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Worcester survey: Children's charities

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WORCESTER SURVEY.
Children's Charities.

THESIS
SUBMITTED FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS
BY
JOHN L. HUGHES.

June 1910.

B. S. Hall

WORCESTER SURVEY.

Children's Charities.

John L. Hughes.

This report does not cover all of the child-helping organizations in the city but those not mentioned here are described in the other departments of the survey. A correct understanding of the psychological ideals of each institution, especially those under Catholic management, is necessary in order to get a fair appreciation of the work being done.

The Associated Charities¹ holds, theoretically at least, the most cosmopolitan position amongst local charities. It was organized in eighteen hundred-ninety and incorporated in nineteen hundred three. They have an office on 35 Pearl Street. This organization deals primarily with the family as a unit so that the aid to children comes indirectly.

The objects of the Associated Charities are to promote co-operation on the part of the various charitable agencies of Worcester in the relief of the needy (be a clearing house for intercommunication and co-operation); repress fraud; detect imposture; prevent begging and pauperism; give counsel and help the poor to help themselves. Help is extended regardless of the age, color, creed or nationality of the applicant.

Complete records of all applicants are kept and this register is open for inspection in order that imposture or graft may be prevented.

They seek, also, to provide medical service and medicines where needed, and to secure legal advice and protection for the helpless. The office serves as an employment bureau for those who are out of work. Communication with the city authorities enables the association to intercede for many and thus prevent them from becoming city charges. A home savings department is an important branch which was started in eighteen hundred ninety five and now has thirteen collectors, each collecting from about twenty-five depositors.

¹ Issues an Annual Report. Note appended copy of "A Business Man's Proposition", reprinted from Worcester Magazine, November 1909.

In 1909, of twelve hundred new people dealt with, five hundred fifty one were under fourteen years of age and one hundred thirty seven were between fourteen and twenty years of age. The charity is flexible. In the recent years of business depression the amount of expenditures was doubled. The expenditures of 1909 were \$5,676.52. Of this amount 37.9% went for the purpose of fuel, groceries, etc., while 44% went for salaries, and office and convention expenses required the remainder.

The Worcester Children's Friend Society,¹ office in the Slater Building, was incorporated April 1849. Its existence was due to the efforts of Mrs. Jonas Miles who "wished to minister to the needs of poor and unfortunate children."

The system was changed in 1903 from its former institutional form to one which can be summed up under two heads: The Bureau of Information and Counsel, and The Placing-out Department.

The Placing-out Department takes the child from its own quarters and places it, if possible, in the country. An effort is made to re-establish the home. The Society keeps very complete records.¹

The family record of the placed-out child contains the names of the child's immediate family, the mother's maiden name and the father's full name, also the residence, date of birth, birth-place, religion and striking characteristics of both. Other items recorded are the place and date of parents marriage and former marriages, physical condition, defects, education, mental capacity, whether truthful, honest, moral, temperate, addicted to habits of gambling, industrious, slack, weak, of what temperament, attitude toward family and the history of vices and arrests. The income and expenses of the family and relatives are noted. Any defects in the family which may taint the child as insanity, epilepsy, feeble-mindedness, social diseases and tuberculosis are found out.

¹ See appended blanks and answers to questionnaire.

The child's name, color, date of birth, baptism, present church affiliations, when vaccinated and the diseases he or she has had, are recorded. Other features which are noted are the child's character, physical defects, natural physical condition, condition on application, school record and apparent mental condition.

The administrative information shows when the application came in, who received it, who made it out, by whom sent, the decision or action, what agencies knew of the child, references both direct and indirect and the terms agreed upon.

The following is known of the home to which the child is sent:- address, names of the family, occupations, church affiliations and date of birth, standing of family in the community, nationality, color, intelligence, physical condition, character of neighborhood, church, school, and the place the child would hold in the family

The general secretary has a list of investigated homes on file where children are desired. She also supervises the children in their homes. In 1909, these visits numbered 567. During 1908-9, 163 applications, representing 258 children, were received. Of these, fifty-five were advised, fifty-four placed-out, and nineteen were referred to other organizations.

Expenses now are less than they were under the institutional regime. Formerly it took \$8000 to support forty a year, while now, 137 can be cared for with \$12,000. Last year \$13,480.88 was expended in all by the society.

Unfavorable institutional characteristics are done away with by the new system but what has been acquired? Are the children always placed in families who profess the creed that the child's parents did? Is it charity or a business project which furnishes the children's homes? Of eighty-six children placed-out in October 1909, only four were free while sixty-seven were boarded out.

The Temporary Home and Day Nursery Society,¹ has quarters at 202 Southbridge Street, and until recently a branch day nursery on John Street. The Society was founded in 1889 and incor-

¹ Issues an Annual Report.

porated in 1892. The day nursery has been in existence since 1887.

The object of the temporary home is to care for destitute women and children until permanent quarters have been obtained. Four weeks is the normal period in the home.

