

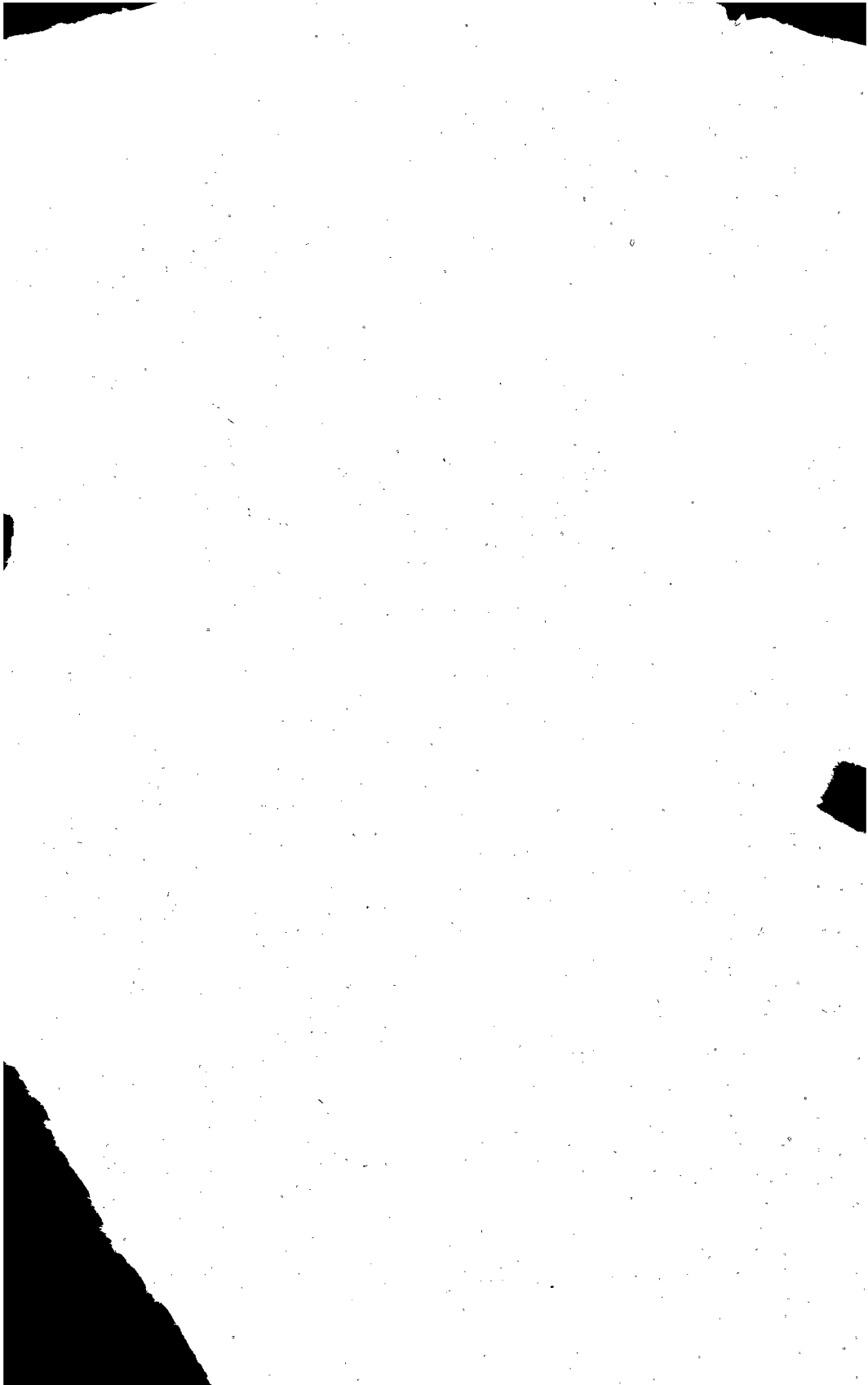
REPORT
OF
NEW JERSEY COMMISSION
FOR THE BLIND

FOR THE YEAR
1914

TRENTON, N. J.
MACCRELLISH & QUIGLEY Co., STATE PRINTERS.

1915

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NEW JERSEY COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND.

