Settlement Bulletin MAY, 1908. NO. 3. VOL. II.

SETTLEMENT BULLETIN.





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

Vol. II.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., MAY, 1908.



IDLE MEN AND IDLE LAND

There are a great many men in our city as in all the cities of our country who are out of work and having no work they are without food or clothing, fuel or shelter. They are not many in our city who are starving, but there are a great many who do not have all they ought to have to keep themselves and their familites in good health and strength.

These men who are out of work lose heart and fall into dissolute habits. A month or two of idleness will turn an industrious man into a tramp. It is of the utmost importance that the community should keep its men employed. If they cannot find anything to do at their trade then some other occupation should be found for them.

It is to meet this need that the Vacant Lot Commission was organized in the city about a month ago. There is in this city many hundred acres of idle land. This land which is held for building purposes is unsightly; it is overgrown with weeds and covered with rubbish. If cultivated this land would yield a harvest that would help to feed the people during the coming winter. With a little instruction anyone can learn to take care of a bit of ground. The men can do the hoeing and the weeding can be done by the women and children. There is no more healthful occupation than that of gardening. It keeps one in God's own out of doors and makes one a worker together

with God in the operations. Everyone, no matter what his occupation, ought to know how to cultivate the ground. It is a means of recreation superior to all other and, means of education second to none. The Vacant Lot Commission wishes to bring the idle people and the idle lands together to the great benefit of both. The land needs the people as much as the people need the land. It is not to the credit of our wisdom that we allow both land and people to suffer from neglect and starvation. The Vacant Lot Commission has asked the loan of vacant lots for the season. It proposes to plow these lots and prepare them for planting and then to give them to men who will cultivate them and take the produce as the reward of their labors. This system of relief for the unemployed has been very succesful in other cities and it ought to work well here where land is plenty and the soil is rich. Here are some interesting facts about the work in New York City:

Physically and socially, a wide range of types were represented. The opportunity to cultivate was especially welcome to wage earners whose large families found no rom for healthy activity in the narrow streets of Manhattan.

Early in the spring one of the Charity Organizations of the East Side applied for a garden for a consumptive. He was one of the agricultural laborers of Italy who had sought to better his condition by emigrating to America, but like many

such, wound up by settling in our city and becoming a day laborer. He had a wife and six children, ranging from a very small baby in arms to fourteen years. They had managed to eke out an existence until he was seized with the great "white plague," when they were forced to accept the aid of charity. A plot of about three-quarters of an acre was assigned to them and they moved into a tent. The advantage of our Association can be seen in one single item—that of rent—they had been paying \$21 a month rent; the tent cost about \$12; there was no other expense for rent, on this free land.

No. 3

At the time of moving the father was so weak that he had to go into a hospital, but about a month later he returned to the farm and gradually gained in health. In about six weeks their crops were ripening and from that time they were able to support themselves and to store up supplies for the winter.

Another interesting case is that of a young man who came to the farm in 1906. He had been compelled to give up work because of consumption, and he took a garden and worked it during the season. He improved so much in health that he was able to take an outdoor position during the following winter, but as soon as the spring opened he applied to us again for a garden because he was able to make a living from it and enjoyed the work better. During the past season he raised (Continued on page 3)

Settlement Bulletin

Issued nine times a year in the interest of the Social Settlement of

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

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Editorial

We, the Settlement Bulletin, extend our figurative hand of congratulation to the Social Settlement, its Board of Directors, its Superintendent, and all those who have watched with interest the growth of the organization of 152 Baden Street for having lived so usefully, so healthfully its seven years. This month of May brings the anniversary of its beginning and like the month which gave it birth it is known only for its loveliness—in cheerfulness and helpfulness.

The history of the Social Settlement our readers already know and its host of friends, met for mutual benefits, testify to its popularity. Like other "flowers that bloom in the Spring" it has been a source of pleasure not only to those in whose garden it grew and still grows, but, too, those who take delight in the beauty and fragrance of other people's gardens have gotten from the presence of the Settlement the delight of being associated with it. in any capacity. Like bees we all swarm around it knowing that there is plenty of honey flowing with "the milk of human kindness" and we don't any of us hesitate to take our share. If you know us at all you know what good times we've had in these seven years and if you don't know us—well, you'd better come to get acquainted!

