

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES  
DIVISION OF RECORDS, REPORTS AND INFORMATION.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

## The Board of Managers

OF THE

## New Jersey Commission for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Blind

July 1st, 1918 to June 30, 1919

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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147 Summer Ave., Newark, N. J., June 30th, 1919.

Letter of Transmittal.

Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the New Jersey Commission for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Blind.

*To the Honorable Central Board and Commissioner of Institutions and Non-Institutional Agencies of the State of New Jersey.*

Ladies and Gentlemen:—

“The heavens declare the glory of God” which, although unseen by the physical eye, yet, nevertheless, is felt by those to whom we are appointed to minister. The new regime of centralization of power has fostered our ministrations to them and we wonder how anything was formerly accomplished.

## REGISTRATION, STATISTICS AND OFFICE WORK.

Each member of the Board presides over a specific department. Mrs. Baker, our Secretary, has charge of the register and all matters pertaining to Headquarters; Mr. Wiers, Budget and Approval Officer, has the educational end of the work; Dr. Broughton is caring for the Prevention of Blindness in the State; Mrs. Schermerhorn looks after Industries which includes Demonstrations and Sales; Mr. Dieffenbach, Chairman, rules in all philanthropic work. Thus each department can go forward between meetings and the general work of the Board is always well in hand. Reports are rendered at every regular meeting.

During the year, twelve monthly Board Meetings have been held with an average attendance of four.

By-Laws have been adopted and the same have been approved by the Department of Institutions and Agencies.

A great deal of available information concerning individual cases of blindness in this State has been assembled from many sources and has been classified on the county statistical cards. Facts regarding the blind have been tabulated on an analytical file with special reference to their educational, occupational and social status. A third set of index cards giving addresses only, is maintained. The records of nearly one hundred children,—who are being educated in five institutions or attending the public schools of our State,—require constant attention. There are special cases of those attending clinics, seeking employment and being assisted in various other ways. The efficiency records of all employees for the Civil Service Commission are kept by Mrs. W. Reginald Baker, secretary, who is directing all these branches of this section of our work. Thousands of letters from the blind and from friends or other interested persons have been received and answered, and much valuable advice and practical help and encouragement given. Through the kindly assistance of Charles P. Titus, C. P. A. the bookkeeping has been placed on an up-to-date basis.

#### PHILANTHROPY.

The State does not permit any direct use of its money for relief, so this section has had to work through other agencies. Although nothing startling has been accomplished, yet we feel that many cases of need and suffering have been relieved and that a spirit of good fellowship among the blind has been fostered and encouraged. The exploitation of the blind must cease, and we feel that a step in the right direction is being taken by the revocation of the charter of the Golden Rule Alliance of America.

#### PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Our "Gospels" of Prevention of Blindness and Conservation of Vision are going out continually in the mail, at various demonstrations and sales, at public lectures, and at any sort of function where we have the opportunity to send this literature, we are glad to furnish booklets with a prayer that some one

may read and be helped. Replies from one hundred and twenty nine questionnaires sent to all public school boards of New Jersey have been received bringing much interesting and valuable data which will be examined, compiled and made the basis for future recommendations along this most important line. Charts and lantern slides are available for lectures and we are assured that this matter will be taken up seriously in the near future by the authorities so that we shall be given an opportunity to present this phase of our work in various school lectures, etc. Dr. W. R. Broughton, who is in charge of this part of our work, is giving personal attention to the correlation points.

#### EDUCATIONAL WORK.

Since the change in July, 1918, this section has been charged not only with the readjusting of the "Newly Blinded Adult," but also with the mental and physical training of the youth of our State and the care of the little ones who are destitute and helpless. The Public School Classes and the Residential Schools for the Blind are doing good work in educating the blind youth of the State. The following are the residential schools with the enrollment on June 30, 1919:—

The Arthur Home for the Blind, Summit, N. J., has sixteen of our children.

The Catholic Institute, New York City, has one.

The Maryland School for the Colored Blind has two.

The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind has nineteen.

The Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind has sixteen.

These schools have been receiving our pupils for whom we are paying from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per day. There are conditions where a well equipped and carefully ordered institution might be made satisfactory but we feel that the family home, is the best for most children.

The following are the public school classes for the blind youth:—

Belleville Public School, two pupils.

Class for the Blind, Public School No. 14, Jersey City, eleven.

Garfield Public School one.

Montclair Public School one deaf, blind child.

Newark Public School Classes for the Blind;

Robert Treat Public School and Washington St. School, twenty-two pupils.

Newark is educating two pupils at the expense of Irvington and Lyndhurst.

Somerville Public School has one pupil.

The blind feeble minded must have custodial care and we are glad that Dr. Hallowell is making room for some of our females who are a menace to good moral and correct discipline in their homes.

