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The Forty-Eighth, Forty-Ninth and Fiftieth Annual Reports of the Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges and Homes and Children's Aid Society [1918-1920]

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MANCHESTER AND SALFORD
BOYS' & GIRLS' REFUGES & HOMES
AND CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

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FRED J. HAYES.

Hon. Treasurer:—HERBERT KNOTT, J.P.

Hon. Secretary:—THOMAS R. ACKROYD.

FORTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE INSTITUTION.

Statement for the Year ending December 31st, 1917.

AS last year, the Committee do not propose to issue the usual full Annual Report, but to present to Subscribers and Friends this brief Statement for 1917, the 48th year of the work of the Institution on behalf of poor, necessitous children. The Subscriptions for the year have already appeared in the Magazine forwarded to Subscribers, and we should of course be glad to show the Subscription List and Statement of Accounts for the year to any Subscriber if desired, or a copy would be forwarded on request.

During the year 4,893 children have been dealt with in the various Homes and Branches, all receiving help in one form or another—permanent admission to the Homes; temporary admission pending enquiries, or on remand from the Police Courts; holiday for a week or longer at the Camp, Birkdale, or at the Seaside Home, Colwyn; advice and help at the Courts; employment at the Messenger and Shoeblock Brigades, etc. A few more particulars may be given in respect of the work at the various Homes.

At the Central Refuge, Strangeways, there has been an average number of 94 boys resident, the total number dealt with being 131. The large majority of these are school boys, and it has been with some difficulty that the two workshops—Printing and Shoemaking—have been carried on, there being so few elder boys. The various Homes at Cheetham Hill have been fully occupied—the five Orphan Homes with an average each of 18 children, and the Home for Motherless Children full with 19. The Rosen Hallas Home for Elder Girls has dealt with 54, having an average resident of 39. At the Bethesda Home for Cripple Children, 77 children have been dealt with, the average number resident being 62.

The Seaside Home at Colwyn for poor, delicate children has been of great service to some of our own children, and to hundreds of others from the crowded parts of our city: 388 children have had a visit to this Home, many delicate cases staying for a few months, with great benefit from the bracing air and good food. The Home is splendidly situated and of great value to such children. The Committee gratefully acknowledge the work done by the Ladies' Association at Colwyn during the year in promoting the happiness of the children and the general interests of this Home.

The Camp at Southport for poor City Boys was opened in May by the Mayor of Salford (Councillor Jas. Higson), and continued until September, 2,698 children having the week's holiday during the season. We tender our grateful acknowledgments to C. J. Weld-Blundell, Esq., for allowing us the free

use of the ground at Birkdale another year, also to the many friends for their sympathy and support. The friends of the Royal Exchange and Stock Exchange contributed the handsome amount of £360 to this fund, through a collection organised instead of the usual Cricket Match.

The Open-All-Night Shelter, Piccadilly, admitted during the year 740 children—lost, wandering, ill-used, or on remand from the Police Courts pending Magistrates' decision. The number of children dealt with at the City Juvenile Court was 1,291, or 56 less than in 1916. The amount of Juvenile delinquency still stands a problem for solution. Our Inspector, who is also the Probation Officer for boys at the Court, has had 114 on probation, most of whom have done well. This system of Probation might be considerably extended with advantage. In connection with our Police Court Mission our officer has dealt with 648 cases.

The Messenger and Shoeblock Brigades, which were so busy before the War, are now very small owing to the demand for boy labour.

Another year of War has left its mark on our Institution in several ways. We have already alluded to the shortage of boy labour for our Workshops. We have over 400 names on our Roll of Honour, old and present boys, and have had the sad intimation that 24 of them have fallen in this great fight for truth and liberty. We have under our care in the Homes a number of Motherless Children whose fathers are on active service, and other children who are orphaned through the War. Another consequence is the greatly increased cost of maintenance for nearly 400 resident children.

Our buildings in Great Ducie Street, Strangeways, are still occupied as a Military Hospital. The Committee is desirous of selling the whole property in Strangeways, and removing the children to a more suitable locality in the country.

We are in sight of the Jubilee of our Institution, which was founded in

1870, and had hoped to inaugurate a scheme for the remodelling of the various Homes which would have been worthy of the occasion, but the prolongation of the War interferes with the project.