In these seven years some of us have tied back our curls and braided our troublesome locks; we've outgrown kindergarten chairs and given our places to new little sisters who sing "Here's a ball for baby" with the same bawling capacity that we showed, once upon a time—not so very long ago. We've outfitted our dolls with aprons and petticoats long since and now we're making ourselves new Easter dresses or crocheting nice red shawls for our mothers! We've enjoyed outings and innings in "the good old Summertime" and we hope we'll never grow too old to revel in the parks.

grow too old to revel in the parks. It really isn't polite to talk about birthday presents but we will tell you if you'll promise not to tell anyone except your best friend that we hope the Settlement gets a new playhouse for its birthday; a cosy one in the country or on the lake, where it can play "house" with its friends afid so keep young and happy!

BOOKS.

Books, books. books! Some people spend heir lives reading them and some live quite happily without almost ever opening ne. What good is all your learning, Mr. Scholar, if you waste your whole lifetime of usefulness in acquiring it? You have scarcely opened a book since those few years of school; you have managed to get along somehow; why do

you work so hard to procure book-knowledge for your son? Books, books! There's a charm and a

Books, books! There's a charm and a mystery there. Every being of the species that claims ideas and imagination feels it. The savage handles the queer-charactered thing over, agog with curiosity, and finally sets it down for witchcraft. The scholar canot pass over the most noncommittal leather binding, lying casually on the table, without glancing into it, noting the author, the title and the chapter headings, tasting its contents here and there, and hnally, if its worth while, settling down to absorb it, dead to the world around him. He is driven on by a habit the most persistent in the world : the habit of piling up learning for its own sake. And the practical man without, bookknowledge feels the fascination too. It is too late to understand the message of

And the practical man without bookknowledge feels the fascination too. It is too late to understand the message of all this printing for himself, but in the end we always lind him evolving the theory that there is something in books that helps a young felow to get on; something that brings him recognition. He has never cared to bother with them himself yet he observes his son's growing intimacy with the strangers with something like awe.

Is it just the charm of mystery that draws us to the books in this way or is it a right instinct leading us toward something for which we have a need? To live well, we need several things. One thing is other people's advice. The man who depends always on his own observations and conclusions may steer a straight and single course, but he never goes very far. No, we ask our neighbors what they think before we finally form our opinion, and the man who understands the most points of view, sees the subject most clearly for hinself. But if we ask advice of our friends and

But if we ask advice of our friends and neighbors—people of similar experience and surroundings to our own, why not seek it from human beings of an infinite diversity of experience, who have lived and who have left the modeled likeness of their thought for all time. And so we turn to the books. If we want the best instruction on some line of work we are not content with asking advice of the first man we meet; we wish to choose from a great many the best expert, the greatest specialist.

But dear me, how utilitarian we are getting, in our efforts to prove to the practical man the worth of our beloved books. One can never be utilitarian with books, if he is to get the best out of them. They have so much more use for us than their mere utility.

There are some books that are fashioned from the impressions and enthusiasms of a visitor in a strange country. One man's journey for many men's enjoyment! Stevenson's sketches of Edinburgh are of this kind, giving the very breath and look of the place! Lafcadio Hearn interprets his Japan, revealing the character of a national entity. We more than picture the country, so; we understand it. Most of us see very little of the earth and none of us see all. But "he who runs may read" and he who reads may travel.

It is when we are least utilitarian and mercenary, when we are striving the least to get as much as possible out of a book, that the books gives us its best. As in friendship, it is only when we settle down to quiet sociability that we feel the book's companionship. We pick up "David Copperfield" and thril to the sweethumbred optimism of Dickens, developing titanic through the worst poverty and misery of England. Few people have the power to reveal themselves even in intimacy, but this personality we know and

love now, and we will never forget it.