The object of the day nursery is to relieve mothers and fathers, who are wage earners, from the care of their children during waking hours. The children who are cared for, are both black and white, of various nationalities, and are from one and one-half to twelve years of age. The average daily attendance at Southbridge Street is 17.4 and that at John Street was a little less.

Last year, seventy-two were admitted into the temporary home nine of whom were women and the remaining sixty-three were children.

The Southbridge Street home, soon to be vacated for new and better quarters being built on Edwards Street, is old and very difficult to be kept clean because of its very poor environment. It contains twelve beds and eight cribs. Bathing and toilet facilities are very unsatisfactory. The kitchen and laundry, though doing the work, are cramped.

The new home on Edward Street, now nearly completed, will contain many rooms for convalescent women with babies and other facilities, deficient in the Southbridge home, will be better.

The matron admits and rejects applicants. An investigation is made regarding each applicant to avoid imposture.¹ A medical inspection,¹ bath and new clothing is given to each new member.

A fee of two dollars per week is expected from those in the home when they are able to pay. The nursery children pay five cents a day for their dinner. The Temporary Home and Day Nursery Society have a permanent fund of \$42,119. For the year ending October 1909, \$3,792.75 was expended. Wages and salaries took thirty-eight per-cent of it.

A day nursery must be near its patrons in order to be practical. This means cramped, usually squalid conditions. The local nurseries receive "children reeking with dirt each morning." Continual vigilance is essential to ward off disease.

¹ Note appended blanks.

Would a temporary home, location unrestricted, be better? Would it tend toward the destruction of desirable homes? How many patrons now come from homes whose supporters are striving to reach an independent status and to whom the nursery is a "God send"? Is the nursery the stepping stone to the orphan asylum and placing-out organization or is it the last fort from which stand a return to the road of progress is permitted? Practically it is both. Laws, yet to come, which will compel worthless, parasitic parents to work for their children, and striving people get the compensation necessary to independent living, will largely solve this problem.

The Sisters of Mercy Orphanage on High Street was founded in 1876. Its object is to care for homeless and needy children. Children, preferably over three years of age, are taken and cared for until relatives claim them or, if they have no kinsman, until a home is provided for them. Indentures are not used. The children who have been placed in homes, sanctioned by the local pastor, are supervised by him. No material remuneration opens up these homes. Serious contagious disease, which might endanger the lives of those already in the orphanage, is the only barrier to entrance.

The home can provide for 90 and a branch at Leicester, really a summer home, can shelter 70; but the present census, 78 on High Street, and 66 in Leicester, really fills the quarters to their best capacity. The orphanage would be enlarged if funds were available. The children on High Street are in a brick building. There is a wooden annex which is used primarily by the Sisters. The home is heated by steam. The fire protection is called adequate by fire authorities. Two large dormitories, one containing 40, the other, 30 single beds, well separated, have been provided. There are other small rooms which contain from two to six beds each. The bathing facilities consists of a large shower in which a dozen can get at a time, a couple of single baths and several wash-stands and they are used at least once a week. Individual toilet articles are provided as far as possible. An infirmary which is rarely used, contains three beds. There are eight tables in

the dining-room which allows eighty to sit down at a time. The food is sufficient, varied and plain. The kitchen and laundry are cramped but efficient. Two school-rooms, one a kindergarten which will accommodate twenty-five, the other for larger children which will seat sixty, have been provided. The seats are both single and double. The school hours are from nine to twelve and from two to four. An hour's play out of doors in a small play-ground, or within, in a play room when the weather is bad, is taken every day. Owing to the fact that the children are continually going and coming into the institution and their former education has not been uniform, the classification and progress is difficult. The subjects taught are the same as in the public schools with the addition of religious training. On visiting days the children go out with their friends or talk with them in a reception-room. The Mother Superior admits applicants. A letter from the Applicant's pastor is desirable. No written agreement is drawn up. If relatives or friends can afford it, \$6.50 per month is expected but less is generally received and many are destitute. This fund and occasional gifts supply the money for maintaining the home. Reliance on Divine Providence is the only permanent asset. There are twelve Sisters on the staff and school and census records are kept.

St. Anne's orphanage on Granite Street, under the auspices of the Gray Nuns was founded in 1891 and incorporated the following year. It aims to give a home and religious instruction to homeless children.

Most of the children are of French extraction but no rule exists regarding nationality or color. The nominal entrance age is two or three years and if not taken when twelve or fourteen, they are placed out and supervised as at Saint Mercy Orphanage. The institution can accommodate 240 and is utilized to its capacity. Enlargement would be sought if funds were available.

The orphanage has the advantage of rural conditions, being outside the city. The children have the run of woodland and field in their play. The building is a large four-story wooden

structure, heated with steam, well lighted and protected from fire by escapes and extinguishers.

There are ten dormitories of various sizes. The two largest containing fifty and forty well separated (two and one-half feet) single beds respectively. A Sister always sleeps in a compartment near the dormitory.

