

Settlement Bulletin

ISSUED NINE TIMES A YEAR IN THE INTEREST OF THE SOCIAL SETTLEMENT

Vol. I. No. 1.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., FEBRUARY 15, 1906.

ONE CENT.

SKETCH OF THE SOCIAL SETTLEMENT.

On the twenty-third of April, 1901, the Social Settlement of Rochester was organized. As is well known, the "Settlement" idea was even at that time far from being a new one. For many years the very work that the Rochester organization proposed to do had been done with great success in other cities. To such an extent was this true that the name "Hull House" stood, as it now stands, for all that is most beneficial and, at the same time, practical in philanthropic work.

Even from the beginning the Rochester Social Settlement was especially fortunate in that most valuable of all assets for such an institution—efficient and energetic officers. Starting out with a definite purpose and a high ideal in mind it was not long before their efforts, guided by the President, Mrs. J. L. Garson, began to show most encouraging results.

As is usual under such circumstances Rochester citizens responded most liberally to the request for money for an absolutely non-sectarian institution. The first year saw one hundred and fifty-two members contributing toward helping along the work.

Encouraged by the interest taken in the Settlement's welfare, its officers were able gradually to increase the field and scope of its activities. The beginning was of course small and aimed primarily to the end of devoting "time and thought to the education and environments of the children of the most congested part of the city," without any consideration to creed or nationality. So well was this purpose accomplished, so thoroughly did the Settlement succeed in fulfilling this end, and so great did the demand for just such an institution prove, that the first year book was able to announce an attendance of three hundred children, and a corps of sixty volunteer teachers. By April, 1902, classes in all sorts of sewing, in singing and in basketry were in operation, while various clubs, such as the Sunshine, two Shakesperian, A Current Topic and a German, were being fully and enthusiastically attended. Lack of space at present prevents any full description of the enjoyable and, at the same time, profitable hours spent by all concerned in the Club work, but it is hoped that an ample account of each of these organizations may be presented in the future.

The succeeding four years have been but repetitions of the first—a series of successes, not always easily gained, very often only after much labor and many discouraging obstacles had been overcome, but each one bringing the Settlement nearer to the goal set by its founders. The "Sunshine Assembly Room," the excellent bathing facilities and the free dispensary are but a few of the more evident indications of the work that is being done and the great results that are being obtained. A glance at the handbook for 1904-1905 will show clearly the variety and scope of the work that is now carried on. The same book also shows the number and liberality of the persons who are actively interested in the institution's welfare.

No account of the Social Settlement would be complete without some mention of the untiring devotion and invaluable usefulness of Mrs. Stewart. She above all others, giving her whole time and attention to the care, mental and physical, of old and young alike, has been instrumental in bringing the Settlement to its present stage of indispensability. The love and respect in which she is held are most evident tokens of her true worth.

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THE BULLETIN AND ITS PURPOSE.

As may be seen from the above statement, the Settlement has been able during the five years of its existence not only to accomplish what it originally set out to do but also to take up and develop entirely new lines of work. Now it is the purpose of all connected with the Settlement to realize the maximum of efficiency from the institution. The question presents itself,—Has this been done in the past? Beneficial as it has proved to all connected and interested in its activities, it seems that this highest point of usefulness has not yet been reached by the Settlement. What has been lacking is the connecting link binding together the work of every department, making known to those interested in the Sunshine Club what the Boys' Club does on Thursday evening, enabling the girls of the sewing classes to become conversant with the studies of the literary circles. In a word, some bond is needed to unite and unify the work of every department of the Settlement to the end that every part may act in perfect harmony with every other.

The most natural and efficient medium for accomplishing such an end is a newspaper. Thus it is that the Settlement BULLETIN has come into existence—a fact for which no apology is needed, as there can be no doubt that a demand is present sufficiently strong to warrant at least its attempting to fill it. Whether or not it does so remains to be seen. If it does it will doubtless meet with the hearty co-operation of all those connected with the Settlement's welfare; if it does not it will as surely come to a speedy end.

Perhaps it might be well to enumerate in some detail exactly what the BULLETIN hopes to accomplish. Primarily, it is to be the official organ of the Settlement, announcing meetings of directors, acknowledging donations and describing the work carried on. By means of its columns, it is expected, more people will be interested in the what is being done on Baden Street and those who now are interested will find new channels in which to direct their efforts for the common good. And lastly, but by no means least important, it is the purpose of the BULLETIN to interest the students of the Settlement themselves. Each department and club is, if it so desires, to have its own column by means of which it can make known its accomplishments and its needs. Thus, doubtless, students will be encouraged, by learning of the advantages offered in various classes, to broaden the scope of their work and to get all they possibly can out of the advantages offered. If the BULLETIN can succeed in any of the above mentioned directions it will not prove useless. It shall be its constant aim to succeed in all.