Splendid is the work done by our five Home Teachers in rehabilitation and in promoting deeper interests in the hearts and lives of the many blind whom they visit all over the State.

Mr. Wiers has organized and carried this entire work forward in a most thorough and altruistic spirit, but while good foundation work has been done, we trust that the future will prove the wisdom of the Master Builder.

#### HOME INDUSTRIES.

We gratefully welcome all intelligent cooperation of such industries as are willing to employ any of our blind friends. Experience and observation teach us that the segregation of numbers of the blind, no matter how well intentioned, does not result in the best interests for either the employer or employee, and we therefore feel it the better part of wisdom to rule for the present, that, as far as possible, the blind interest themselves in work as near their own individual homes as possible, while we work out the problems. We are striving to develop markets for all wares which our pupils learn to make

and through our Demonstrations and Sales we are selling more finished products each year. Mrs. John R. Schermerhorn, who is in charge of this section, is doing much to standardize the work and to get the churches, hotels, clubs and organizations of all kinds to assist us in disposing of the work of the blind. Every cent realized in these sales is passed on to the consignor. Crocker Wheeler Co. of East Orange, N. J. are employing about forty blind, many of whom are not residents of this State and we feel that there are bound to be irritating conditions where blind people are brought here and then find they cannot earn as much as they had expected. We are hoping that a workable arrangement may soon be reached so that this Company will see to it that a blind person who is unable to qualify will have his expenses for his return to his home, paid, and thus relieve our Community of annoyance and expense along this line.

We are working on a survey of the State's industries looking to a list of possibilities for employing the blind in other factories.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR AND BY THE BLIND.

The same general situation as depicted heretofore now exists in the field of societies in our work. The New Jersey Federation of Workers for the Blind, with a membership of approximately fifty blind persons in about five of the cities of our State, still agitates a general Pension for the Blind. There is a large number of sympathizers with these people and, no doubt, some sort of financial relief ought to be considered and this provision placed on our statute books before very long to offset the handicap in some instances not only of blindness but of the diseases which cause this or the accidental handicap. There are four clubs which are not affiliated with the Federation and which are quietly studying the situation with us with a view to embodying this in the best possible law. These latter number more than fifty blind persons. The great majority are not organized. St. Joseph's Home in Jersey City continues to do good work for its inmates and while it persists

in its refusal to give us statistics, on the ground that it receives no State support, yet it does all it can do to help. The Light House for the Blind, Trenton, N. J., has been discontinued because the blind there felt that the management was not sympathetic. The Camden Association of Workers for the Blind is planning to go into the matter of beginning a Home, but up to the present, there has been nothing definite reported in this regard.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

We again earnestly recommend the following:—

1. That the Feeble Minded have custodial care as soon as possible.
2. That New Jersey take her place with many of her sisters, in special care for her needy blind.
3. That our teachers of occupational subjects be placed under the benefits of the Pension bill for public school teachers of our State.
4. That the law "Deporting Needy Blind" locating in our State be enforced.
5. That the charters of organizations which are ostensibly working in the interests of the blind, be limited.
6. That the cooperation of the Department of Psychiatric Research be asked in some of our perplexing cases among the blind.
7. That the products of the blind be utilized in the State Use System.
8. That the policy of this Board of employing blind in various lines in which they are proficient, such as music teachers, tuners, chair caners, masseurs, dictaphone operators, etc. be supported by all other state departments.
9. That the law of compulsory education be extended to include the blind.
10. That the comptroller permit the establishment of a petty cash fund for the expenses of the home teachers and that the revolving industrial Fund be open to our board, for purchasing materials for that department.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO ALL.

God has crowned our efforts with blessings through intelligent and unselfish cooperation, not only of the Central Board, but of our own organization, the hundreds of other public and private organizations and individuals. It is good to remember that God seeth it all and remembers to bless.

In His wondrous grace and love, we submit this ninth report.

C. R. DIEFFENBACH.

New Jersey State Library

## History of New Jersey's State Work For the Blind

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Prior to 1909 the only provision which New Jersey made for the blind of the State was the committing of a few indigent blind children as State wards to Institutions for the Blind outside the State. Applications for such commitments were made to the Governor, who since 1905 after signing such applications, referred these cases to the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections. The records of the blind who were thus educated at the expense of the State in accordance with this provision are filed at the office of the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections, State House, Trenton, N. J. Thus the old law increased the difficulties for the blind youth of the State by stigmatizing them in placing them in the criminal and dependent class but under the present law, Chapter 147 P. L. 1918, Article VI Sections 651-654, affords them training without detracting from their rights as citizens. There was also a law which provided for the appropriation, by the Legislature, of moneys with which to purchase Venetian writing boxes for the blind who might apply for them. A few of these boxes are still found in the possession of middle aged blind persons, with which they write a raised print block letter legible to both the blind and the sighted.

### PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Through the farsighted and indefatigable efforts of Drs. Kipp, Newark, Norton L. Wilson, Elizabeth and A. Clarke Hunt, Metuchen, N. J., in 1895 a law was passed providing for the prevention of blindness in the new born babies. This was one of the pioneer laws in this direction enacted in the country. Not until 1910 was an appropriation made with which to carry out the provisions of this act. The State Board of Health with

the cooperation of the local boards of health, public and private social service workers and later the State Commission for the blind have accomplished good and efficient work under this law and its amendments in saving the sight of babies.

Every worker among the blind realizes the vital importance of the prevention of blindness and so much time and study is given to this phase of the work. The most striking and popular literature is distributed and charts and lantern slides showing devices for the prevention of industrial eye accidents and other common causes of blindness, are exhibited in connection with most public functions of this board. All who are known to us as having eye diseases are urged to consult an oculist and attend an eye clinic. Glasses, medicine and traveling expenses are also met, when the patient cannot afford them. Cases of eye diseases reported through the State Board of Health are followed up. From July 1, 1918 to July 1, 1919 through Board of Health seventy-seven, through other sources twenty-nine, total 106. Seven cases are reported cured. Of these cases investigated, reports show treatments being given, some in arrested stages, mistaken diagnosis and deaths. One woman is being treated regularly at a clinic in New York, reduced rates have been secured for two persons needing glass eyes and others have been referred to oculists for examinations.

This board has joined the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness and also the National Safety Council which have for their purpose not only the prevention of blindness, but the prevention of accidents which cause blindness.

Gave talks at various demonstrations and sales and to Girls' Clubs.

It has been called to the attention of the Board of Managers of the New Jersey Commission for the Blind that more would-be soldiers and sailors were rejected by draft boards for eye defects than for any other one cause. With the approval of State Commissioner Kendall, 487 letters and questionnaires were sent to the local school boards of the State and 129 replies were received .

1. Number of school children inspected in 1918?  
Ans. In reply to the Questionnaire sent out to the schools, giving a total of scholars examined 519,635.
2. Are the children's eyes carefully and regularly examined for defects of vision and for "sore eyes"?  
Ans. 119 schools answered "Yes" and 10 answered "No".
3. Is this done by an oculist, physician, nurse or teacher?  
Ans. 100 schools have tests made by a physician, one by a nurse and 21 by both.
4. Number of school children in need of treatment for defects of vision?  
Ans. 94 schools reported 18,996 children.
5. Are records of visual acuity kept in your school?  
Ans. 91 schools claim to keep records of visual acuity, 32 do not.
6. Are there any clinics or other facilities available where school children with "sore eyes" or "weak" eyes may receive treatment?  
Ans. 81 report no facilities for treatment of sore eyes and weak eyes.
7. Is there provision for furnishing such treatment and eye glasses to children of indigent parents?  
Ans. 85 "No", 35 "Yes", 7 "Treatment only".
8. Are all cases of eye diseases or defects reported to parents of children, with recommendations for immediate treatment to prevent blindness or to conserve the vision?  
Ans. 5 "No", 122 "Yes".
9. Are you providing special educational facilities for children having only 20-50ths vision or less?  
Ans. 109 "No", 14 "Yes".
10. Are the children taught how to care for their eyes?  
A. By special instruction or by study of physiology and hygiene?  
Ans. 122 "Yes", 6 "No".
11. Are all class rooms in your school properly and adequately lighted with a view to conserving the vision?  
Ans. 116 "Yes", 10 "No".
12. Are the blackboards lusterless?  
Are the desks lusterless?  
Ans. 121 "Yes", 7 "No" (as to blackboards)  
95 "Yes", 34 "No" (as to desks).
13. Are all of the desks adjustable?  
Ans. 69 "Yes", 57 "No".
14. Are common towels and drinking cups allowed in your school?  
Ans. 123 "No", 5 "Yes" (as to towels)  
1 "Yes" (both towels and drinking cups)

I would recommend:

1. A letter to schools having no inspection of eyes with literature on the importance of having inspectors appointed.
2. A letter to schools not keeping records of visual acuity, asking them to do so.
3. Letters to the few that do keep records of visual acuity, asking details, as I do not believe that many of them really keep records that are of any value.
4. A letter to schools not notifying parents of eye defects, asking them to do so.
5. Letters to schools claiming special facilities for children with defective vision, commending them and asking for more detail as to what they are doing for those children.
6. A strong letter to schools allowing common towels and drinking cups with literature showing the dangers.
7. A letter to the State Board of Education, giving a summary of our findings when completed.

The establishment of special classes for children of defective sight in some of the larger cities will be taken up later.

Answers will indicate the cities in which the classes for the Conservation of Vision should be established and further recommendations followed.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND.