Six single baths and one large shower, almost a swimming pool, comprise the bathing facilities. The infirmary contains six beds. (There has been no sickness this year and no serious illness since the institution was founded). A physician, oculist, and dentist, call when needed.

The kitchen and laundry are well equipped. There are four dining-rooms. One is for the smaller boys, another for the older ones, and the same for the girls. Cereal, coffee and milk, bread and butter are always at hand in the morning and soup, fish or meat, potatoes, etc, are served at noon and at supper an equally substantial meal is served.

There are five well-lighted school-rooms containing an average of thirty-five double seats each, where the children are grouped as in the public schools and are taught how to read and write, both French and English, do mathematical problems, learn History, spelling, etc, and gain a knowledge of their creed.

Two or three large play-rooms with games and pianos, are utilized when the weather outside is unfavorable.

The Sister Superior admits, discharges, advises and places out children. On entering, a child is washed, properly clothed, and given medical aid if it is needed. Relatives pay \$7.00 per month when they are able to do so. Besides the school work the children may learn how to sew, cook, play and sing. There are seventeen Sisters on the staff. School and census records are kept. The orphanage has no permanent fund.

Saint Joseph Industrial School for Boys in Millbury which is under the auspices of the St. Xavarian Brothers, seeks to care for and educate destitute boys from about ten to sixteen years of age. Children occasionally come indirectly from the Juvenile court. Admittance and placing out are the same as in the orphanages.

The capacity of the school is sixty. The present census

is fifty-three. The buildings are modern, founded only ten years ago and the grounds are extensive. Agriculture is one of the chief occupations and means of support of the school.

The house has three shower baths. Others are soon to be installed. All have individual toilet articles. A physician, oculist and dentist give their services when needed.

School instruction equal to a grammar course is given. Religious instruction, printing and agriculture are taught also. The school has one of the finest boy's bands to be found. Recreation time amounts to at least two and one-half hours per day.

There are three brothers at the school. When able six dollars a month is paid by relatives. Census records are kept. The school has no permanent fund.

The Home of the Good Shepherd¹ on Wilbraham Road, Springfield, to which Worcester children, regardless of creed, color, or nationality, may go, is worthy of great attention, for their work and field is radically different from most institutions, and their accomplishments phenomenal and praiseworthy.

The object,² to state it briefly, is reformation for girls who have strayed from the paths of righteousness, and protection and care for others whose former environment has exposed them to danger. The fundamental desire is "to retrieve souls for Christ".

Application and placing-out methods are the same as in other Catholic institutions. Children over thirteen are received. Children are not only received but are solicited from the Juvenile courts. Five dollars a month is a very high and unusual amount to receive from an inmate's people. Over nine-tenths are dependent. Following are the statistics for last year.

Number aided beginning of year	-----131
" received during year	----- 82
" left during year	-----91
" remaining at end of year	-----122
Total number during year	-----213

¹ Appended is copy of "The Home of the Good Shepherd", issued 1897.

² See "Never Forgotten" by Caddell.

Of this number five are paying the nominal sum, six are paying a little and two hundred and two are contributing nothing.

At present there are 120 in the home but 160 could be accommodated and although this number would tax the equipment, it would not be the limit of the house.

The home is four stories high, of brick with buff trimmings. The original house was 145 x 40 feet but a large new addition has since been built. The whole structure is heated by steam, well lighted, and ventilated, has excellent sanitary arrangements and is well protected from fire. There is a large play ground adjoining the building.

There are four large dormitories containing in all one hundred thirty-five single beds, a separate infirmary on two floors, four shower baths and several single baths and numerous wash-stands. A thousand dollars were recently expended on bathing equipment. All the inmates have individual toilet articles.

The home has a fine dining-room, a well furnished kitchen and excellent sewing rooms. The revenue derived from the laundry and sewing goes far towards maintaining the institution. There are several large recreation rooms. Children who have had little schooling, get instruction equal to the average grammar school course. All who so desire, may learn household duties and management.

The entering girl is given a name to be known by and her past, although known to the Sisters, need never be known to her associates unless she herself discloses it. A bath, change of clothing and medical aid, if needed, is first given. A physician, oculist and dentist are always to be had. The younger girls, whose environment has been unhealthful formerly, but who have not fallen very far from the path of righteousness, never come in contact with the older girls whose misfortunes have been more severe. A Sister is always in attendance with the girls.

It is only the revenue from their work in the sewing rooms and laundry and occasional donations that keeps the

star over the gate of the "Good Shepherd", which has diverted hundreds of despairing eyes from the midnight river.

The Industrial School for Boys at Shirley, Mass.,¹ was opened July 31, 1909. It can accommodate one hundred boys. It is a state school for delinquent boys. Any boy, not less than fifteen nor more than eighteen years of age, who has been convicted of any offense punishable by imprisonment, other than imprisonment for life, by any police, district or municipal court or trial justice, may be sent here.