The Financial Report of the year shows a deficiency on current account of £1,196 14s. 4d. The constantly increasing cost of maintenance adds to the financial burden, and emphasises the need of an increased number of annual subscribers to meet the expenditure. The deficit would have been considerably larger had not many friends generously responded to a special appeal at the end of the year. We are glad to record, however, that some special gifts (£295) along with several legacies, amounting to £2,973, have been received during the year, and have enabled us to reduce the accumulated deficiencies of other years from £4,630 to £1,362. This sum, added to the above-named £1,196, makes the total deficiency at the close of the year £2,558. The Committee are practising the most rigid economy where the essential well-being of the children is not involved, and they make an earnest appeal for increased support of a work which is of such vital National importance.

We have the pleasure of intimating that Mr. Herbert Knott, J.P., of Wilmslow, has kindly accepted the position of Hon. Treasurer; and that Mrs. Alfred Gaddum, of Bowdon, has become a member of the Committee, assisting Mrs. Leonard Shaw in the oversight of the Cheetham Hill Homes.

In closing this brief Statement we would express our sincere thanks to the Hon. Medical Officers of the various Branches; to our Hon. Solicitors, and many other friends who have contributed by generous service and gifts to the efficiency of the work of the past year. The Committee also testify to the loyalty and devotion of the Staff during another trying year.

We commend our Institution to the blessing of the Most High, and invite the continued co-operation and sympathy of our friends in this large work for poor, homeless, suffering children, especially in view of the difficult days ahead.

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The Hon. Secretary

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Forty-ninth Year of the Institution.

Statement for the Year ending December 31st, 1918.

THE Committee issue this brief Statement of the year's work on behalf of poor children, that Subscribers and Friends may have an outline of the extent and character of the Institution's varied activities during another year—the 49th year since its foundation in 1870.

For the last three years the full Annual Report with list of Subscriptions has not been published, in the interests of economy, and the Magazine has been issued quarterly instead of monthly for the same reason. In the latter, however, every contribution has been acknowledged, and we should of course be glad to show our Subscription List and Statement of Accounts for the year to any Subscriber on request. We trust we may be able to give next year—our 50th year—a full detailed report.

We record with deepest gratitude that the past year was marked by the cessation of hostilities in the terrible War. For over four years we, as an Institution, have felt the strain and anxiety of War conditions, financial and administrative; and, above all, in the casualties among the hundreds of old and present boys who volunteered for service in the Army or Navy.

During the year 4,386 children were dealt with in the various Homes and Branches, all receiving help in one form or another, as shown in the following brief Statement. At the Central Refuge there has been an average number of 85 boys resident, the total number dealt with being 121. The large majority of these are school boys. During the year the Printing Department was closed owing to the difficulty of labour. The Shoemaking Department is still active, and providing employment for some of the boys, while others of working age are engaged in outside workshops. The various Homes at Cheetham Hill have been fully occupied—the five Orphan Homes with an average each of 18 children, and the Home for Motherless Children full with 19. The Rosen Hallas Home for elder girls has dealt with 42, having an average number resident of 29. At the Bethesda Home for Crippled Children, 85 have been dealt with, the average number resident being 61.

Our Convalescent and Holiday Home at Colwyn, for poor delicate children, has been busy all the year, even in the winter months, for then it has been utilised for some of the delicate children in our Manchester Homes. During the other parts of the year, poor children have been received from the crowded parts of our city. Altogether this Home has received 483 children, many delicate cases having a prolonged stay and gaining great benefit. The situation of the Home on the Penrhos headland is ideal. We owe much to the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary at Colwyn for their keen interest in the welfare of the children, and in the general success of this branch of our work. One particular feature has been the organising of an Annual Garden Party in the grounds, which has materially increased the interest of friends in the locality.

The Summer Camp, for poor City Boys, at Southport was opened on May 11th by the then Lord Mayor of Manchester (Sir Alex. Porter). This was the 36th year since the establishment of this branch of the work. The children go down in parties of about 200 each Monday for the week's holiday, and it is a great benefit, as well as pleasure, to these poor lads. 2,575 were admitted to Camp during the Summer. We are again under deep obligation to C. J. Weld-Blundell, Esq., for once more granting us the use of the ground without charge.

The friends at the Royal Exchange and Stock Exchange, through a collection organised instead of the Annual Cricket Match, contributed for this particular object the handsome amount of £758 4s. 2d., which relieved us of all anxiety on Camp Account, and enabled us to do some very necessary painting and repairs. We tender our warmest thanks to all the friends who made the season so successful.