The New Jersey Legislature of 1908 provided for a temporary Commission to investigate the condition and report on the needs of the blind of this State. After their investigation of about 750 cases, a law was passed, Chapter 136 P. L. 1909 creating the Commission for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Blind. The duties of said Commission were to ameliorate the condition of the blind, recommend means and methods for the prevention of blindness, and prepare and maintain a register of all the blind in the State. This law was amended from year to year until in 1918 Chapter 147 Article VI Sections 651-654 brought together all the State work for the blind in one group under the general supervision of the Department of Institutions and Agencies and in direct charge of the Board of Managers of the New Jersey Commission for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Blind. On July 1, 1918, the

Board of Managers of the New Jersey Commission for the blind met and organized with Mr. C. R. Dieffenbach, Jersey City, as Chairman, Mrs. W. R. Baker, Madison, Secretary, Dr. William R. Broughton, Bloomfield, oculist, Mrs. J. R. Schermerhorn, E. Orange, and Mr. Edgar Swan Wiers, Montclair, members. According to the Minutes of the Commission appointed late in 1909 their definite work was begun March, 1910. Since that time 2287 persons have been investigated for registration. Of these 397 have died and 60 have moved out of the State. Four have been reported cured.

Report from July 1, 1918 to July 1, 1919:—

Number of investigations .....	140
Number reported dead .....	30
Number reported moved out of the State ....	7
Number reported cured .....	4
Total number in present active file.....	1826

This same Commission established the Department of Home Instruction for the newly blinded, employing regularly five blind persons. In addition to the present force of five teachers five other persons have also served in this Department. From March 1910 to June 30, 1919 34,007 lessons have been given in reading and writing the various embossed types, pencil and typewriting, basketry, (reed, raffia and willow), chair seating (caning, rush and pith), brush making, hammock making, piano tuning, hand and machine sewing, knitting, crocheting, tatting and weaving. Looking toward the employment industrially of the blind with the sighted in the spring of 1917 about a dozen blind persons were taught the taping of coils by employees from the Crocker Wheeler Co., East Orange, N. J. at the Headquarters of the Commission.

#### EDUCATION.

The work of the Educational Section maintains the even tenor of its way. Once the preliminary work is done the routine varies little from month to month. It consists almost wholly of getting newly discovered blind placed for instruction

with either a home teacher or in schools for the blind, or seeing that those in one institution are advanced to another when the proper time comes, and in keeping the children already in the schools there, for all too frequently we find the pupils dropping out of the schools where they have been placed. Each one of these cases requires time, attention and wisdom.

As this is the first report of the Educational Section of our work, it is necessarily of unsolved problems and tentative conclusions.

The work falls into various divisions (1) the education of the infant blind and those under eight (2) the education of those of primary and grammar school age (3) of those of high school age (4) of college age (5) of adults and (6) the education of the subnormal and abnormal.

(1) *The Education of the Blind under eight years of age.*

From July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1919 the State has paid the Arthur Home, Summit, N. J., for the care and maintenance of twenty-four blind babies and young children. Died 1, moved out of the state 1, rtransferred to New York Institution for the Education of the Blind 2, returned to own homes 2, transferred to Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind 2, present number of babies and children at the Arthur Home at the expense of the State, sixteen.

(2) *The Education of the Blind of Primary and Grammar School Age.*

New Jersey has no State institution for the education of the blind and sends its blind children from the northern and eastern parts of the State to the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, New York City, and those from the southern and western parts to the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Overbrook, Pa., and pays their tuition and living expenses in these schools. Two colored pupils are sent to the Maryland School for the Colored Blind, at Baltimore, Md. and one Catholic child to the Catholic Institution for the Blind, in New York City. During this fiscal year, the State had enrolled, for varying periods, thirty two children

in the New York Institute and eighteen in the Pennsylvania one. Both are institutions of very high rank. In addition to these schools, Newark has two special classes for the blind in the public schools with an enrollment of twenty-two pupils. Jersey City has one class with eleven pupils, Belleville public school is educating two blind children, Garfield one, Montclair one deaf-blind child, Irvington and Lyndhurst are having two children educated at the Newark Classes for the Blind and Somerville educates one.

(a) *The New York Institute for the Education of the Blind.*

From July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1919 the State has paid this school for the education of thirty two pupils. Died 1, returned to families 2, (one of whom was sent through private funds to the Arthur Home), left to go to work 8, transferred to public school classes 2, admitted 7. Present number of New Jersey pupils enrolled in this school June 30, 1919, nineteen.

(b) *Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind.*

From July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1919 the State has paid this school for the education of eighteen pupils. Graduated 1, returned to own home on June 19, 1919, because too backward mentally and physically to profit by instruction 1, admitted 3. Present number of New Jersey pupils enrolled in this school June 30, 1919, sixteen.