Then here is a volume of Coleridge. We happen on "Christabel," and we watch the weird fire-light glancing from a suit of armor and hear of a castle in the wood, an enchantress, and a sweet, fair lady. We know now that the spirit of romance was never dead in us, even if we are modern and up-to-date. How we turn to "Alice in Wonderland"

How we turn to "Alice in Wonderland" and relax in the luxury of perfectly foolish chatter. What a wide acquaintance we have, from our quiet afternoon in our own library, or the big Reynold's readingroom or some smaller center of books, such as the Settlement. It makes no difference as long as the books are there. Like all good friends they will be our teachers they are our friends.

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The friends of the Settlement will be gratified to know that the work in the nose, throat and ear dispensary seems not to be in vain. Last year, though we examined a great many of the children and found many who needed attention, yery few came for treatment after the first examination or allowed us to do necessary operations. This was very disheartening when we realize how greatly benefited most of the children would be if they had the little medical care which we want to give them. But our work seems not to have been entirely without effect for since January 1, hifteen children have been operated upon for enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and about the same number are waiting for operation. An even larger number have had necessary work done on their teeth and many are waiting for appointments. Of some of the children who have had operations it may be said by some people that they are no better for having had the operation per-formed. But while we admit that often there seems to be little apparent benefit from the operations, still in later years these children will not be handicapped as those are who have bad ears, throats and teeth. We want the parents to realize that our efforts are being put forth that the children "might have life and have it more abundantly." God in his infinite wisdom has sent these little Messengers of Love into our homes that we might through them transmit to the future our highest ideals. It is not rational, it is not possible, to implant in these little minds the best and grandest ideals and motives of life, if they are handicapped by weak, diseased or deformed bodies.

God knows conditions are often such that with our present knowledge we seem unable to help the little sufferers, but where we can help them and where faulty conditions are unnecessary or can be prevented, as many are, I feel that we all should work together to make the children stronger and happier. The more we work with the children the more we are impressed with the growing need in Rochester of a Children's Hospital. But, you say, "all the hospitals have children's wards." To be sure, but they are for the cure of disease. I would have the watchword of the Rochester Children's Hospital--"Prevention." Hundreds of our children are on the verge of very troublesome and often fatal conditions, which by a few days or weeks or rest under ideal medical conditions might be easily prevented and the child made well and strong and happy. You see this is decidedly a different ideal than the average hospital has the time or facilities to entertain. But we must have it for Rochester. Let us all begin to work for it now.

IDLE MEN AND IDLE LAND Continued from page 3.

a total of \$190.95 worth of vegetables, and in a post-script to a letter in October said, "I have harvest enough to last all winter." He called in at the office of the Association early in January and said that he never was in better health and that his physician told him he was entirely cured.

Another most successful feature was the tent life. Some fifteen families procured tents, fitted them with rough floors,

cured tents, htted them with rough hoors, and speen their entire time at the Farm from 'May to October. Fourteen families have built small shacks usually 16' x 20' and are spending the winter at the Farm. Partitions are made of muslin or burlap; an old cooking stove supplies the warmth. One family of three has lived in a tent

the last two winters and find it warmer than a frame shack. The Superintendent visited the tent in January. It happened to be wash-day and the large cook stove made it so warm that he soon preferred the atmosphere outside even-though the day was cold.

Some, who lived in the vicinity, did the planting and weeding early in the morn-ing and after work in the evening. Others, residing far down in Manhattan, came to the farm Saturday afternoons and Sundays. A few hours during the week is sufficient to cultivate one-quarter acre throughout the season.

Vacant lot gardening should appeal to the charitably disposed who fear to pauperize the objects of their benevolence. Its influence on character and morals is wholly good, stimulating the spirit of independence and self-help which lies domant i neven the most debased. Experience shows that the gardeners take a keen interest in learning how to plant and cultivate, and are willing to do any amount of work on the soil.

In addition to the product of the gar-den, those families who live in tents save from lifteen to twenty dollars per month in rents. For six months the entire saving amounts to from \$140 to \$220 per family. The expense is the cost of the tent-about \$20 complete-and such items as seeds and tools, which for a quarter acre garden amounts to five dollars for the season.