The Open-All-Night Shelter, Piccadilly, admitted during the year 443 children, lost, wandering, ill-used, or on remand as Juvenile Delinquents from the Police Courts. The number of children dealt with at the City Juvenile Court during the year was 1,153, as against 1,291 in the previous year. Our Inspector, who is also the Probation Officer for boys at the Court, has had 114 cases on probation, most of whom have done well. The Probation method has been of great value, and might be extended, we think, with advantage. In connection with our Police Court Mission, our Officer has dealt with 565 cases. The Messenger and Shoeblick Brigades, which were so busy before the War, are now small, but may be useful again for a certain class of poor boy in the near future.

Our buildings in Great Ducie Street, Strangeways, are still occupied as a Military Hospital. In view of the desirability of moving the children to a country site, we are offering these premises, and the Central Refuge adjoining, for sale. The proceeds would be the nucleus of a fund for the purchase of a suitable plot within eight or ten miles of Manchester, where the children would have healthier surroundings, and where some of the boys might work on the land.

We are anxious to carry out this proposal in connection with the Jubilee of our Institution, which takes place in 1920, and trust it may commend itself to the wealthy citizens of Manchester and Salford, who could enable us to carry out a scheme which would be worthy of the City and of the Society's record of 50 years' work on behalf of the poorest children of the community.

The Finances of the year under review give cause for gratitude. In view, however, of the rapidly increasing cost of maintenance, the Committee are most anxious as to the future income, and earnestly appeal to the friends of the Institution for additional help to carry on the large work on behalf of poor children. Our ordinary income is not at all adequate for the increasing maintenance of all the work, and we are very desirous of increasing the number of subscribers. During the year we have received £2,900 for the endowment of three cots at the Cripples' Home, one at the Orphan Homes, and for other objects.

Visitors to the Home are very welcome, and present contributors are earnestly invited to enlist the sympathy and interest of other friends, by suggesting a visit to one or more of the various Branches of the Institution.

We deeply regret to record the loss of one of our Trustees, Mr. H. M. Kendal, who fell in the War during 1918. We have also lost the valued co-operation, as a most useful Member of Committee, of Mr. Hinton A. Stewart, owing to his removal to London.

In closing this brief Statement of the year's work, we would gratefully acknowledge the valuable services of our Honorary Medical Officers, of our Honorary Solicitors, and of many other friends who have contributed to the efficiency of the work during another year.

The Committee also acknowledge their indebtedness to all the Members of the Staff for their loyalty and devotion throughout another anxious year.

As we approach the completion of the 50th year of our work, as an Institution, we look back on the long retrospect with devout gratitude for the Divine blessing which has marked the years, and pray that the future may no less be under the direction of Him to Whom little children are so precious.



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The Hon. Secretary

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L. WYNNE ROBERTS.	

Hon. Treasurer:—HERBERT KNOTT, J.P.

Hon. Secretary:—THOMAS R. ACKROYD, J.P.

Fiftieth Year of the Institution.

Statement for the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

IT is the intention of the Committee to publish shortly a full record of the past 50 years' work. We believe it will be an interesting and complete history of the growth and development of the many and various activities on behalf of homeless, suffering, and necessitous children of Manchester and the district.

In view of this we purpose only to issue at present this brief statement of work done during the last year, 1919. In that period 655 children were dealt with in the various Homes and Branches, all receiving help in one form or another. At the Central Refuge there has been an average number of 74 boys resident, the total number dealt with being 146. The large majority

of these are school boys, but some, principally crippled, have been employed in the Shoemaking Department, whilst others have been provided with work in the city. The separate Homes at Cheetham Hill have been fully occupied, the five Orphan Homes, with an average each of 18 children, and the Home for Motherless Children has had 20 residents. The Rosen Hallas Home for elder girls has dealt with 34, the average number being 21. At the Bethesda Home for Crippled Children, 78 have been cared for, and the average number has been 69. This Home, during the year, has been certified by the Board of Education, and all the children now receive special education and training from experienced and certified teachers. Every possible attention is also given to the children by a staff of Nurses and Doctors, and all the work here is very complete.

Our Convalescent and Holiday Home, at Colwyn, for poor delicate children, has been busy all the year, even in the winter months, for during that period it has been utilised for some of the delicate children in our Manchester Homes. During the other parts of the year, poor children have been received from the crowded parts of our city. Altogether, this Home has received 511 children, many delicate cases having a prolonged stay, and gaining great benefit. The situation of the Home on the Penrhos headland is ideal. We owe much to the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary, at Colwyn, for their keen interest in the welfare of the children, and in the general success of this branch of our work. One particular feature has been the organising of an Annual Garden Party in the grounds, which has materially increased the interest of friends in the locality.