MR. WM. FELLOWES MORGAN, *President*, Short Hills, N. J.
MRS. ALBERT T. BECKETT, *Recording Secretary*, Salem, N. J.
MR. C. R. DIEFFENBACH, Jersey City, N. J.
MRS. ELLIS P. EARLE, Montclair, N. J.
DR. NORTON L. WILSON, Elizabeth, N. J.

LYDIA Y. HAYES, *Supervisor*, 54 James Street, Newark, N. J.
Phone, Market 6396-R.

At the meeting, October 14th, 1914, Mr. Morgan was elected President and Mrs. Ellis P. Earle Recording Secretary for the coming year.
Dr. Norton L. Wilson resigned September, 1914.

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, 1914. During the year eleven monthly meetings have been held. The Commission has had for the conduct of its work this year \$9,700.

With this appropriation we have been able to bring the census of the blind up to date, and to place our headquarters in such condition as to increase the social service for the blind in the State.

In this work we have employed a Supervisor, her secretary, a bookkeeper, five Home teachers, and guides for three of these teachers, a teacher of piano tuning and a janitor. Along the line of publicity we have conducted eighteen demonstrations and sales of work for and by the blind in various parts of the State.

From Headquarters 1,497 calls have been made, and 1,756 visitors have been received at the office. By the Home teachers and at Headquarters a total of 3,810 lessons have been given to 317 pupils.

The total profits to the blind agents from the sale of cocoa amounts to \$1,159. The earnings of our pupils, as reported to the Commission, amount to \$3,229. It is only fair to state that many of the pupils decline to report their earnings.

Our Supervisor in her public addresses has embraced every opportunity to emphasize the importance of the care of the sight. Forty charts on the Prevention of Blindness are exhibited at the demonstrations. Along preventive lines we have directed those with imperfect vision to the care of skilled oculists. This has resulted in the improvement of the sight of nineteen and in the

cure of one. Institutional care has been provided for four. The assistance of the local charities has been secured in fourteen cases.

We submit herewith figures as to the causes of blindness furnished to us by Dr. Norton L. Wilson: "Of the one hundred thousand cases of blindness in the United States about thirty thousand are unnecessarily blind. About twelve thousand of these are due to the gonococcus infection. Most of these cases occur in infants and are then known as ophthalmia neonatorum. About twelve thousand are due to injuries which could have been avoided by proper safety devices. Twenty-five hundred are due to trachoma or granular lids which thrives in unsanitary homes. Two thousand are due to the non-observance of a sane and safe Fourth of July. Fifteen hundred are due to various causes, such as the drinking or inhaling the fumes of wood alcohol, the neglect of certain eye conditions such as high degrees of myopia, tuberculosis, syphilis and corneal ulcers."

As our investigation of the 1,610 cases of New Jersey's blind shows the same proportion of preventable blindness in the State as is indicated by Dr. Wilson's figures for the United States, we are asking for five hundred dollars with which to conduct a campaign against tuberculosis, glaucoma, syphilis and myopia. Ophthalmia neonatorum, trachoma, wood alcohol and industrial accidents are provided against by State laws.

The Commission demands of itself and of individuals and groups of individuals working for the blind a strict compliance with the ethical standards employed by first-class philanthropic organizations. When compliance with such standards has failed to be observed, the Commission has openly stated its disapproval. Three cases have been investigated and reported, namely, the Golden Rule Alliance of America, under Rev. Mr. Holman's leadership, the Trenton Home and Work Shop for the Blind, under Miss Alice O'Neal's management, and the International Sunshine Society, under Mrs. Alden's control.

In January, 1913, a resolution was adopted authorizing the President of the Commission, Mr. Wm. Fellowes Morgan; the Commissioner of Charities and Correction, Mr. Jos. P. Byers,

and the Secretary of the Newark Bureau of Associated Charities, Mr. Arthur W. MacDougall, to choose a certified public accountant to examine the books, vouchers and all other data of all the departments of the International Sunshine Society; said accountant to investigate and report as to the methods, resources and disbursements of said society. This Committee appointed Messrs. Suffern and Son. Subsequently Mr. Byers withdrew from the Committee, stating that, on account of his official position, it would be embarrassing for him to serve.