The object of the Industrial School for Boys at Shirley is reformation and industrial training. There are no restrictions of beneficiaries as to color. The boys received are from fifteen to eighteen years of age and are discharged when twenty-one unless graduated by meritorious conduct before this age. One has already graduated in this manner. The present census is one hundred and two. The managers expect to increase the capacity and also to do placing-out work.

The Institution is one mile from Shirley center. The site is excellent having an extent of 889 acres on which practically everything used is raised. The cottage system is used. There are two brick buildings each two stories high. They are old, remodeled buildings, heated by steam, well ventilated, lighted by electricity and protected in good manner from fire.

There are three dormitories containing forty, forty and twenty single beds respectively. There are six to ten shower baths, two modern lavatories, individual toilet articles for all, infirmary containing ten beds and three dining-rooms which are well furnished. An excellent kitchen, a small but modern laundry, and a school-room furnished with thirty single seats, have been provided.

An hour a day and one-half day on Saturday is allowed for recreation. A play-room and play ground have been provided but have not any equipment. Each child has a locker for himself. On visiting days, the child receives in the living-room of the cottage.

¹ See appended First Annual Report.

The Superintendent has the power to discharge employees. The incoming children are quarantined until after the physician's examination. The physical record shows the diseases the boy has had, also operations, the health of his parents, his own height, weight, chest expansion, abdominal measurement, pulse, temperature, scars or deformities, muscular development, heart, lungs, abdominal conditions, mouth conditions, eyes, ears and condition of genito-urinary organs. An investigation is also made of the boy's mental condition.

The daily schedule is; -5.45, rise; 6.30, breakfast; 7.00, work; 11.45, return from work; 12.00, dinner; 1.00, work; 4.30, return from work; 6.00, supper; 8.00, retire; Recreation from 12.30 to 1.00; 4.30 to 6.00; 6.30 to 8.00 is allowed. There are five teachers. The method used is the one-hour theory, seven-hour work. The boys attend village church and the Catholic boys have catechism.

The boys all wear the same kind of clothing but they have no brass buttons. There are thirty on the pay-roll staff. The books are kept as requested by State Auditor. The total number in the institution since it started July 31, 1909 is one hundred thirteen. Ten of these have been transferred, one paroled and one hundred two are still in the institution.

The Corporation of the Hospital Cottages for Children¹ at Baldwinville, Mass., care for "children under fourteen years of age who are suffering from epileptic or epileptiform seizures or other nervous disorders not feeble-mindedness." Children with deformities; diseases of the hip, knee and other joints; spinal diseases, infantile paralysis, and other affections where the disorder is likely to require a long residence in a hospital; and children needing operations or fitting of supports are treated.

The Hospital Cottages for Children is a corporate institution under management of a board of trustees. No account is made of color, race or creed of beneficiaries. The cottages can accommodate ninety boys and fifty girls. The cottages are about one and one-half miles from the center of the village,

¹ See twenty-seventh Annual Report.

and are located on a hill. The extent is about four hundred acres which are used as a play ground and for farming. The buildings are of brick, two and one-half stories high and were constructed about twenty years ago. There are fifteen hospital buildings proper and fifteen others on the place used for other purposes. They are steam heated, plenum ventilation, lighted by electricity and well protected from fire.

There are eight dormitories and four of these contain twelve beds; four contain six, while the other rooms contain each two single beds. There is about sixty square feet of space for each bed. Seventeen tubs have been installed for bathing and bathing is indulged in at least weekly by all. The lavatories number thirty-six. Two congregate dining-rooms and nine special ones are well furnished with good food from a modern kitchen which occupies twelve hundred square feet of floor space. Halls are steam heated, well ventilated.

The laundry, (1785 square feet) is furnished with the usual institutional washers, mangle, extractor, etc. Two beds, wash.

The school-rooms, two in number, built special for their use, have about twelve hundred square feet of floor space and can seat forty and thirty respectively in single seats. feet,

Supervised recreation can be indulged in freely out of doors or in any of the seven play-rooms. Each child has plenty of space for his own possession. Reception rooms, wards or grounds can be used when friends are received.

Applicants are usually considered by one person who can at least admit temporarily. Physical examination is made at least once a week. Boarding rates are on a sliding basis. If child is supported by relatives an agreement for support is made. extractor, gas-heated mangle, electric-power, etc.

The school work goes up to about the sixth grade. The hours are two in the morning and two in the afternoon except Thursday and Saturday when instruction is given in the morning only. There are two teachers, one for the kindergarten and one for the grades. A chapel service is held Sunday afternoon and moral instruction is given each night. This is not compulsory. heater, three ward-rooms, punch,

The corporation issues an annual report. Health, death, school and financial records are kept. in or her own possession.

The Kindergarten for the Blind in Jamaica Plain, a branch of the Parkins Institute for the Blind, South Boston, can be used by Worcester people for the elementary education of blind and purblind children. Children of five years of age are received and promoted on completion of fourth grade work to the main school at South Boston. The capacity of the kindergarten will give accommodations for sixty-four boys and sixty-two girls. The children are divided into four households, kindergarten and primary, boys and girls.