(3) *The Education of the Blind of High School Age.*

Those of this age in the institutions need no further thought on our part as the problem of their care and training has been worked out. But the special classes in the public schools are just beginning to graduate pupils into the high schools where there are no special classes.

These high school pupils represent the most persistent and successful of the public school pupils and should be encouraged. Therefore, with the approval of the State financial authorities, this Board has cooperated with the Newark and Jersey City Boards of Education and paid two hundred dollars for a tutor and seventy five dollars each for a reader under the

supervision of their teachers of the Special Classes for three pupils for the entire school year, two for half of the school year and one for one month, this pupil leaving to go to work.

(4) *The Education of the Blind of College Age.*

This year the State appropriated \$1,000 for the education of those who wished to go to college, technical or professional schools. No one desiring such training was known to us and the appropriation was not used. We sought to use it for the high school pupils but it could not be so used. It should be appropriated each year for the exceptional individuals who may appear.

(5) *Education of Adults.*

This has been done through our five regular teachers of occupational subjects and two assistants who taught on part time in May and June, 1919. This department of the work is always closed through July and August and this year was closed because of the State-wide influenza quarantine of five weeks. Two of these teachers also had influenza.

Total lessons given during the year 2777; hours spent teaching 2594; miles traveled 32031; pupils taught 1284.

The work to most of these pupils means much. The families have grown weary of them in many cases or perhaps neglectful, sometimes because of other burdens too heavy or because of the disposition of the blind person aggravated by the difficulties of blindness. Therefore, the regular visitation of a sympathetic blind teacher who has overcome these difficulties helps a great deal. The occupation of the hands and mind tends toward self-forgetting and so to happy usefulness and to the readjustment of family responsibilities.

(6) *The Education of the Subnormal and Abnormal Blind.*

(a) *The Blind Feeble Minded.*

As the result of study and consideration during the year, of the problem of the blind feeble minded, the problem shapes itself thus. There is almost unanimous agreement that as feeble mindedness and not blindness is the fundamental defect

and as the mingling of the feeble minded with the normal-minded blind in institutions for the blind retards the latter and is a depressing estimate of their own powers, that the blind feeble minded should be educated with the sighted feeble minded and not with the blind. We have in agreement with this position Commissioner Lewis, Superintendent Buritt of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Superintendent Van Cleve of the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, Superintendent Allen of the Perkins Institute, Mass., Ex-Commissioner Byers, Dr. Hallowell and Superintendent Macomber. Professor E. R. Johnston alone has written that the best way would be to have special classes in the schools for the blind.

The solution of this particular problem then is a part of the solution of the larger problem of the feeble minded. New Jersey has 5000 feeble minded, a little over 1300 of these are provided for at present, and yet New Jersey is eighth among the States in its care for the feeble minded. The women are obviously the greatest social menace and the Legislature appropriated more money for their care. The first steps have already been taken to place on the waiting list at the State Institution at Vineland, all of our girls and women whom we are allowed to place there. Our field workers are making full investigations of every case that the records and photographs may help in the publicity campaign and that every one may be in line for the institutional care as soon as possible. Commissioner Lewis suggests some favorable case should be placed through the State Board of Children's Guardians. An extended study of what should be done with the blind feeble minded after they are in the institutions should be made as this is undeveloped territory. One sixth of all the blind, says F. F. Allen of the Perkins Institute, are feeble minded. One sixth of our field will be inadequately covered until we get nearer these solutions.

(b) *The Deaf-Blind.*

The general public regards the cases of Laura Bridgeman and Helen Keller as unique but though rare and exceptional,

such cases of the doubly handicapped, occur from time to time. New Jersey has now such a case in Helen Schultz. Helen is a girl in her fifteenth year, with a good mentality, whose mother is dead and family scattered. She lost her sight eight years ago and her hearing four years ago. She speaks well and any one can communicate with her by writing script letters on her palm. She has also been taught the one hand manual alphabet. This is used when taking part in conversation through an interpreter and when under instruction with a teacher in a Monclair Public School Special Class. This year she has been continuing weekly medical treatments which are improving her general health.

#### CONSERVATION OF VISION CLASSES.

In schools for the blind are children who have partial vision. In the Public Schools are pupils who became laggards because of defective sight and who often impair this further by striving to keep up with their classes. Conferences with Supervisor R. B. Irwin of the Public School Classes for Conservation of Vision of Ohio and the Irvington and the Newark Boards of Education have been held and the establishment of such classes strongly recommended in several of our large cities. These new classes take all such children and give them the best possible school room lighting, no home work, text books in large print, much blackboard work, work suited to their vision and the constant care and advice of an eye specialist.

Each member of the Board of Managers and the Chief Executive Officer have, during the year visited one or more of the institutions and classes for the blind where New Jersey's blind youth are under instruction and the Newark and Jersey City classes for blind women. Also the Red Cross Institute for the Blind in Baltimore.