Messrs. Suffern and Son having made the investigation, so far as the books and records submitted to them would permit, found:

“First. The records of receipts of contributions to the society have not been so kept as to make it possible to verify their correctness or completeness.

“Second. Specific funds have not always been used for the purposes for which they were obtained, although it has been represented that they have been so used.

“Third. Trust funds in the nature of endowments have been received and invested in a participation in a mortgage. The mortgage has been disposed of to Mrs. Cynthia Westover Alden and others in settlement of debts incurred and alleged to have been incurred by the society, thus removing the asset acquired. The endowment fund has been removed as a continuing liability of the society by being charged to profit and loss. The funds and the endowment liability have thus both been merged and consumed in the general operations of the society.”

During the spring of 1914 the New York State Board of Charities carried on an investigation and made a report as to the methods of the International Sunshine Society, its findings corroborating the report of Suffern and Son.

As a result of these two investigations Messrs. Morgan and MacDougall reported to the Commission for the Blind as follows:

“The Committee finds that large sums of money given for charitable purposes have been improperly used in maintaining the Bensonhurst Hospital and Sanitarium under circumstances, which, to say the least, are peculiar; also that the management of the funds of the International Sunshine Society and the Branch for the Blind under the direction of Mrs. Alden has been loose and careless, and in some cases without warrant of law.

“We report further that as a result of these investigations we do not believe that the International Sunshine Society should be entrusted with the care of any blind babies in the State of New Jersey.”

This report was submitted to the Commission for the Blind at a meeting held on July 15th, 1914, at which all the members were present and was adopted, with one dissenting vote.

The work of the Commission has been greatly facilitated by the generous coöperation of the New Jersey Anti-Tuberculosis Association, the New Jersey State Children's Catholic Aid, the Essex County Child's Welfare Society, the Newark Bureau of Associated Charities, the New Jersey State Association for the Blind, the New York Association for the Blind, the New York Commission for the Blind, the New York Charity Organization Society and the New York State Board of Charities. The churches and many prominent individuals throughout the State have also rendered valuable assistance to the work. The generous gift of Hon. Franklin Conklin of the use of a ten-room house at 54 James Street, Newark, as Headquarters, has enabled us to extend the occupational training of the blind.

During the year Dr. Norton L. Wilson, on account of pressure of business, resigned from the Commission. We record here our regrets and our sense of loss by his resignation.

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.

Statement of Minority in the Matter of the Investigation of the International Sunshine Society.

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

DEAR SIR—As a member of the New Jersey Commission for the Blind, I cannot concur with the Majority in the matter of the report of the investigation of the International Sunshine Society, made by Messrs. Suffern & Son, of New York City. This investigation was made in pursuance of a resolution unanimously adopted January 14th, 1913, which called for a "thorough investigation of all books, vouchers and other data of all departments of the Society" and "in order that a just and unprejudiced opinion could be reached."

The report of the investigation made by Suffern & Son, accountants selected by the Chairman of the Special Committee, was rejected by the minority—

1st—Because the accountants failed to carry out the terms of the resolution, and presented a report acknowledged by them to be "incomplete and superficial", they further state, "We have not attempted to obtain exact or complete information as to past operations or present conditions of the Society, neither of which would have been possible within the limitations of the investigations we have made." The limitations referred to were made necessary not from the fact that books were missing, but because a thorough investigation would have been more expensive than the Commission (two members) felt justified to undertake.

2d—Because of the breach of trust, in that the report of Suffern & Son, dated October 1st, 1913, became public property through the New York State Board of Charities before it was submitted to the New Jersey Commission for the Blind, to whom it was first presented, by the President, on December 16th, 1913; it was acted upon on July 15th, 1915.

As a member of this Commission, I have no knowledge of any effort on the part of the Special Committee appointed to obtain a thorough investigation into all phases of the Inter-

national Sunshine Society's work as called for by the resolution adopted.

During the spring of 1914 the New York State Board of Charities conducted an investigation of the International Sunshine Society, based upon the acknowledged incomplete report of Suffern & Son that had been made for this Commission. The following extracts are taken from the minutes of the New York Charities hearings:

"There has been no indication of wastefulness, but rather strict and honest economy has been practiced in all departments." "Investigation of the books and accounts reveals the facts that Mrs. Alden did not receive any salary or compensation from the time of the commencement of her philanthropic ideas and plans; she had loaned money to the amount of \$22,927.28, which had not been paid."