The buildings consist of four households, each containing school-rooms, and a central building containing a hall, gymnasium, boiler-room and laundry. They are brick structures, three stories high and were built from ten to twenty-three years ago. The nine acres of ground adjoining is used as a play-ground. Good apparatus and a teacher-leader are at hand here. The buildings are steam heated, well ventilated and protected from fire by extinguishers. There are no dormitories but small rooms each containing two beds, each bed having a floor space of sixty-seven and one-half square feet are furnished. The infirmary is a separate building having a floor space of six hundred twenty-five square feet, and furnished with four beds. Nineteen tubs and one shower makes up the bathing facilities. There are twenty-six wash bowls and twenty-eight toilets distributed among the four buildings.

A dining-room (38x15) is to be found in each household, also a kitchen (15x18) and a small laundry near each kitchen. There is a larger, general laundry (40x18 ft.) in the central building which is equipped with drying-room, five set tubs, centrifugal extractor, gas-heated mangle, electric-power, etc.

There are twelve school-rooms each 28x15 ft. each will seat about twelve to a class-room. The seats are single. Recreation is supervised. Two hours every afternoon is allowed for free occupation. There is a play-room in each house. There is a gymnasium 30x37 ft. where the usual work for young children under a director is conducted. A plank swing, two trolley coasters, three merry-go-rounds, running track and gang-ways for coasting are found on the playground. Each child has ample space for his or her own possessions.

Applications for admission are acted on by the director of the institution and by the state officials. The superintendent can admit permanently or temporarily and has full authority over employees. The regular rate of \$300.00 per child per year has been established for board and tuition. The applicant's parents answer questions regarding the name, birth, nature of blindness, general health, character, any features that might have been inherited from the parents of the child. The ability of parents to finance the child is investigated and in case of inability and child should go to this institution, appeal is made for admission through the Governor.

Parents wishes are followed implicitly in regard to moral and religious training. The staff of matrons and teachers numbers twenty-four. The number of children in this institution in October, 1908, was one hundred and nineteen. Twenty were received during the year and seventeen were discharged, two died, thirteen were promoted to South Boston and one hundred and twenty-two remained (June, 1909). Full records of all kinds are kept by four matrons and a clerk.

The services of the following institutions and societies are also available to children of Massachusetts:-

- Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.
- Charity for aiding Destitute Mothers and Infants.
- Massachusetts Infant Asylum.
- New England Home for Little Wanderers.
- Whitefield Home for Indigent Children.
- Parental Home Association.
- City Orphan Asylum.
- Kurn Hattin Homes Association.
- Martin Luther Orphan Home.
- German Catholic Orphan Asylum.
- Gwynn Temporary Home for Children.
- Shaw Asylum for Mariners' Children.
- House of the Angel Gaurdian(Boys).
- Liversidge Institution of Industry(Boys).
- St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum(Girls).
- Dorchester Industrial School for Girls.

State Minor Wards.

Church Home for Orphan and Destitute Children.

Brightside Orphanage(Boys).

Ingleside Orphanage(Girls).

Dependents on account of sickness:-

Children's Hospital, Boston.

Children's Island Sanitarium.

The clubs of the city are important branches of charity work and do much to uplift conditions.

All the Catholic Churches¹ have various sodalities and organizations which reach members of all ages. Every child belongs to some group. All these associations have a religious foundation. The young "Children of Mary" learn how to be good children under the guidance of the Ideal Mother.

After Confirmation which has made them "strong and perfect Christians and soldiers of Jesus Christ", the older girls, enrolled in the Sodality of Mary, follow the example and ask the protection of the Virgin Queen, thus learning how to avoid the temptations besetting the girl of the teens. The boys of this age are grouped in such organizations as the Cadets of the Sacred Heart where they show their soldierly qualities by temperance, etc.

The older members of the congregations have their societies. The St. Vincent de Paul particularly merits attention. This society exists in most churches and the various orders are united under one joint conference.

The society was organized in Worcester in 1893. The objects of the society are the practice of a Christian life; to visit the poor at their dwellings, and to carry them succor in kind; to promote the elementary and religious instruction of poor children; to distribute moral and religious books, and to undertake other charitable work to which their resources are adequate. relief in groceries and fuel, clothing and shoes, rent and board(always paid to the landlord), tuition, burials, and cash is given to all classes after investigation.

The visitors are all men and volunteers.

¹ For Church work of other sects, see other reports.

The "Worcester Boys Club"¹ which was organized in 1889 and incorporated in 1893, is the most efficient non-sectarian organization for child-betterment in the city. The club started in a small way in rented rooms, under the leadership of Mr. Stephen Streeter. They now have a re-constructed building on Portland Street but these quarters are not nearly large enough, for the membership is now 837 and the average attendance between two hundred and three hundred. The aggregate attendance last year was 47,605.