The indirect benefits to large families are very great. In a few weeks after going to the Farm, the pale, puny children become ruddy and robust, playing in the grass and living healthy, natural lives. They help the mother in the gardens and add their mite of strength to weeding the growing vegetables, to feed the family during the summer and to make a store for the winter.

The following is a sample of many letters received and shows the apprecia-

tion of this opportunity: New York, Oct. 27th. 1907. This is a report in detail of what I raised on my garden this season. RAISED

	IV.AISP.	U				
Radishes			· · ·		.\$	1.50
Green peas					•	9.60
String Beans						8.00
Swischard						1.50
Lettuce						2.00
Beets					• 1	4.00
Squash						3.20
Onions						3. (
Carrots					\$	2.00
Parsnips						3.00
Soup greens				÷		1.00
Cabbage						5.00
Tomatoes						15.00
Corn						2,50
Pumpkins						.50
Lima Beans						3.00

Rutabaga		5.00
White turnips Orange jelly turnips		3.00
Orange jelly turnips		2.00
Potatoes	1.1	64.00
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and the second	\$1	38.80
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COSTS WAS AS FOLLOWS	51 mil
Radishes\$.20
Green peas	.60-
String beans	.60
String beans	1.00
Swischard	.10
Lettuce	.10
Bets	.25
Squash	.10
Onions	.75
Carots	.60
Parsnips	.15
Soup greens	.10
Cabbage	1.00
	2.00
Tomatoes	.50
Corn	.10
Pumpkins	
Lima beans	.30
Rutabaga	.15
White turnips	.10
Orange jelly turnips	.10
Potatoes	6.00

\$14.20 The gain was \$124.60 for which I am

very grateful to the Association for what they have done to help me.

From this I sold \$16.70 cents' worth. DENNIS MCCARTHY.

An interesting feature was the flower gardens cultivated by "The Dolly Mad-ison Girls," a University Settlement Club. About twenty young women, under the direction of Miss A. L. Fairfield, Secre-tary of the National Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild, prepared the soil, did the planting, and cultivated the flowers to maturity.

Applications for land can be made to the principal of the nearest school.

TO THE BULLETIN :-

As I "sailed the dark blue sea" in the shadow of the Statute of Liberty in New York harbor some days ago, you can imagine that I thought of a variety of things and one of them was you. In fact, I thought of you so hard that as the waters of the Bay waved at me I smiled back and decided to tell you about it by letter, though I know you're a very poor correspondent,

Isn't it strange that we all, dispite the variety of our own experiences, like to see and feel (if we can) what other people have gone through, that is, if we can do it without any discomfort to our-selves? Sometimes we are prompted by curiosity and sometimes by interest in conditions and sympathy for the people; but at all times if we are good citizens it seems to me that the least we can do is to see for ourselves what our country is doing, what kind of a hostess Miss Lib-erty makes and how her servants treat

her very many guests. We should be proud to think of good old Uncle Sam having such an excellent houselyeper as Liberty certainly is, for "the han dle of the big front door" is always well polished and if one's errand is a good one, he needs but send up his card and he is admitted.

When one goes to call for the first time at an apartment house or any other insti-tution where one is not welcomed imme-diately with the warmth of the kitchenstove, one is naturally a little embarrassed and perhaps the awkardness leads to sadne.s. So it is. with the many, many strangers who knock at our doors every daynot knowing just how to act in the company of so many well trained ser-

vants. Besides this, there is always that feeling of delicacy which you experience when you go somewhere without a special invitation, a feeling either that the lady of the house is out and you'll have to go back home or else that maybe if she is in there won't be enough meat to go around l. Flowever, its worth trying and you bravely shoulder your luggage, silenge your fears, hold out all the hands you can command to head your fearly to work the command to keep your family together and join the procession down the gangplank so dazed by everything that you mechanically do as you are told. The march is rather a relief after the

stuffy atmosphere and close quarters of the ship and though the path is not the straight and narrow one you've been taught to follow, still you know its the right one and you're perfectly resigned to change your ideas of everything. From this time op Miss Liberty's servants take you in charge and you are delighted to hear that some of them speak your lan-guage. You undergo the doctor's exam-ination with a secret joy in letting him know how well you are and how strong, or perhaps you've cried so much since you you left your dear ones, that you are separated from your friends and put in a place by yourself to be examined again more carefully; but you know your eyes are well so you don't worry much.

