

REPORT

OF

New Jersey Commission for the Blind

FOR THE YEAR 1915

TRENTON, N. J.
MacCrellish & Quigley Co., State Printers

1916

New Jersey State Library

LYDIA Y. HAYES, *Supervisor*,
54 James Street, Newark, N. J.
Telephone, Market 375.

1950-1951

REPORT.

To His Excellency, James F. Fielder, Governor, Trenton, N. J.:

DEAR SIR—The New Jersey Commission for the Blind respectfully presents the following report for the year ending October 31st, 1915:

During the year ten monthly meetings have been held. The Commission has had for the conduct of its work this year ten thousand dollars.

With this appropriation we have been able to keep the records of the 1,661 blind up to date, and to keep our Headquarters in such condition as to increase the social service for the blind of the State.

In this work we have employed a Supervisor, her secretary, a bookkeeper, five Home Teachers, the guides for three of these teachers, a teacher of piano tuning, and a janitor. That we might awaken local interest in the blind, we have conducted nineteen demonstrations and sales of work for and by the blind in various parts of the State, also four addresses were given.

From Headquarters 4,157 calls have been made and 2,731 visitors have been received at the office. By the Home Teachers and at Headquarters a total of 3,903 lessons have been given to 294 pupils.

The activities of the Commission are not only the training of the blind in the industries and the marketing of the products of the blind, but they also include salesmanship of staple articles. The total profits to the blind agents from the sale of cocoa and chocolate amount to \$1,399.20. The earnings of our pupils, as reported to the Commission, amount to \$613.78. It is fair to state that many of the pupils decline to report their earnings. The sales of consignments to the Commission amount to \$1,049.31. The total profits to the blind have been \$3,158.29. This represents the earnings and profits only of our consignors, cocoa agents and demonstrators.

Our Supervisor and others in their public addresses have embraced every opportunity to emphasize the importance of the care of the sight. At the demonstrations forty charts on the Prevention of Blindness are exhibited. Also 1,000 copies of

pamphlets on Prevention have been purchased for distribution. We have directed many with imperfect vision to the care of skilled oculists. This has resulted in the improvement of the sight of four and in the cure of three, medical treatment having been provided for seventy. Care has been secured for two in Homes for Incurable for the remainder of their lives. The assistance of local charities has been procured in twenty-one cases.

The Commission has continued to demand of itself, and of individuals and groups of individuals working for the blind, a strict compliance with the ethical and business standards employed by efficient philanthropic organizations. When compliance with such standards has failed to be observed, the Commission has openly stated its disapproval. During the year there has been no reason for a change in the attitude of the Commission regarding the business methods employed by the three cases investigated in 1914. Those then reported on were the Golden Rule Alliance of America, under Rev. Mr. Holman's leadership; Miss Alice O'Neal's Workshop and Home for the Blind, in Trenton; and the International Sunshine Society, under Mrs. Alden's control, whose charter was refused by New York State.

The work of the Commission has been greatly facilitated by the co-operation of the New Jersey Anti-Tuberculosis Association, the New Jersey State Children's Catholic Aid, the New Jersey State Association for the Blind, the New Jersey Blind Men's Club, the Essex County Child's Welfare Society, the Camden Association of Workers for the Blind, the Trenton Auxiliary for the Industrial Blind, under Mrs. H. Fisher Andrew's direction, the Trenton Association of Workers for the Blind, the Newark Bureau of Associated Charities, St. Michael's Hospital; Dr. Poland, Superintendent, and Miss J. G. Paterson, teacher of Class for the Blind, Newark Public Schools; Miss M. Croff, teacher of Class for the Blind, Jersey City Public Schools; the Orange Bureau of Associated Charities, the Orange Memorial Hospital, the National Committee on the Prevention of Blindness, the New York Association for the Blind, the New York Commission for the Blind, the New York Charity Organization Society, the New York State Board of Charities, and the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. The skillful service and advice of Doctors Robert G. Reese, T. Y. Sutphen and Norton L. Wilson have always been at the command of the Commission.

Churches and many individuals throughout the State have rendered valuable assistance to the work by giving opportunities

for holding demonstrations and sales. Mr. Franklin Conklin, by the gift of the use of the house at 54 James street, Newark, as Headquarters, has enabled us to extend the occupational training and social service for the blind. Mrs. Felix Fuld has generously contributed an automobile and the services of a chauffeur and also selling facilities for goods made by the blind in Bamberger's department store. L. Bamberger & Co. have very kindly permitted the use of their auditorium for public meetings. The industrial co-operation has been noticeably extended and resultant sales have increased the earnings of the blind. Mr. U. B. Brewster has continued to furnish cocoa and chocolate at special prices for sale by blind agents.