The meetings of the Administrative Council under the wise leadership of Commissioner Lewis have been a great help with their opportunities for interchange of experiences and ideas.

## RECREATION.

During the summer of 1918 tickets for two excursions to Asbury Park were given to approximately sixty blind persons and their guides.

Ten monthly socials with entertainments and refreshments were enjoyed at the Headquarters with an average attendance of about thirty-five blind persons and their guides.

Two Christmas trees and parties were given for the classes for the blind in the Newark and Jersey City Public Schools.

About sixty of New Jersey's blind with their guides enjoyed two plays given in New York City where the entire house was devoted to the blind and their guides as they were the only guests of the performers. The plays presented were "The Crowded Hour" and "Three Wise Fools."

Twice the blind of New Jersey were given opportunities to hear and meet Sir Arthur Pearson, the blind founder and director of St. Dunstan's.

A dinner was given to the Jersey City class for blind women, conducted by Miss Hogan, on its last class day. Refreshments were also served to the class held at Headquarters, conducted by Miss M. A. Springer, on its closing day.

A group of blind women, the Franklin Conklin Club has held regular meetings at Headquarters and has given an entertainment and later a dance.

The New Jersey Blind Men's Club also held its monthly meetings at Headquarters and has given an entertainment and later a dance.

The Mercer Blind Association and the Camden Association of Workers among the Blind held monthly meetings in Trenton and Camden and the former Association had its summer picnic.

## EARNINGS OF THE BLIND.

July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1919.

Tuning .....	\$107.33
Through Sales .....	1,549.40
Sales (reported by teachers.)....	225.50
Caning 888 chairs and 9 settees	1,214.26

Steady employment for six weeks of chair seating was secured for two blind men. Work for a blind tuner was obtained in Bamberger & Co. store, piano department, at \$4.00 per day. A position was secured for a young blind woman with the Charms Candy Co. in Newark.

Through the generosity of two friends, an emergency fund, of \$250. has been established for philanthropic and industrial purposes. Of this fund \$36.50 has been spent for coal, food and clothing for five blind persons, the remainder being used as a revolving fund for purchasing materials for the blind.

## RECEIPTS FROM SALES.

OUTSIDE SALES .....	\$1,827.45
Lake Hopatcong .....	\$ 83.83
Asbury Park and Ocean Grove, 4 hotels	134.79
Newark (The Goerke Store) .....	60.28
Trenton Interstate Fair .....	186.61
Library of Congress Permanent Exhibit	2.10
Trenton (Federation of Women's Clubs)	97.87
West Orange .....	38.45
Newark (New Auditorium) .....	11.60
Paterson .....	59.81
Princeton .....	78.57
Madison .....	42.17
Keyport .....	32.05
Orange (Episcopal Church) .....	26.90
Elizabeth (The Goerke Store) .....	32.28
Burlington .....	28.91
Riverside .....	146.50
Palmyra .....	40.56
Newark (Knights of Columbus Hall)....	5.65
Elizabeth (First Presbyterian Church)	10.20
Trenton (State House Museum) .....	64.88
Atlantic City (3 hotels) .....	142.73
Arlington .....	43.37
Lakewood .....	88.67
East Orange (Women's Club House)....	19.78
Orange (Sharey Tefilo Temple) .....	47.75
Orange (Hillside Presbyterian Church)	25.33
Atlantic City (State Federation of Women's Clubs).....	94.82

## NEW JERSEY COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND.

Somerville .....	104.45
Perth Amboy .....	65.01
Boonton .....	11.53

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\$1,827.45

Receipts from sales of articles at Headquarters ..... \$ 550.35

During the month of July sales were omitted because of checking of inventory, and for five weeks during October and November because of state wide influenza quarantine.

## CANING ACCOUNTS.

*Outstanding bills for caning, July 1, 1918:*

Bills outstanding prior to August 7, 1916.....	\$20.30
Bills outstanding from Aug. 7, 1916 to July 1, 1918.....	187.95
	<hr/>
	\$208.25

*Outstanding bills for caning, July 1, 1918:*

*Received from July 1, 1918 to July 1, 1919 on bills prior to July 1, 1918:*

On bills prior to August 7, 1916 .....	\$20.30
On bills from August 7, 1916 to July 1, 1918 .....	171.55
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	\$191.85

*Outstanding bills for caning, July 1, 1919:*

Bills outstanding from August 7, 1916 to July 1, 1918.....	\$16.40
Bills outstanding from January 1, 1919 to July 1, 1919 .....	116.84
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	\$133.24

## INDUSTRIAL WORK.

Through the cooperation of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, their Superintendent of Employment of the Blind with the sighted, made a survey of ten factories and offices where it seemed as if the blind might be employed advantageously. This survey gave promise of development as soon as our funds will permit.