In reference to the Arthur Home for Blind Babies, Summit, N. J., the report of Suffern & Son states: "The books of the Home are well and apparently accurately kept." This and other statements in the report, in regard to this institution within this State, clearly show that there was no irregularity as to its management nor neglect as to the care of its inmates.

In view of the foregoing facts, the following recommendations were submitted in the minority report to his Excellency Hon. James F. Fielder, on August 12th, 1914:

1st—That as no proof of irregularity or mismanagement has been made against the Arthur Home for Blind Babies at Summit, N. J., that this Home and its management be exonerated from the charges made in the Majority Report of the New Jersey Commission for the Blind.

2d—That as no evidence of fraud, dishonesty or deception was proven against Mrs. Alden through the hearings of the New York State Board of Charities (part of which were included in the report of the Majority), I recommend full exoneration of Mrs. Alden and her associates of the charges brought against the International Sunshine Society and its affiliated institutions.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. ALBERT T. BECKETT,
Commissioner.

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 the direction of your Commission, for the fiscal year from November 1st, 1913, to October 31st, 1914.

The granting by the Committee on Appropriations, of a \$2,200 supplemental appropriation, has enabled us to extend Home Teaching to the blind of the State desiring such instruction, by the employment of a fifth Home Teacher. It is hoped by this increase of the Home Teaching force that the teachers may minister to all of the needs of the blind in their respective districts.

When it was learned, in May, 1914, that the Commission could employ a fifth Home Teacher, examinations were given to candidates for this position, and, as no one passed these examinations, it was decided to open a normal class in Home Teaching at Headquarters. This class of three blind women met three times a week through the summer. Notices of the examinations to be again held in August were given in the "Newark Evening News" and other New Jersey papers, and in the Zeigler Magazine for the Blind. Notices were also mailed to several persons in various parts of the State who were thought to desire such work. Miss Margaret R. Hogan, a New Jersey graduate of the New York Institution for the Blind, and of Barnard College, 1911, passed these examinations, and, therefore, received the appointment.

Four of the children from the special class for the blind in the Washington Street school, Newark, who have come to Headquarters for music lessons, have been assigned to Miss Hogan as a part of her Home Teaching.

Through the interest of one of the Commissioners, an adequate equipment, including two upright pianos of English and American make, for teaching piano tuning and repairing, has been secured. In the spring the experiment was made of employing a teacher of piano tuning and repairing at Headquarters, and the men taking up this line of work did so well, that on August 6th, 1914, the class was reopened by the Commission with Mr. Wm. B. Schott as teacher. This class meets every Thursday morning.

Through the generosity of Mrs. Felix Fuld and the Bamberger Co. the services of Miss Emma Storz has been given the Commission for ten weeks to prepare the work of the blind for the market and to take charge of demonstrations and sales. As Mrs. Fuld feels that by the work of Miss Storz, the importance of employing some one permanently to develop Home Industries, has been proven, and that it should be carried on by the State, we are appealing to volunteer helpers till such time as the State may grant funds for the proper conduct of this work. We shall try to extend it with the assistance of these volunteers, who have thus far most cordially responded.

After nearly four years of faithful service to this Commission Miss Woolf resigned to take a position with the State Board of Children's Guardians. Her work with us, in part, has been assumed by Miss Ruth Dugan. The great mass of data which Miss Woolf collected regarding the blind of the State has been collated and made available by Miss Lillian M. Rateau. The statistical card catalog, being arranged according to counties, the addresses of the blind of the State, so far as we know them, are arranged alphabetically.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME TEACHING FOR THE BLIND.

Wm. J. Adicks, 1030 Park Avenue, Hoboken, N. J., Home Teacher in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Middlesex, Union, Passaic and Somerset counties. Mr. Adicks, having partial sight is able to travel alone, employing a guide only on first trips.