All normal activities and desires of youth are attended to here. There is medical attention given each new member and any defects discovered are remedied. The club has an equipped gymnasium and classes under a director are conducted. The total attendance in these classes last year was 6,753. 1,248 basket-ball games were played. A shower bath where several can bathe at once furnished 11,979 baths last year.

There are printing, carpentry, and mechanical drawing classes, all of which do fine work but the equipment is so small that about twenty boys, only, can get into each of these classes. There are musical and dramatic clubs and a class in history. A reading-room has been fitted up and a branch library is conducted. A savings bank department received 1,216 deposits last year.

There are two departments, the senior and junior. The former have their own reading-room, athletic contests, etc. They number forty-five and are all over fifteen years of age. They have the advantage of the club later than the younger boys. The club hours are 6.30 to 10 P.M. and from 2.00 to 10 P.M. on Saturdays.

Superintendent Armstrong, who is juvenile probation officer of Worcester, has found that those boys having advantage of this club do not get back into court.

A summer camp, especially for those whom the physical examination has shown defective, is conducted. The spring activities and out-of-doors and are comprised mostly of base-ball games.

Contributions and occasional donations maintain the club

¹ Issues an Annual Report.

The fees from the members amounted to but \$339.55 last year. The total expenditures last year were but \$3688.42 and salaries took a large percentage of this amount. Five hundred dollars a year per boy is the estimated cost. The fees amount to twenty-five cents a year for the smaller boys and one dollar for the older ones.

The Worcester Public Library¹ has a children's department devoted to those under fifteen years of age. This department has a collection of but 8,832 volumes and last year a circulation of 117,748 was reached.

The Worcester Story-tellers' Club,² organized in March 1909, meets on the first Thursday of each month of the school year, in the Lecture Hall of the Public Library and discusses the theory of story-telling and gains practice in oral narration. The membership consists of about fifty ladies including many public school teachers and kindergartners.

The Tuesday Afternoon Club of about twenty-five girls, from six to twelve years of age, meets and listens to stories chiefly selected from classical mythology. The Saturday Morning story hour is conducted weekly. Fairy stories and others are told to younger people.

The Public Education Association of Worcester³ was organized February 7, 1905. It aims to secure and maintain the highest educational standards in the city of Worcester. Anyone sympathizing with the aims of the Association, upon payment of an annual fee of one dollar, is eligible to membership.

The Public Education Association stands for the citizens' active interest in Public Education; industrial education for boys and girls; individual guidance in choice of a vocation; a department of School Hygiene as part of the school system, with competent director; sanitary school-houses; physical training for High School pupils; education in morals

¹ Note enclosed Hand-book of Information, issued by the library.

² Appended is The Story Tellers' Club program for 1909-10.

³ Appended is the fourth Annual Report of the Public Education Association of Worcester.

and manners; definite training for citizenship; a business administration of the school system; the city, not the ward, as the unit; co-operation of home and school and efficiency everywhere.

The Public Education Association has initiated or assisted in the following movements;-the Worcester School of Trades; extended use of school houses for all the people; medical school inspection; sanitary drinking fountains; comparative study of school system; study of the theatre-going habits of children and adaptation of the theatre to the child's best welfare; women truant officers as home and school visitors and conferences on moral education.

The Worcester Social Settlement¹ work in the "Island District" (between Providence and Beacon Streets), reaches about one thousand children of various nationalities and creeds amongst the most destitute of the city's inhabitants. Rev. E. U. Floody and wife of 43 Endicott Street conduct the work. The Settlement quarters are at 13 Millbury Street.

During the past winter classes in sewing, physical culture, photography, astronomy, carving, embroidery, cooking, printing, and care of plants were conducted. There are two fife and drum corps. The Band of Mercy has eight hundred enrolled. There is a Savings Bank department and a reading-room open every night.

The summer work is centered in the "Garden City",² a former dumping ground of several acres, which has been converted into gardens 10x20 feet which are planted and owned by the children. The work is financed by contributions. The children are organized, having a mayor and all other officers of a city. A financial statement was not given.

The City Missionary Society³ is maintaining a non-sectarian Christian Settlement in the Endicott House (formerly Immanuel

¹ Note appended leaflet, The Worcester Social Settlement.

² Note appended The Worcester Garden City Plan.

³ Appended is the weekly schedule for 1910, the treasurer's report for 1909, etc.

Church). The Settlement workers are in friendly and sympathetic touch with one hundred and eighty-five families, of a dozen nationalities. Two hundred girls are enrolled in various classes and clubs, thus being helped to become well-trained home-makers. There are one hundred boys in gymnasium classes and wholesome play doing good work in character building.

A permanent branch of the Day Nursery will be opened here about June 1st. The building, equipped with a large shower bath, is to be used as a field house in connection with the Vacation Schools and the Crompton Park playground during the summer. The Summer School in Good Housekeeping, conducted for the past two years, will be continued next season.

The Treasurer's report for 1909 shows the total receipts to have been \$15,020.34. About 20% was expended for salaries.