The first awakening in the newly blinded is the desire for ability to gratify a personal desire, then to be able to earn one's board and then to become independent. As each objective is reached a new mark is set and the individual is spurred on to

reach a higher goal. From whichever angle the work for the blind is considered we must not forget that we are dealing with folks with distinctive personalities located in widely differing environments whose needs are as varied, as are the social and industrial needs of any other 1,826 of New Jersey's citizens. The problem, therefore, which is presented to this Board is not a class problem, but the problem of rehabilitation of 1,826 individuals and their adjustment to their communities.

Through an industrial survey of the State the blind were found to be occupied as follows:

When our teacher first visited a young man who had suddenly lost his sight he was melancholy and desperate. The latest report is that he averaged \$5.00 a day for the four summer months selling papers on the boardwalk at Atlantic City. We know of twelve successful blind men following this same business. Other positions in which the blind are succeeding through recent placement are:—

A woman who is employed in removing incorrectly placed labels at Campbell's Canning Factory, earns \$10.00 per week; four women work in candy factories, a woman in a woolen mill earns \$10.50 per week, a man pasting paper on the ends of boards around which the material is wrapped, in a paper mill, earns \$14.00 per week, a man collects and delivers laundry and puts out circulars for local stores and patent medicine firms and all who are capable of going about alone are encouraged to take up some kind of salesmanship as this is the most remunerative. Owing to the labor shortage, a few blind have been placed in factories, one man polishes parts of dolls, another works in a box factory, a partially sighted man works in a munition plant, and two rubber factories have employed blind men. The Crocker Wheeler Co., East Orange, N. J. has afforded the largest opportunity for factory employment to the blind and the number working there has varied. One woman is employed in the Consolidated Pin Factory, Bloomfield, N. J.

There still remains a large percentage of the blind who must be employed in their own homes and we are always searching for home work for them. Recently the carding of kettle knobs has been tried out by one man. A woman has

successfully carded toys for a toy factory near her home. The articles made under the supervision of the five teachers are received at the headquarters of this board in Newark, and marketed throughout the State at demonstrations and sales. One consignor, who lost her sight a year ago, was very desperate concluding that life held nothing for her but after learning to sew and make baskets, has become cheerful, happy and helpful. Another consignor is in very poor circumstances and earns a little by her sewing, but expressed thanks not only for the money she earned, but also for the occupation and said she would rather work for nothing than be deprived of it, as the hours she spent in thinking were her most unhappy ones. A third consignor spent most of her time sleeping or sitting idle, until a few years ago, but now says the days are not half long enough to do all she wants to do. She has learned to sew, knit, crochet and make baskets, most of which she sells in her home town. From 1910 to July, 1919, number of consignors 214, from July 1, 1918 to July 1, 1919 the consignors numbered 111.

#### WAR WORK.

This Board has contributed yarn and blind women their work on making sweaters, scarfs and wristlets for the soldiers and sailors. One woman has made forty nine sweaters beside scarfs and wristlets.

Major Wells P. Eagleton M. D., a member of the previous Commission volunteered his services to the Government and served at Camp Dix.

Miss Alice Irene Wood, Executive Secretary of the previous Commission, volunteered her services for the Y. M. C. A. work in France.

New Jersey has been represented at the front in work for the blinded soldiers and sailors by Walter E. Baker who is the only blind American who was engaged in work in France. In February, 1919, he returned to this country and is now employed at the Red Cross Institute for the Re-education of the Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, Baltimore.

As this is a Non-Institutional Agency, our contributions to various war funds and the purchasing of Victory and Liberty Bonds has been done through the various home communities in which the Board of Managers and our employees live. However, at the request of Commissioner Lewis, the employees and two of their friends contributed \$18 to the Memorial Hall for the Soldiers and Sailors who fell in the great war.

#### REHABILITATION WORK.

As this is a Non-Institutional Agency of the State, our rehabilitation war work consists in the study and survey of possible occupations for the blind. This we have done in so far as the limited means at our disposal would permit. The information which we have concerning this subject has been forwarded to the Federal, State and Municipal Employment Bureaus.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

##### Appropriations for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1919.

Salaries and wages .....	\$7,700.00	
Traveling expenses .....	3,000.00	
Fuel, supplies etc. ....	3,000.00	
Revolving Industrial Fund .....	1,000.00	
Extension of home industries .....	2,500.00	
Preventive work .....	2,000.00	
Publicity, demonstrations and sales .....	250.00	
		\$19,450.00
Clothing, maintenance, support and instruction of blind persons .....	\$27,000.00	
Higher education of the blind .....	1,000.00	
		28,000.00
<i>Allotment from Emergency Appropriation:</i>		
Salaries and wages .....	\$197.50	
Extension of home industries .....	177.50	
Publicity, demonstrations and sales .....	125.00	
		500.00
		\$47,950.00