Mr. Adicks reports the following for the year:

Number of pupils taught, 80; lessons given, 728; number of hours teaching, 506; miles traveled, 9,147; number of hours traveling, 888; statistics obtained, 5; calls made other than teaching, 230; number of hours spent calling, 68; number of hours spent in preparing work and assisting at Headquarters, and at demonstrations, 313; reported remunerative work of pupils, aside from that marketed through the commission, \$328.55.

Traveling expenses, \$149.28; board, \$48.50; clerical services and expressage, \$3.07; salary, \$425.00; total, \$625.85.

Miss Margaret R. Hogan, 96 Quitman Street, Newark, N. J., received elementary training at the New York Institution for the Blind, New York City. Received degree of B.A. from Barnard College in 1911. After examination by New Jersey Commission for the Blind, she was engaged as Home Teacher in August, 1914. Miss Hogan teaches in Hudson, Essex and Passaic counties.

Number of pupils taught, 53; lessons given, 143; number of hours teaching, 170; number of miles traveled, 102; statistics obtained, 1; calls made other than teaching, 46; number of hours spent calling, 29; number of hours spent in preparation of work assisting at Headquarters and clerical work, 130.

Traveling expenses, \$65.38; board, \$35.90; guide, \$55.00; expressage, postage, telephone, sundries, \$3.29; salary, \$100.00; total expenses, \$259.57.

Miss Bertha M. Johnson, 17 Nixon Street, Bridgeton, N. J., is responsible for the work in the counties of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean and Salem. She is one of New Jersey's blind, who graduated from a school for the blind at Pittsburg, Pa. Miss Johnson reports the following for the year:

Number of pupils taught, 35; lessons given, 571; number of hours teaching, 554; miles traveled, 5,945; number of hours traveling, 608; statistics obtained, 9; calls made other than teaching, 275; number of hours spent calling, 91; calls received, 11; number of hours receiving calls, 13; number of hours spent in preparation and clerical work and demonstrations, 90.

Reported remunerative work of pupils, aside from that marketed through the commission, \$55.00; traveling expenses, \$279.30; board, \$133.82; guide, \$161.00; expressage, postage, stationery, telephone, materials and sundries, \$15.37; salary, \$425.00; total expenses, \$1,014.49.

Miss M. A. Springer, 169 South Munn Avenue, East Orange, N. J., is Home Teacher in Essex, Hudson, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Union and Warren counties. She is able to travel alone, employing a guide on first trips only. When having sight she had experience both as a teacher and as a stenographer. Miss Springer reports the following for the year:

Number of pupils taught, 67; lessons given, 716; number of hours teaching, 573; miles traveled, 7,356; number of hours traveling, 790; statistics obtained, 1; calls made other than teaching, 258; number of hours spent calling, 121; number of hours spent in preparing work and assisting at Headquarters, and demonstrations, 319; reported earnings of pupils aside from that marketed through the commission, \$

Traveling expenses, \$179.13; board, \$79.65; guide, \$17.25; expressage, postage, clerical services, stationery and sundries, \$17.96; salary, \$530.00; total expenses, \$823.99.

Miss Anne V. Ward, 119 E. Hanover Street, Trenton, N. J., teacher in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer and Ocean counties. Miss Ward reports the following for the year:

Number of pupils taught, 65; lessons given, 923; number of hours teaching, 843; miles traveled, 4,875; number of hours traveling, 491; statistics obtained, 14; calls made other than teaching, 132; number of hours spent calling, 129; calls received, 37; number of hours receiving calls, 51; Number of hours spent in preparation and clerical work, and demonstrations, 184; Reported remunerative work of pupils, aside from that marketed through the commission, \$11.45.

Traveling expenses, \$153.91; board, \$174.73; guide, \$220.00; expressage, postage, stationery and telephone, \$10.87; salary, \$600.00; total expenses, \$1,259.51.

DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION.

Miss M. H. Woolf, 150 Claremont Avenue, Montclair, N. J., secretary to the supervisor and investigator of the needs of the blind, reports the following field work from November 1st, 1913, to July 1st, 1914, when she resigned to accept a position under the State Board of Children's Guardians.