The Summer Camp for Poor City Boys, at Southport, was opened on May 17th, by the then Lord Mayor of Manchester (Alderman Wm. Kay). This was the 37th year since the establishment of this Branch of our work. The children go down in parties of about 200 each on Monday for the week's holiday, and it is a great benefit, as well as pleasure, to these poor lads. 3,081 were admitted to Camp during the summer. We are again under deep obligation to C. J. Weld-Blundell, Esq., for once more granting us the use of the ground without charge. The friends at the Royal Exchange and Stock Exchange, through a collection organised instead of the Annual Cricket Match, contributed for this particular object the handsome amount of £1,031 12s. 1d., which relieved us of all anxiety on the Camp account, and

we tender our warmest thanks to all the friends who made the season so successful.

The Open-all-Night Shelter, Piccadilly, admitted during the year 236 children, lost, wandering, ill-used, or on remand as Juvenile delinquents from the Police Courts. The number of children dealt with at the City Juvenile Court during the year was 641, as against 1,153 in the previous year. Our Inspector, who is also one of the Probation Officers for boys at the Court, has had 83 cases on probation, most of whom have done well. In connection with the Police Court Mission our officer has dealt with 276 cases.

It will, perhaps, be interesting to our subscribers and friends to know that since the work was commenced, now 50 years ago:—

13,137 Destitute, Crippled, Neglected, and Orphan Boys and Girls have been cared for and trained in our Six Orphan Homes, Central Refuge, Bethesda Crippled and Incurable Home, and Girls' Training Home.

69,320 of the City's Poor Boys have been given a week's holiday by the sea in our Summer Camp at Birkdale.

9,994 delicate Boys and Girls have been restored to health at our Convalescent Holiday Home, Old Colwyn.

14,905 Homeless and Wandering Little Ones have been received at our Children's Shelter (open day and night), at Chatham Street, Piccadilly.

5,177 Juvenile offenders have been placed under our care by the City, Borough, and County Police.

2,129 Children have made a fresh start in life in Canada through our Emigration scheme.

6,800 Boys have been given a chance to earn their own living as members of our Messenger Brigade.

A scheme has been inaugurated for the removal of the children from the Strangeways Homes to an estate, "Belmont," Cheadle, recently purchased by the Committee. This is a most beautiful estate of some 22 acres, and the benefit to the children in this change of locality will be incalculable. Instead of the now dreary surroundings of Strangeways they will be in an atmosphere of pure air and surroundings of the country-side. We have effected the sale of a portion of the Strangeways property, the proceeds of

which will be applied to the Jubilee Fund. This, we trust, will be supplemented by special gifts from the wealthier citizens of Manchester and Salford. We ask for a sum of not less than £50,000 in the interests of the poorest children of the locality. In stating this proposal, may we suggest that some friends may be thinking of an "In Memoriam" gift in some direction, probably in remembrance of some dear lad fallen in the war. Perhaps such a gift could not take a happier or more suitable form than in making some provision for poor, orphaned, or crippled children. To provide a cottage home in the new scheme on the country site, or a room, or for the endowment of a cot, any of which could be named in memory of a friend, would be at once a blessing to the children, and a comfort to the donors as they thought of it in perpetuating the loving remembrance. Already one gift of £500 has been received in this way, and will be associated with some part of the new buildings in due course.

Our financial position gives us cause for considerable anxiety. During the year our large circle of friends has supported us most generously, and we are very grateful for all the help received. Owing, however, very largely to the great increase—134 per cent. more than pre-war days—our expenditure has exceeded income by £4,661 12s. 4d., and this amount added to accumulated deficits of the past two years, now makes our general fund £7,109 15s. 8d. on the wrong side. Our ordinary income is not at all adequate for the increasing cost of our work, and we most earnestly appeal to all friends of poor and suffering children for financial help to enable us to carry on the beneficent work of the Institution. The income for the year is £15,052 16s. 2d., and the expenditure £19,714 8s. 6d.

In closing this brief statement of the year's work we would gratefully acknowledge the valuable services of our Honorary Medical Officer, of our Honorary Solicitors, the Ladies' Auxiliary at Colwyn, the Camp Committee, all our voluntary collectors, and everybody who in any way has contributed to the success of the work during the past twelve months. The Committee desires also to acknowledge their indebtedness to all the members of the staff for their loyalty and devotion throughout another anxious year.

The year has been full of anxiety and care, but as we look back on the days that are gone, we are deeply sensible that the good hand of God has been upon us, and we are full of devout gratitude for His Divine Blessing, which has again attended all our work.

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