The Worcester Young Men's Christian Association was founded in 1864 and incorporated in 1868. They have fine quarters on 10 Elm Street. The object of the Association "is to provide a home-like resort with wholesome influences for men, regardless of religious belief or nationality".

The number of boys reached by the Association and its outlying branches at Lake View and Greendale, is about 650.

Those reached² may be divided into three groups, the High School group, the Junior group and the employed group. About one hundred and ten are reached in the four school groups. They represent thirteen religious denominations and six nationalities. The employed group of about seventy-nine represents ten nationalities and eleven sects, while the Juniors, numbering one hundred and forty-nine, come from sixteen sects and are of ten different nationalities. Each group has two meetings per month. There are occasional talks. About once a month, a college man lectures on college topics

¹ Appended is booklet explaining the activities and facilities.

² Note appended application blank.

to the High School group.

A fine gymnasium, a reading-room, and good bathing facilities are at hand. Manual training is taught. The house is open after school hours until 10 P.M. The younger children do not stay after seven or eight P.M. There are six gymnasium classes per week. Physical examinations and prescribed corrective gymnasium work¹ is a specialty. About three hundred new boys are examined every fall. Bible classes² are a feature. Theatricals are entered into to some extent. A Savings Bank department is planned for the near future. A well furnished summer camp is maintained at Lake Quinsigamond.

The Young Women's Christian Association,³ at 10 Chatham Street, was incorporated in 1885. The object of the Association is to promote the temporal, moral and religious welfare of women, especially of young women dependent upon their own exertions for support.

The membership of the Junior department has been almost doubled this year by the addition of the children at Endicott House, making in all, one hundred and eleven.

There have been classes in plain sewing, shirt-waist making, raffia work, gymnastics and cooking.

The Sun-shine Club has twenty-eight members between eight and twelve years of age. They meet Saturday afternoons for a play hour, followed by a business meeting.

The K.T.P. Club of ten members, fourteen years of age and over, meets twice a month for nature study, shirt-waist making and social times.

The "Willing Helpers Club" consists of girls from eleven to fourteen years of age.

The Travelers' Aid worker is at the Union Station every day, to render assistance to travelers, especially to young women and children traveling alone.

The hospitals of the city play an important rôle among the child-helping agencies of the city.

1 Note appended physical examination card.

2 Note appended Bible study enrollment card.

3 Note appended copies of "Association Record" for April, 1910 and annual year book of Association for 1909.

The Worcester City Hospital¹ on Jacques Avenue was established in 1871. It is a general hospital for the medical and surgical care of the sick and injured of Worcester, preference being given to those dependent on the city for support; but when room can be given, paying patients are admitted. The ward rate is ten dollars a week; room rate, fifteen dollars a week and upwards. The Hospital can accommodate over one hundred and sixty patients. The baby ward accommodates from fifteen to twenty comfortably and quarters are provided for about fifteen children who are too young for the adult wards, but who are not babies. Superintendent Drew hopes soon to have a ward built especially for children. The 1908 report shows 1,578 patients under twenty years of age to have been treated that year. Worcester is not necessary

There is an out-patient department which was opened March 17, 1890, but no record of the number of children treated is kept in this department. Treatment is free to all who cannot afford to pay the costs. One hundred and fifty beds in the hospital.

St. Vincent's Hospital on Vernon Street, was incorporated in 1898. It is open to all classes and creeds. No contagious diseases are admitted. One ward which will accommodate ten, is used exclusively for children. When more children are under treatment they are placed in the regular wards. The minimum charge is one dollar per day in the ward. Records are not kept as to the number of children treated per year.

Isolation Hospital,² on Belmont Street, is under the general control of the city Board of Health. The Hospital was opened in 1896 and its object is to care for those affected with diphtheria and scarlet fever. The original capacity accommodated forty patients but a new diphtheria ward has since been built. It is to pay for the services of a physician.

The 1908 report states that 614 patients were admitted. The deaths for the year numbered fifty-eight. The approximate ages of patients is given. The resident physician in this report (1908) mentions that the laundry is inadequate and that

¹ Issues an Annual Report.

² Report found in Report of City Board of Health.

a larger scarlet fever ward is necessary.

No one has ever been compelled to go to this hospital and this policy has done much to crush out the pest-house idea.

The minimum charge for those able to pay is ten dollars per week.

Hope of extension so as to cope with measles and other minor infections is entertained.

Memorial Hospital¹ on Belmont Street, which was incorporated in 1871 and opened in 1888, is a privately endowed hospital under the management of a board of twelve trustees. Any woman or child of whatever age, creed or nationality, is eligible for treatment if not suffering from contagious or acute venereal disease. Residence in Worcester is not necessary though preference would be given to the Worcester resident should two apply, one being outside the city, when but one could be taken.

There are now one hundred and fifty beds in the hospital. Until last summer the number was but sixty, so they are not yet running full in all departments. Formerly, the hospital was always overcrowded. It runs now about one hundred and ten patients. 789 children were treated in 1909. The new children's ward is a fine one. There are good facilities for keeping the children out-of-doors.