A new and important feature of the work this year has been the marked increase in friendly and social contact afforded to the blind in monthly socials, weekly classes for men and women, and semi-monthly gospel meetings.

The details of our year's work will be found in the report of the Supervisor, Miss Lydia Y. Hayes, which is appended hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. FELLOWES MORGAN,

President.

Supervisor's Report.

To the New Jersey Commission for the Blind:

It gives me pleasure to present the following detailed report of the work accomplished by the various departments under your direction for the fiscal year from November, 1914, to October 31st, 1915. The Legislature, on recommendation of the Joint Committee on Appropriations, granted the amount of \$10,000.00. With this sum, in addition to paying the salaries and necessary expenses of the regular employees, we have been able to keep the census of the blind up to date, and to keep our headquarters in such condition as to increase the social service for the blind of the State.

The refusal of the Commission's request for funds with which to extend the employment of the blind and to further carry on the work of the Prevention of Blindness, made it necessary to appeal for volunteer help along these lines. A most generous response followed, not less than twenty-five assisting. Mrs. Felix Fuld and Bamberger Co. contributed a booth and services of a saleswoman from November 21st, 1914, to January 9th, 1915, and from March 27th to April 17th, 1915, the amount of these sales being \$505.06. The Geismar-Meyer Co., Hoboken, contributed a booth for a week; Mrs. Rummler, of Rutherford, a store and window space for one day's sale; Dr. Rogers, of Morristown, a store for one day. The Flemington Fair Association gave a booth at the Fair for one week and twelve churches in different parts of the New Jersey have given us opportunity to sell the work of the blind. Mr. U. B. Brewster, through the Brewster Sons Co., has continued to furnish cocoa and chocolate at special prices for sale by blind agents.

The work along the lines of Prevention of Blindness has been limited because of lack of funds, but so far as possible all available agencies have been utilized—such as lantern slides, notes and pamphlets on Prevention of Blindness furnished by the New Jersey State Association for the Blind; Dr. T. Y. Sutphen's Clinic, at St. Michael's Hospital, Newark; the Orange Memorial Hospital, where free Salvarsan treatments were given to two patients, the medicines in one case being paid for out of a State Emergency Fund, in the other case by the New Jersey State Association for the Blind; Dr. Robert G. Reese's Clinic at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, New York City, where an obstinate case of trachoma was treated and the patient boarded for eight and one-half months. Personal contributions to further the work of Prevention have been made by three of the Commissioners, an employee and other friends. Pamphlets on Prevention have been distributed. The Bamberger Company gave the use of their auditorium for the first of a series of public meetings on the Prevention of Blindness. As a result, the National Committee on the Prevention of Blindness offered to co-operate through their executive officer, Gordon L. Berry, with the New Jersey State Commission for the Blind in making a survey of the eye conditions in New Jersey. Every opportunity has been embraced to spread the gospel of Prevention.

The increase of opportunities for the friendly and social contact for the blind is an important feature of the work. The use of Mr. Franklin Conklin's property at 54 James Street, Newark, and of Mrs. Fuld's automobile and chauffeur for six months has enabled us to extend our efficiency through the monthly socials, weekly classes for men and women, gospel meetings, and the monthly meetings of the New Jersey Blind Men's Club.

Through Mr. Franklin Conklin's generosity the giving of ten Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners was made possible. The children of the Newark class for the blind were made happy by attending a Christmas tree party at Headquarters. In addition to enlarging the classes through the use of the auto, many of the blind have had health-giving pleasure rides. Others have been taken regularly to the clinic in the auto, and several invalids and cripples, formerly shut-ins, have received the benefit of outings and meetings at Headquarters. During the summer three picnics were enjoyed and a friend in Hudson county gave carriage rides to several. Also socials for the blind were arranged for at Trenton and Camden.