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In carrying out the scheme outlined the hearty co-operation of all Settlement workers is earnestly asked. As yet but few of the classes and circles have "reporters" to look after their interests, so that there remain many chances for those interested to come forward. Not only are "reporters" needed, but a certain portion of the paper is to be filled with items of general interest taken from papers of like nature from other cities, for which there is as yet no editor. Besides this, plans for improvement in any branch of the Settlement work or in the BULLETIN itself, articles for the benefit of girl and boy readers (of whom the BULLETIN hopes to have many), in short the help and good will of all are earnestly sought.

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Editorial.

It is hoped that the Settlement BULLETIN may in the future be published on the fifteenth of the month. Various delays attendant upon the issuing of a first copy have contributed toward making this number late.

Please observe that subscription blanks are enclosed in each copy of the BULLETIN. The first number is sent gratis to present and prospective friends of the Settlement in the hope that they may be interested to subscribe. Twenty-five cents, the price, is just sufficient to cover the expense of mailing and addressing.

THURSDAY EVENING AT THE BOYS' CLUB.

The Boys' Club might be described as an institution for the propagation of the doctrine of "fun", with as much mental improvement as can possibly be hidden under the guise of pleasure, pure and simple. When any attempt is made to introduce unmixed instruction the boys very properly go on a strike, a performance which every right-minded person will agree is perfectly justifiable and defensible. Every boy is convinced that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy"; and every "Jack" is determined not to become "dull".

Five hours work in school is enough for any boy. So when Thursday night comes around and the hands of the "Sunshine Assembly Room" clock point to eight, boys of all ages alike, from the youngest tot of about nine to the oldest assistant—who is, somewhat older, forget for one hour and a half, ninety all-too-short minutes, the fact that there is such a thing as school or newspapers, or indeed anything else in the world but good fun and good fellowship.

Eight o'clock finds the boys lined up for the "drill", which goes off with more or less success, according to the height of spirits. Spirits as a rule soar pretty high and so the "drill", judged from a West Point standard of excellence is not a complete success. But what of that? Everybody is happy and incidentally the boys, though they don't realize it, are learning a valuable lesson in obedience and discipline.

The "drill" finished, several classes are immediately started. Some prefer the pasting class where one learns to make attractive scrap-books for one's mother or sister or even "best girl". Others rush pell-mell down stairs to a cool, airy room where dumb-bell exercises are performed. But most popular of all are the baths, where an assistant dressed in rubber garments, with high rubber boots and armed with a hose proceeds to scrub from ten to twenty-five squirming, shouting youngsters who have fallen under the charm of the cold shower.

When baths and classes are finished gymnasium mats are hauled out and the great events of the evening start in. Such wrestling and such boxing, such jumping, such games of ball have never been, and never will be, seen elsewhere. Closing hour always comes, as it seems, when the sports are at their very height, and it is with the greatest reluctance that the boys exchange their Alger and Henty books for new ones, put on their hats and coats and hurry home to bed and to dreams of next Thursday's good times.

Washington's Birthday, by good luck, fell on Thursday this year and, as a result, the Boys' Club had an entertainment. The regular routine of the evening was interrupted and instead games, phonographic music and refreshments were substituted. In spite of the good times going on upstairs there was still a demand for the baths.

THE SUNSHINE CLUB.

A club for the study and practice of sunshine? What an idea! But that's what it's meant to be, all the same. Is it not a good purpose? It is not a small thing to make even one day brighter and better for some one of God's many children. It is not an inconsiderable thing to put a red-letter day or even a red-letter hour into a person's calendar. The Sunshiners—for that is what the members of the Sunshine Club ought to be—try to do this. It is in their creed that they believe in sunshine and that they shall scatter it, give it away, and make a business of it.

There are a good many Sunshiners in the world. They may not all belong to the Baden Street Sunshine Club, but if they are honestly trying to make the most of life, to be in love with the world, to wear upon their faces smiles that are catching and upon their lips cheer-words that are contagious, trying to have a warm and ready hand for those that need a pull, and an unselfish shove along for those that need a push, then they are in very deed active members of God's great and glorious Sunshine Band. Are you a member? Will you join? Is this your creed and your deed? If not, why not?

THE DAY CLASSES.

The question, what to do with our girls, which has long troubled anxious parents has at last found a solution through an interesting process performed by the girls themselves. As soon as they are able to toddle, their little steps seem to go naturally to the "Home", that centre of pleasure where one unconsciously is learning.