Transferred from Supplies and Preventive Work to Traveling Expenses .....	\$1,350.00
Transferred from Preventive Work to Supplies	100.00
Credit to Revolving Industrial Fund, part pay- ments on loans .....	17.00

## DISBURSEMENTS.

*Salaries and Wages.*

Salary of Chief Executive Officer .....	\$1,337.50
Salary of Clerk-Bookkeeper .....	799.50
Salary of Teacher of Occupational Subjects.....	786.00
Salary of Teacher of Occupational Subjects.....	786.00
Salary of Teacher of Occupational Subjects.....	786.00
Salary of Teacher of Occupational Subjects.....	786.00
Salary of Teacher of Occupational Subjects .....	690.00
Salary of Field Secretary for 9 months.....	656.25
Wages of Field Secretary for 3 months .....	73.21
Salary of Jr. Clerk-Typist for 10 months.....	520.00
Salary of Caretaker .....	296.00
Salary of Stock Clerk for 5 weeks .....	56.83
Salary of two guides to Teachers for 1 mo.....	60.00
Extra clerical help .....	81.98
Services of 2 assistants to Teacher .....	81.25
Services of demonstrators .....	54.00
Assistance at sale .....	1.50
Assistance in cutting materials and collecting bills .....	25.50
Overtime of 3 employees .....	19.94
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	\$7,897.46

## TRAVELING EXPENSES.

Transportation .....	\$2,041.37
Maintenance .....	1,054.45
Guides' services .....	1,141.50
Postage .....	46.36
Telephone and telegraph .....	26.55
Stationery .....	6.19
Express .....	4.20
Working materials .....	4.37
Sundries .....	9.85
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	4,334.84

## FUEL, SUPPLIES ETC.

Expressage .....	\$416.96	
Office furniture .....	334.00	
Office supplies .....	254.68	
Postage .....	164.73	
Stationery .....	32.98	
Telephone and telegraph .....	113.11	
Sundries .....	16.70	
Books .....	10.80	
Gas .....	27.71	
Fire insurance .....	10.16	
Coal .....	279.20	
Water .....	9.00	
Printing .....	100.55	
Plumbing .....	56.95	
Carpentry .....	8.21	
Rent .....	540.00	
Repairs .....	34.09	
Antiseptic supplies .....	1.85	
Subscriptions to magazines .....	6.11	
		2,417.79

## REVOLVING INDUSTRIAL FUND.

Loom .....	\$15.00	
Loans for materials .....	935.25	
		\$950.25

## EXTENSION OF HOME INDUSTRIES.

Workshop supplies .....	\$2,233.65	
Books .....	119.98	
Transportation .....	318.76	
Postage .....	.23	
		2,672.62

## PREVENTIVE WORK.

Salary of Stenographer .....	\$596.32
Overtime of Stenographer .....	3.68
Transportation .....	78.97
Maintenance .....	59.90
Preventive pamphlets and posters .....	96.50
Chart case .....	5.25
File .....	78.00
Analytical cards .....	19.95
Multigraphing of questionnaire .....	8.65

Subscriptions for Preventitive publications.....	12.50	
Prescriptions for patients to clinic .....	4.65	
Expressage .....	62.06	
Telephone .....	1.05	
Postage .....	168.26	
		<u>1,195.74</u>

## PUBLICITY, DEMONSTRATIONS AND SALES

Services at sales .....	\$58.00	
Transportation .....	113.20	
Maintenance .....	139.85	
Telephone and telegraph .....	4.55	
Postage .....	1.20	
Entrance tickets to Interstate Fair .....	9.90	
Sundries .....	9.11	
		<u>\$335.81</u>

CLOTHING, MAINTENANCE, SUPPORT AND  
INSTRUCTION OF BLIND PERSONS.

Arthur Home for Blind Babies .....	\$7,058.73	
Catholic Institute for the Blind .....	254.80	
New York Institute for the Blind .....	8,945.21	
Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind .....	7,014.56	
Maryland School for the Colored Blind .....	360.00	
Newark Board of Education (Tutor and reader for 4 high school pupils) .....	715.00	
Jersey City Board of Education (Tutor and reader for 2 high school pupils) .....	412.50	
Maintenance and support of one deaf, blind child for 10 months .....	262.00	
		<u>\$25,022.80</u>
		\$44,827.31
Reimbursement to State Treasury, balance on loom from Revolving Industrial Fund of 1918 .....		\$10.00
Reimbursement to State Treasury, payment in full for sewing machine from Revolving Industrial Fund of 1918 .....		29.70
Reimbursement to State Treasury, payment on loan of cash (\$50) from Revolving Industrial Fund of 1918 .....		10.00
Cost of materials supplied to blind, reverting to State Treasury .....		1,346.49

Respectfully submitted,

LYDIA Y. HAYES,  
Chief Executive Officer.

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