

in the future, these social service organizations walling about the C. O. S., the C. O. S. will eventually be a clearing house, or become departmentalized, with a department equipped for this special handling of medical social service cases?

It is a question for the future to answer. As far as Jewish cases are concerned, we have settled this question, since the General Social Service Bureau, in addition to doing hospital social service for the Jewish hospital and the Jewish patients at the non-Jewish hospitals, also functions as a special bureau for the case handling of the sick applicants of the United Hebrew Charities. The working out of the Jewish problem is much easier than the non-Jewish problem, since the former is aided by a special philanthropy applied to a particular race group possessing great social solidarity.

Hospital social service brings up the advantage and disadvantage of specialization. The specialist, such as the hospital social worker or the court social worker, is better able to attack problems which require his special knowledge. On the other hand, his disadvantage is that he considers every problem from one angle.

Where the central body, be it either a C. O. S. with a special medical social service department to co-operate with social service department of hospitals as suggested, or a General Social Service Bureau, such as we have established, linked with the United Hebrew Charities, the result will be as in our clinics at the public hospitals, where the free patient is treated in five or six different clinics—the ear, the stomach, the lungs, etc., with no co-relation, each physician treating the patient according to his own special subject without regard to the treatment the patient may be receiving elsewhere.

The hospital social service worker who depends upon doctors' diagnosis and recommendation for the social treatment to be prescribed will suffer greatly from work which is not co-related with medical work done by the other hospitals. At present it is likely that two hospital social workers of different hospitals who are working on the same patient will have a different plan for that patient, either because of differences in diagnosis by physicians treating for the same disease or because the patient

may be suffering from two ailments, one of which is being treated at one clinic and the other by the second clinic. It may be necessary for the patient to go to both clinics, since each treats a particular disease.

Again, the fact that hospital social service and C. O. S., or relief work, run into each other may often be a perplexing problem, but its solution is an interesting one of the times.

The General Social Service Bureau, through its interlocking arrangement with the United Hebrew Charities, has hit upon a happy expedient which is fruitful of promise.

A future conference may develop a still better plan for hospital social service and its co-ordination with C. O. S. or case work.

### NEW BOOK

THE HEALTH MASTER. By Samuel Hopkins Adams. Houghton Mifflin Co.

Not a problem story, but a story that solves many problems.

A well-to-do business man installs a doctor in his household with a view to keeping the family well instead of letting it get sick and then trying to cure it. The family consists of three generations. The doctor makes friends with them, observes conditions, and, as occasion requires, carries on informal talks with them on health subjects.

Samuel Hopkins Adams is a member of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and is one of the few laymen honored with associate membership in the American Medical Association. It was while making investigations for magazine articles on health topics that he became convinced of public need—or perhaps, more exactly, family need—of scientific health articles, written in popular style and embracing the ills and evils of the present day. He finally chose the form of "The Health Master" as the best medium. He has received many earnest and unsolicited letters of endorsement from social workers and the book has been adopted in at least one college as collateral reading "of first importance."

## MEMPHIS CONFERENCE, MAY 6-8

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## UNEMPLOYMENT

No strain that the charities have to undergo is comparable to the burden imposed by the existence of continued and general unemployment. The usual causes of dependence do not include the normal man, able and willing to work, and when he also constitutes a "case," hard times indeed have come for the charities. In a number of cities this situation has been reached, and the conference held on February 27th and 28th in New York on "Unemployment" touches a condition that is at present acute.

Fitting the man to the job and the job to the man has come to be looked upon as a duty of some public agency, and the failure of one to know of the other has meant great financial loss alike to industry and to labor. But when the job is not there, when industry is at a standstill or only marking time, the fitting process is practically impossible, for only one party is ready for the fray, and it takes two to make employment. We are passing through a period when the jobless man is an unavoidable difficulty.

Seasonal trades have gotten us familiar with unemployment during the dull season. The public is used to the idea of workmen idling during a part of the year; and the difficulty they present lies rather easily on the public conscience as the workingman manages to scrape together enough during busy times to last him over the slack period. But seasonal work is a distinct evil, is so recognized, and investigators are planning to mitigate the trouble that it makes. Steady employment throughout the year at a com-

paratively moderate salary is far better for a man physically, mentally and financially than large pay during the rush seasons, and nothing at all in between.

It could be wished that a plan might be worked out that would do away with these panics in labor. As the new currency bill is designed to prevent a money stringency, getting rid of the old superabundance at one time and shortage at another, may it not be possible to rearrange the methods of industry so that overdemand for and oversupply of labor should be rare if not unknown? Just as sudden jerks and sudden stoppage rack a machine and soon put it out of commission, so do overhours at one time and no hours at all at another help to scrap the industrial output.

In times of unemployment the value of the fraternal orders and the lodges is tested, for the troubled brother, after his union, looks to his lodge for a lift, and generally gets it. A few years ago Mr. Morris D. Waldman advanced the opinion that the growth of mutual benefit societies had prevented people from coming on the charities who, in the absence of such societies, would have had no other recourse. While the opinion was tentatively hazarded, it has not lacked confirmation, and other observers have come to the conclusion that these agencies of the people are strength to them in the hour of distress.

The burden of living through the period of unemployment, whether seasonal or occasional, should not be thrown on the workman. A better adjustment of industry to human needs must be worked out.