Every morning about twenty-five very little folks meet in the big hall, are received by cheerful smiles and entertainingly by all the alluring orgies of the kindergarten; songs, games, stories and finally the triumphal march to the feast cups and plates on which are birds in high of milk and Zu Zu's, served in bewitching

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relief, a never-failing source of pleasure to aesthetic minds. How grateful must the busy mothers be to have these little cares out of the way; to have them well started for the day and also well started in information, manners etc. which this queer American life demands! And now let us sing with them: "Our kindergarten's over and we are going home" and with a last smile at "teacher" let us go our several directions until the "clock in the steeple strikes" four and the schools have emptied their precious contents into the dismal streets.

Hopping and skipping from all directions every afternoon come little girls eager to see "teacher" in the "Home" and, for the pleasure of being near her, willing to learn anything she can teach. Each day brings a different set of teachers and each set of teachers brings a different idea for those ready fingers and quick senses.

On Monday, we peep in on eleven classes comfortably arranged around the hall, patiently trying to conquer the "doyley stitch," as etching is called; and lucky the girl who has mastered it sufficiently to acquire a doyley with an apple or a dog's head on it! The work of many of the little girls is splendid and excites the envy of some of the teachers.

On Tuesday, Anderson's "Fairy Tales" and "Little Women" are discussed over the crocheting needle; for this is the day when the books of the Circulating Library are exchanged and crocheting is taught.

Wednesday brings the fruits of Kitchen Gardening, when the art of setting a table and serving a meal is made impressive with empty dishes and imaginations. Also darning, mending and talks on housekeeping combine theory and practice sufficiently to make proper housekeeping interesting.

Thursday is needle day, when miniature-seamstresses are inspired for future work. Friday brings basketry and a little inquiry into the mysteries of art—a study of famous pictures.

Saturday is devoted to dancing, elocution and physical culture, making the little workers ornamental as well as useful members of society.

Each month the Bulletin hopes to enlarge on the work of each of these classes and hopes to make its friends feel the wide influence exerted by teachers and pupils who mutually gain by the day classes.

SUPPOSE.

Suppose you and I were to begin to-day freely to live out the following program, what a change there would soon be in the world! —

I will be sweeter to-day than I was yesterday. I will find fault with fewer and praise more. I will "butt in" and help rather than stand off and "knock". I will vie with the lark in singing the glories of the grand old earth. I intend to get corns from over-walking rather than dyspepsia from over-sitting. I am resolved to smile seventy-eight times on the days when I feel the worst. Like my "bike" or auto wheels I will consistently seek to be decently *tired* in the grand cause of helping things to go with as little jar as possible. It shall be my purpose to be so obliging and thoughtful, so gentle and helpful, so sunny and indispensable that people will be glad to see me come and sorry to see me go. I will pray daily and hourly for light and power and music and enthusiasm, and then try to go out and use them all to help the other fellow along.

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DONATIONS.

January and February, 1906.

Mr. Joseph Simon, framed picture; Mrs. J. L. Garson, books and magazines; Mrs. Goldwater, magazines; Mrs. Abram Katz, 1 lb. worsted; Mrs. M. L. Gannett, "Country Life"; Mrs. Seligman, library books; Mrs. P. W. Van Bergh, 1 pair shoes and books; Mrs. Van Vean, 1 pair shoes; Mrs. Stettheimer, 1 pair shoes; Mrs. M. A. Stern, books and music; Mrs. J. Michaels, magazines and calendars; Mr. Lowenthal, 4 books for library; Mr. H. Michaels, books for library; Mrs. J. M. Ingersoll, 17 books for library; Mrs. S. Hummel, books for library; Mrs. Jerome Jeffreys, ½ dozen darning; Miss Julia Brewington, sewing material; Miss Mandervill, sewing material; Mrs. F. M. Greisheimer, clothing and candy; Mrs. Bakrow, 6 work boxes for her pupils; Mrs. I. Baum, 1 piece lace and handkerchiefs; Mrs. H. Cohn, sewing material; Miss B. Bessunger, programs for dancing; Miss Harrison, clothing; Mrs. Marcus Van Bergh, clothing; Mr. Ehmer Adler, 4 Turkish towels, soap, comb and brush; Mr. Jonas Simon, mirror and book.

GOOD CHEER DONATIONS.

Mrs. Carrie Wile, potatoes, sugar, crackers, coffee, rolled oats; A friend, \$2.00; Mrs. Friedlich, dishes; Miss Benjamin, potted plant, fruit, fresh eggs, dishes, Washington's birthday party for thirty children; Mrs. Eliza Elsner, potted plant; Friend, men's clothing; Mrs. Marcus Van Bergh, clothing; Mrs. Marcus Michaels, 1 dozen boxes wafers, 1 bunch bananas; Sunshine Club, potted plant.

The kindergarten children had been taught to bow their heads and close their eyes during the introductory prayer. One morning, when the prayer was finished, a small boy, turning to the teacher, whispered confidentially, "Oh, Mrs. — everybody peeped but me!"

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