. Mahar has also been active in attempting to bring about the establishment of CRMD classes in Putnam County. She reports that the prospects for the opening of such a class in September are now promising. This would be the first county-wide CRMD class in the state.

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

The Long Island Chapter had its first Suffolk County meeting on March 20th in Bayshore, following the newly adopted policy of alternating the monthly meetings between Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Joseph T. Weingold, Executive Director of the AHRC, Board-Member Julian Banner, and Dr. Robt. F. Wagner, psychiatrist affiliated with Kings Park State Hospital, were speakers at the meeting.

Mr. Weingold gave a resume of the Association's origin and development. It was felt that his clear explanation of many questions raised, and his and Mr. Banner's presence, were of great helpfulness, and instrumental in the enrollment of a number of new members who attended.

Dr. Wagner's talk was one of the best we have had, and contained much valuable information regarding parental attitudes in dealing with retarded children.

The April meeting was held in Rockville Centre on the evening of the 17th. It was in the nature of a panel discussion, the principal participants being Margaret Reiss, Chairman; Emerson Dye, Chairman of the Educational Committee, and Christopher DeProspo, supervisor of the New York City CRMD classes. Mr. DeProspo is lending valuable service in an advisory capacity to our chapter. Gratifying progress is being made in increasing membership, and several very successful meetings have been arranged with Parent-Teacher Groups, Civic Clubs, and other community organizations.

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