

## Some New Work

There has been a number of changes in methods and work among the Baltimore charities in the last few months. New activities undertaken have been the Jewish Court of Arbitration, the Children's Bureau, Hospital Social Service Work, and the establishment of a Personal Service Bureau. There have been besides other changes that may be perhaps worth noting. A Fresh-Air Home is proposed and its realization for next season practically assured.

The Court of Arbitration is now proceeding regularly, and is serving a useful purpose. Its judgments are respected, and there is a growing inclination to come into the Court when summoned and abide by its decision. In the first four months about seventy cases were handled, some very difficult, some quite important, all involving matters on which the contestants had a right to be heard. In no instance has a case that has been handled by the Court of Arbitration been afterwards taken to the law courts though there are a number of instances of the contrary.

The Children's Bureau has not been in operation more than a month, but its work is already felt, and the constituent societies have shown great loyalty to the new agency. The representatives of the Bureau are all young, eager workers, and they will try to establish a standard of child-caring that is worthy of a modern city. The opportunity is here, and the Bureau begins its work under encouraging prospects.

Hospital Social Service, definitely so named, has been done before, but it has

now been organized and placed in the hands of a worker who trained for the position. The work includes dispensary and clinic work, ward visitation, home investigation and after-care.

The Personal Service Bureau is also a development of previous work. The demand for assistance, advice, direction and supervision over men, women, boys and girls has become so large and insistent that notice had to be taken of the increased demand; and a worker and assistants find the call upon their services continual.

The Fresh-Air Home proposed will be a health proposition primarily. It is intended for all classes, who for medical and health reasons require fresh air in summer. In establishing the new home a departure in methods has been attempted. There is on foot a plan to provide not only a sufficient sum for grounds and building, but an endowment fund, the income of which will provide for the permanent care of the Home.

A rearrangement of the forces dealing with immigration has been made, making for greater efficiency, better cooperation and more intensive work with immigrants. By follow-up work, in cooperation with the special departments of the enlarged Educational Alliance, it is hoped to keep in touch with every immigrant until there is a reasonable assurance that he is on the way to self-support and citizenship. Some of this work may be worth speaking of in detail in future issues of JEWISH CHARITIES. At present they are mentioned in outline.

## The Jewish Settlement of Cincinnati

ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THE

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# JEWISH CHARITIES

BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF JEWISH CHARITIES

Entered at the Postoffice at Baltimore, Md., as Second-class Matter.

Vol. IV.

BALTIMORE, OCTOBER 1913.

No. 3

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## TRAINING FOR SOCIAL WORK

The need of a training school for Jewish social workers has been dwelt upon in these columns before, and this need is becoming daily more urgent. As social work, public and private, expands, more people are drawn into the service, and a higher standard of work is almost automatically brought about. In the close network of organizations operating in the social field, if one does not function properly, the others soon feel the break, and the delinquent organization finds itself out of sympathy with the social forces of the community.

To do work properly requires on the part of the worker a knowledge of, and an experience in, the particular activity in which he may be engaged. Nay, more, it requires a knowledge, in theory at least, of the aims and objects, even of the field and scope, of other social agencies. No man or woman, however intelligent and apt, can hope to take hold of an important piece of work on general principles and do justice to his organization and to the purpose it wishes to accomplish. With the demand for workers growing daily and with the no less insistent demand that they be trained for their calling, the need of a training school is not only obvious, but imperative.

In a number of cities this need is being met by the inauguration of training courses in connection with certain lines of work, or in one or two cases, with larger and broader outlook. Baltimore is now in its second season of training in general Jewish social work, and recently awarded certificates to two young women who had completed a

twelve months' course. Philadelphia is interested in training courses for Jewish social workers, while Cincinnati has boldly instituted a Jewish School of Philanthropy. The Cincinnati work seems carefully and comprehensively planned, and is the first adequately to take up the question of training those who wish to devote themselves professionally to the development of social work among the Jews.

In time courses in other cities will no doubt be instituted, if they are not already in existence, and we shall have a number of young men and women getting valuable experience and training in the work of Jewish organizations. We doubt, however, whether the broadest and the most scientific training can be given by any organization as at present constituted. What is needed is a training school of the highest professional standing to which social workers can be sent to complete their studies after they have had the benefit of service in local training classes. It should be the equal of any of our general schools of philanthropy; but it should devote itself to specific Jewish problems as well as to matters common to all social work. Perhaps the school at Cincinnati may become this higher center of training; perhaps the new charity building at Chicago may be in part devoted to this use; perhaps New York, which offers the greatest field for social work, may add this Jewish school to its other educational agencies. But the problem ought to be studied with the idea of putting Jewish social work upon a higher professional plane than it can reach by the present limited facilities.