The Finance Committee of the City Council of Newark have furthered the work of this Commission by cancelling the taxes on this property for 1914, but unfortunately the Commission was not notified of this action, so the taxes reverted to the State. The Essex County Board of Taxation have abrogated the taxes for 1915. Other contributions to the work have been a Singer sewing machine, for the classroom, the advancing of \$115.00 for mileage tickets for the use of the Home Teachers by Mr. Wm. Fellowes Morgan, the services at Headquarters of Mrs. Clara D. MacKinnon of East Orange, and of Mrs. Butler in weekly readings to the class for women. Toward the life care of blind in institutions three of the Commissioners have been generous contributors. Also the family care of one blind child has been continued with great success. Many friends have given their services in cutting materials and preparing work to be made up by the blind.

For eight months one of the Home Teachers gave music lessons to the children in the Newark class for the blind, but as this interfered with the teaching of the adults, Miss Schaeffer and Miss Greiss, two blind women of Newark, volunteered their services for the musical training of these children. These services were prompted by gratitude for benefits derived through the Commission.

During the week following Christmas the Home Teachers had lessons in rope paper basketry for three days at Dennison's, New York City. Also visits were made to various institutions and associations of workers for the blind in New York. Prof Horne, of the New York University, met with the teachers at Headquarters one afternoon, and addressed them on "The Ideals of Education." The New York Association for the Blind gave them tickets to a violin recital. The Supervisor and five Home Teachers with three guides attended the State Conference of Charities and Corrections, held on April 25th, 26th and 27th, 1915, in New Brunswick, N. J. Miss Ward arranged for several of her New Brunswick pupils to attend these meetings and also for their meeting the employees of this Commission at a luncheon. At a conference held at Headquarters during October the Supervisor and Home Teachers discussed, with others, subjects relative to Home Teaching and how to extend and increase the efficiency of their work. Miss Pendleton, of the Newark Bureau of Associated Charities; Miss Marion Campbell, from the New York Commission for the Blind; and Miss Frances E. Moscrip, Inspector of the Classes for the Blind, Public Schools, New York City, were also present, giving most helpful and suggestive talks.

This year the Department of Home Teaching has continued the investigation of new cases and the reinvestigation of the cases not called on for a year or more. In addition to their regular work, the teachers have given social service and uplift, made available proper medical care, and encouraged and directed the work of the consignors and the cocoa and chocolate agents.

Commissioner C. R. Dieffenbach during September and October, 1915, reinvestigated 61 cases in Hudson county and reported 18 deaths.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME TEACHING FOR BLIND AND INVESTIGATION.

Wm. J. Adickes, 1030 Park Avenue, Hoboken, N. J., Home Teacher in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union counties. Mr. Adickes received his training as a sighted youth in the public

schools of Hudson county, and, on partially losing his sight, received special training at the Headquarters of the Commission, and is able to travel alone, employing a guide only on first trips. He reports the following for the year:

Number of pupils taught in their homes, 53; lessons given, 626; number of hours teaching, 438 hours 40 minutes. Number of pupils taught in classroom at Headquarters, 14 men; lessons given, 105; number of hours teaching, 106 hours 15 minutes. Total number of pupils taught, 67; total lessons given, 731; total time teaching, 545 hours 15 minutes. Miles traveled, 9,477; number of hours traveling 839 hours 20 minutes; statistics obtained, 27; cases re-investigated, 101; number of hours spent investigating, 15; business calls made other than for teaching, 305; number of hours, 181; number of hours spent in preparing work, assisting at Headquarters, and at demonstrations and sales, 188 hours 35 minutes; number of business calls received and made with sighted persons, 6; number of hours, 4 hours 30 minutes; number of cases sent to clinic and hospital, 7; number of children sent to school, 2; number of cases deceased, 25; reported remunerative work of pupils, aside from that marketed through the Commission, \$338.50. Traveling expenses, \$152.68; board, \$52.40; clerical services, expressage, postage, stationery and sundries, \$11.60; salary, \$600.00; total, \$816.68.

Miss Margaret R. Hogan, 26 Argyle Ave., Orange, N. J., received elementary training at the New York Institution for the Blind, New York City, N. Y. Received degree of B.A. from Barnard College in 1911. After examination by the New Jersey Commission for the Blind, she was engaged as Home Teacher in August, 1914. Miss Hogan teaches in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris and Passaic counties. She reports the following for the year:

Number of pupils taught, 46; lessons given, 702; number of hours teaching, 675 hours 20 minutes; miles traveled, 4,405; number of hours traveling, 945 hours 30 minutes; statistics obtained, 7; cases re-investigated, 47; number of hours spent investigating, 75 hours; business calls made other than for teaching, 115; number of hours, 75; number of hours spent in preparing work and assisting at Headquarters, 374; number of cases attending clinic, 10; reported remunerative work of pupils, aside from that marketed through the Commission, \$35.00. Traveling expenses, \$296.56; board, \$156.25; guide, \$218.00; clerical services, postage, telephone, and sundries, \$50.70; salary, \$480.00; total, \$1,201.51.