Number of cases looked up, 333; number of statistics obtained, 159; number not located, 96; number dead, 43; number not blind, 11; number moved out of State, 11; number investigated under another name, 2; number of blind needing medical attention, including those with defective vision, also needing medical attention, 19; number referred to clinics, district nurses, and charity organizations in various localities for medical attention, 1; number whose attendance at clinics was personally supervised, 1; number referred for charitable attention, 10; number wishing to enter a home, 4; number wishing to enter a residential school for the blind, 2; number wishing home teaching, 30; number of calls made, 437; number of hours spent calling, 82; miles traveled, 2,448; number of hours spent traveling, 373; expenses for eight months' investigation, \$144.02.

DEPARTMENT OF WORK AT HEADQUARTERS.

The employees at Headquarters consist of the Supervisor, Miss Lydia Y. Hayes, her secretary for eight months, Miss M. H. Woolf, for four months, 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, 95 Orange street, Irvington, N. J., graduate of the New York Institution for the Blind, reports having given forty-seven lessons in piano tuning and repairing to four regular and one trial pupil since August 6th, 1914.

Six hundred and forty-two lessons have been given at Headquarters to 35 pupils. 1,497 calls made and 1,756 calls received.

REGISTRATION REPORT.

During the year eight socials have been held at Headquarters for the blind, and since coming to 54 James street a social is held on the fourth Thursday evening of each month. Since the janitress and her blind husband have made their home at the Commission's Headquarters, on July 1st, 1914, gospel services have been held here on the afternoons of the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The blind who have enjoyed the social gatherings at Headquarters have, with the help of their friends, purchased a piano with automatic player attachment, which they have placed in the care of Miss Hayes for the pleasurable use of the blind at Headquarters.

During the year eighteen demonstrations and sales of work for and by the blind were held in as many towns, and thirteen addresses on the work were made by the Supervisor, explaining the work and emphasizing the importance of the care of the eyes in the prevention of blindness.

As a direct result of Home Teaching in this and previous years the reported earnings of the blind for this fiscal year is \$3,229.05, of which \$3,103.90 was paid to 88 consignors of work to Headquarters for sale.

The Board of Education of Newark continues to place their orders for tuning and caning with the blind of Newark.

Through the interest of Mr. U. B. Brewster the Brewster Sons Co. continue to furnish the blind with Home Trade Cocoa at Manufacturer's cost. The number of pounds of cocoa sold during the year amounted to 5,945 by 62 agents in 33 municipalities, also 300 pounds of milk chocolate sold by one agent. An agent in Plainfield sells every ten days one gross. This experience proves that the most remunerative work for the blind is to be found in selling a good staple article.

Through the faithful services of the Home Teachers, 475 blind persons have been ministered to. Their blind students have produced salable articles amounting to \$4,388. To a much greater extent the value and joy of life have been realized in attaining "Light through Work."

Respectfully submitted,

LYDIA Y. HAYES,
Supervisor.

Finances.

RECEIPTS.

Appropriation for the year from November 1st, 1913, to October 31st, 1914, \$7,500.00; supplemental appropriation for general expenses, \$800.00; supplemental appropriation for extension of home teaching, \$1,400.00; total, \$9,700.00.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Salary of Supervisor, \$1,200.00; salary of Secretary and Investigator (eight months), \$400.00; salary of Private Secretary (four months), \$120.00; salary of office clerk, \$403.00; salary of Home Teacher, \$425.00; salary of Home Teacher, \$425.00; salary of Home Teacher, \$530.00; salary of Home Teacher, \$600.00; salary of Home Teacher (two and a half months), \$100.00; salary of teacher of piano tuning (three months), \$39.00; salary of janitor, \$150.00; extra clerical help, \$140.37; express, \$126.53; office furniture, \$217.45; office supplies, \$90.35; postage, \$111.04; rent, \$525.00; stationery, \$64.61; telegraph, \$0.25; telephone, \$64.00; transportation, \$1,375.14; maintenance, Home Teachers and Supervisor, \$736.93; work-shop supplies, \$774.20; sundries, \$78.04; guides, \$493.75; electric and gas lights, \$10.09; fire insurance, \$14.89; coal, \$72.50; books, \$77.10; water assessment, \$5.06; papering and painting, \$191.00; printing, \$12.50; fees to demonstrators, \$126.00; total, \$9,700.00.

Returned from Fire Insurance Company and reverted to State Treasury, \$8.94.