A small, separate building for contagious cases and suspects is needed, also a Nurses' Home and a new building for the Free Dispensary. They hope to have a paid social worker soon.

Washburn Free Dispensary which is under the same management as Memorial Hospital, serves any man, woman or child who is unable to pay for the services of a physician.

The Dispensary work is in very cramped quarters and funds are not at hand for the needed new buildings. It is doing all it could be expected to do in its present quarters.

10,500 visits were made in all departments last year.

¹ Issues an Annual Report.

The Worcester County Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, at 1 Salem Square, is under the direction of the attending physician and is supported by the voluntary contributions of the friends and patients of the institution. It is open every Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 8.30 to 9.30. During the year ending July 31, 1909, two hundred and twenty-nine patients were treated. About one hundred and twenty-five of these were children. The Infirmary is not well known, hence not used to its capacity.

The chief disadvantage reported is small number of working instruments and scanty funds.

The Worcester Charitable Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Infirmary at 8 Portland Street, was organized in 1902 by a number of physicians and others interested in the centralizing of this work. At this time there was not a hospital refracting eyes; but these cases were referred to the offices of the physicians who happened to be on special duty at such hospital.

The larger part of the work is with children. During the past year (1909), three hundred and seventy-four new cases were seen. Eight hundred and eighty individuals were treated. The total number of visits by patients to the infirmary was 2,952. About two-thirds per-cent were children.

Worcester is doing well for her children. The general public should be better acquainted with conditions and what is being done to improve them. We need charity (intensive religious work) more than philanthropy. Too much pseudo-philosophizing, and impracticable, expensive, so-called scientific means are employed instead of common-sense by our workers many of whom are "but plausible, philanthropic and grandly disinterested individuals who are preying on the charitable public".

There ought to be more intensive, indirect supervision of placed-out children. I question the benefit derived mentally and materially from that New England feature of many of our organizations, upon which so much stress is laid, the Savings Bank Department. The Hospitals, Orphanages and Boys Club, need and merit our consideration and help. Our police should contend more effectively with drunkenness and

licentiousness. Our divorce laws should be revised. We need more effective civil laws to cope with worthless husbands and mothers. " There ought to be a law" said Archbishop Glennon of St. Louis, recently, "compelling those men to work for their homes and children first, and if they would not do so, then they should be compelled to work for the State, which in turn would make the usufruct of their labors in some way support their children".

1. Book of the Good Shepherd, 1917, Springfield.
2. Book forgotten, by Spidell, published by ...
3. First Annual Report of Trustees of Industrial ...
Lowell, Mass.
4. Twenty-seventh annual report of Commissioners of ...
Hospitals for children, Worcester, Mass.
5. Annual reports of Female Institute for the Blind, Boston,
1895--1908.
6. Directory of charitable and benevolent ...
of Worcester, Mass., 1901, published by ...
7. Twentieth Annual Report of Worcester High School, 1901.
8. Handbook of Information ...
9. Fourth Annual Report of Worcester ...
Association.
10. Leaflet, "The Worcester ..."
11. Leaflet, Worcester ...
12. Association ...
13. 1909 Annual Year-book of ...
14. Thirty-eighth Annual Report of ...
15. 1902 Report of ...
16. ...
17. ...
18. ...
19. ...
20. ...

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1. Nineteenth Annual Report of Associated Charities of Worcester, Mass., October, 1, 1909.
2. A Business Man's Proposition, reprint from Worcester Magazine, November 1909.
3. Fiftieth Annual Report of Children's Friend Society.
4. Sixty-first Annual Report of Children's Friend Society.
5. Twentieth Annual Report of Temporary Home and Day Nursery Society.
6. Home of the Good Shepherd, 1897, Springfield.
7. Never Forgotten, by Caddell, published by Kenedy Bros. N. Y.
8. First Annual Report of Trustees of Industrial School for Boys, at Shirley, Mass.
9. Twenty-seventh Annual Report of Corporation of Hospital Cottages for Children, Baldwinville, Mass.
10. Annual Reports of Perkins Institute for the Blind, Boston, 1836--1908.
11. Directory of Charitable and Beneficent Organizations of Worcester, Mass., 1903, published by Worcester Associated Charities.
12. Twentieth Annual Report of Worcester Boys Club. Just Boy.
13. Handbook of Information issued by Worcester Public Library.
14. Fourth Annual Report of Worcester Public Education Association.
15. Leaflet, "The Worcester Social Settlement".
16. Leaflet, Worcester Garden City Plan.
17. Association Record for April, 1910, published by Y. W. C. A.
18. 1909 Annual Year-book of Y. W. C. A.
19. Thirty-eighth Annual Report of Worcester City Hospital.
20. 1909 Report of Worcester Board of Health.
21. Twenty-first Annual Report of Memorial Hospital.
22. Conference on Care of Dependent Children, Washington, 1909.
23. The Care of Destitute, Neglected and Delinquent Children by Homer Folks, N. Y. London, Macmillan Co., 1902.