Miss Bertha M. Johnson, 17 Nixon Street, Bridgeton, N. J., Home Teacher in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean and Salem counties. Miss Johnson received her training in the Western Penn. Institution for the Blind, Pittsburg, Pa., where as a special honor she received a scholarship for a post-graduate course in medical massage. Afterwards she trained for Home Teaching under Miss A. V. Ward, our first Home Teacher. She reports the following for the year;

Number of pupils taught in their homes, 43; number of lessons given, 814; number of hours teaching, 568 hours; miles traveled, 7,795; number of hours traveling, 722 hours 15 minutes; statistics obtained, 18; blind called on other than for teaching, 53; business calls made other than for teaching, 405; number of hours, 104; number of calls received, 3; time, 2 hours; number of hours spent in preparing work and on clerical work, 151 hours 30 minutes; number of children sent to school, 1; number of blind helped by social calls, 7; number of persons deceased 8; reported remunerative work of pupils, aside from that marketed through the Commission, \$32.10. Traveling expenses, \$354.59; board, \$203.68; guide, \$201.00; expressage, postage, stationery, telephone, materials, and sundries, \$12.52; salary, \$600.00; total, \$1,371.79.

Miss M. A. Springer, 169 S. Munn Ave., East Orange, N. J., Home Teacher in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Union and Warren counties. Miss Springer received her education in the public schools of Bergen county, and, on partially losing her sight, received special training at the New York Association for the Blind and the Headquarters of this Commission. She travels alone, employing a guide on first trips only. When having sight she had experience both as a teacher and as a stenographer. She reports the following for the year:

Number of pupils taught in their homes, 47; lessons given, 608; number of hours teaching, 476 hours 55 minutes; number of pupils taught at Headquarters during September and October, 14 women; lessons given, 79; number of hours teaching, 56; total number of pupils taught, 61; total number of lessons given, 687; total number of hours teaching, 732 hours 55 minutes; miles traveled, 9,151; number of hours traveling,

748 hours 15 minutes; statistics obtained, 22; business calls made other than for teaching, 171; time, 70 hours 35 minutes; number of hours spent in preparing work, assisting at Headquarters, and at demonstrations and sales, 163 hours 45 minutes; number of business calls received and made with sighted persons, 85; number of hours, 39 hours 48 minutes; number of cases sent to clinic, 1; number of children recommended to school, 1; number of cases helped by charity, 1. Traveling expenses, \$247.54; board, \$126.55; guide, \$48.00; clerical services, expressage, postage, telephone, stationery, and sundries, \$22.52; salary, \$600.00; total, \$1,044.61.

Miss Anne V. Ward, 119 East Hanover Street, Trenton, N. J., Home Teacher in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Ocean and Warren counties. Miss Ward lost her sight at the age of 17, after which she graduated from the Penn. Institution for the Blind, Overbrook, Pa., and Vassar College, and then organized the Home Teaching in Delaware. She began her work in New Jersey in the summer of 1910. She reports the following for the year:

Number of pupils taught in their homes, 46; lessons given, 969; number of hours teaching, 791 hours 55 minutes; miles traveled, 6,237; number of hours traveling, 397 hours 55 minutes; statistics obtained, 27; business calls made other than for teaching, 172; number of hours, 127 hours 55 minutes; number of hours spent preparing work and on clerical work, 282 hours 35 minutes; number of business calls received and made with sighted persons, 161; time, 129 hours; number of cases sent to clinic, 13; number of children sent to school, 10; reported remunerative work of pupils, aside from that marketed through the Commission, \$208.18. Traveling expenses, \$240.65; board, \$195.20; guide, \$198.00; expressage, postage, stationery, telephone, materials and sundries, \$27.31; salary, \$600.00; total, \$1,261.16.

DEPARTMENT OF WORK AT HEADQUARTERS.

The employees at Headquarters consist of the Supervisor, Miss Lydia Y. Hayes, her secretary, Miss Ruth Dugan; clerk and bookkeeper, Miss Julia M. Springer; teacher of piano tuning, Mr. Wm. B. Schott; and janitress, Mrs. John D. Mills.

Mr. Wm. B. Schott, 59 Clinton Ave., W. Irvington, N. J., graduate of the New York Institution for the Blind, New York City, N. Y., reports having given 165 lessons in piano tuning and repairing to ten pupils, teaching each Thursday morning during the year.

In the classroom at Headquarters 924 lessons have been given to 59 pupils. Calls made from Headquarters 4,157; calls received at Headquarters, 2,731. Number of cases receiving medical attention, 48. Sight improved by this medical treatment, 4. Number of cases receiving assistance from individual or organized charity, 20. Number of cases assisted in entering Homes for Incurables, 2. Number of children placed in schools 8. Monthly socials at Headquarters, 12; at Trenton, 1; at Camden, 1; dinners, 3; picnics from Headquarters, 3; at Trenton, 8 persons sent on picnic. Semi-monthly gospel meetings at Headquarters, 24; at Hudson County Almshouse, 24. Statistics obtained, 25. Demonstrations and sales, 19, including a booth at Bamberger's department store from Nov. 21st, 1914, to Jan. 9th, 1915, and from March 27th to April 17th, 1915. Additional addresses, 4. Demonstrators, 38; amount paid for services, \$96.00. Play, "Under Cover," given in New York for the blind, blind and their guides attending from New Jersey, 20. Portions of the Bible in tangible types given to the blind, 9. Established in business, 1.

Men caning at Headquarters, 7; earnings, \$473.00; tuning orders given from Headquarters to tuners, 3 men; earnings, \$189.50; consignors of work to Headquarters, 101; articles valued at \$1,587.37; amount of sales of their work \$1,049.31; amount received in the Sarah J. Churchill industrial revolving fund, \$2,039.59; amount paid out \$2,066.25; amount of Home Trade cocoa received and disbursed through Headquarters, 5,493 lbs.; sweet chocolate, 3,240 lbs.; unsweetened chocolate, 12 lbs. to 76 agents in 40 municipalities. Approximate profits to agents on sales of cocoa and chocolate, \$1,399.20.

The foregoing reports indicate an extension along all lines of work, especially that of social uplift and remunerative employment, including salesmanship. One of our agents with locomotor ataxia clears \$12 a week, when health permits; another, a woman, has cleared this fall from \$10 to \$16 weekly.

Those connected with the work during the past year have seen it demonstrated repeatedly, that "The greatest contribution which any man can make to the social movement is the contribution of a regenerated personality and of an intellect emancipated. Such a man will, in some measure, incar-

10 NEW JERSEY COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND.

nate the principles of a higher social order in his attitude to all questions and in all his relations to men, and will be a well-spring of regenerating influences." We believe, with President Wilson, that "No man who does not see visions will ever realize any high hopes or undertake any great enterprise."

Respectfully submitted,

LYDIA Y. HAYES,

Supervisor of the Work for the Blind of New Jersey.

RECEIPTS.

Appropriation from Nov. 1st, 1914, to Oct. 31st, 1915, 10,000.00.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Salary of Supervisor, \$1,200.00; salary of Private Secretary, \$360.00; salary of Office Clerk, \$530.00; salary of Home Teacher, \$600.00; salary of Home Teacher, \$600.00; salary of Home Teacher, \$600.00; salary of Home Teacher, \$480.00; salary of Teacher of Piano Tuning, \$156.00; salary of Janitor, \$180.00; extra clerical help, \$116.50; express, \$118.80; office furniture, \$67.62; office supplies, \$90.79; postage, \$123.97; taxes, \$128.96; stationery, 44.05; telegraph, \$0.51; telephone, \$66.81; transportation, \$1,480.37; maintenance, \$890.78; workshop supplies, 536.45; sundries, \$34.97; guides, \$693.10; gaslights, \$12.70; fire insurance, \$4.18; coal, \$72.75; books, \$21.67; water assessment, \$18.25; painting, \$3.00; plumbing, \$61.70; carpentry, \$22.00; fees to demonstrators, \$84.00; total, \$9,999.93; balance of appropriation October 31st, 1915, \$0.07; returned from the Common Council of the City of Newark, and reverted to the State Treasury, \$128.96.

94594