You get past the doctor in due time and sit down to await your turn at the desk where they seem to ask a lot of questions. In fact, that woman who is being ques-In fact, that woman who is being ques-tioned is showing some photographs and her money while the man is asking her all kinds of questions. You look around and see the faces of the natives gazing down at you from the balcony and though you feel uncomfortable you rather like their looks and hope some day you'll be just like them. Its your turn at the desk now and you assure the man that you are everything that is desirable and he writes your name, distinction and other things in a big book and passes you on to a man who takes you up to the room where trunk and bag upon trunk and bag is waiting for its owner to send it to some more homelike place. Then you are ready to binnerice perhaps to buy some lunch all done up for your good appetite as you steam away from the big city you've just entered. You buy your ticket with the help of an official and the many signs in your own language that are placarded in the transportation room. Maybe you are going to stay in New York and you wait for your relatives or friends who have promised to meet you. They come at last and the joy of seeing them is greater than anything you've ever felt—it more than makes up for the queer, mixed sen-sations yon've felt for the past two weeks and you feel as though Miss Liberty herself had shaken your hand. You're sure the "stars and stripes" are waving a wel-come to you and already you've forgotten all the discomforts you've just gone through.

Consider the seasons. Onward they fly, Nothing can hinder them Going by. Reach out to catch them And what do you hear? Time's mighty mandates, Urging with cheer. Let's be contented And keep right along, Trying to help those In trouble or wrong. Our world is lovely. Nature is ours So let us be like beautiful flowers.

GOOD TIMES.

The Sunshiners had a Stocking Party on Friday evening. They sent a little colored silk stocking to each guest by way colored silk stocking to each guest by way of invitation, and each guest brought the stocking to the party filled with twice as many pennics, for the Stushine fund, as there were inches in her own stocking-foot. But there was a lot in the party besides the stockings. It was really a very informal entertainment of some length and, a good deal of merit. Mr. Lipsky played a very beautiful viptin solo; Miss Lulu Weil sang; Miss Carpenter played and sang; there were some recitations, more singing and finally a group of girls went through a very effective drill and the entertainment ended in dancing and a social evening. a social evening.

a social evening. The afternoon classes had a "good time," certainly, on Saturday the eighteenth. Mrs. Abram Katz gave a party for them that afternoon. Danking, games and fun of every variety and finally ice cream and wafers for refresh-ments all helped to make the party what it was a great success. it was-a great success.

· ^ On Saturday evening, April 18, an in-teresting extemporaneous debate was held by the Sunshiners on the topic, "Resolved, by the Sunshiner's on the topic, "Resolved, that immigration is of advantage to the United States," It was an interesting occasion, it being the first time that most of the debaters had ever engaged in a debate for which no proparation had been made. Such arguments! Such elo-quence! Verily, no one knows what an orator she may be until the great oppor-umity comes tunity comes.

On Saturday evening, April 25, occurred the last of the series of lectures given before the Sunshine Club and their friends by Mr. Kendrick P. Shedd. The subject was, "Our Brother, the Immi-grant." The lecture was the logical close of a series of cludies on immigration in of a series of studies on immigration in which the Sunshiners have been engaged during the winter.

After the lecture there was the usual season of social and dancing. These occa-sions have come to be eagerly looked forward to by the members and friends of the Sunshine Club.

The readers of the BULLETIN will re-member the "Prayer-creed of the Sun-shiners" which was printed upon the cover of the paper with last issue. This has now been done into pretty and substantial form in two colors upon a lightgray background and is selling at the very low figure of five cents per copy. Have you one in your home?

A LULLABY.

Sink to sleep, my-little one, For the long, bright day is done; Looking up, in drowsy wise, Safety read in mother's eyes. Softly sleep, my little one, For thy happy day is done.

Sleep until the morning light Wakens thee from dreams as bright; Recking maught of care and trial, See thy joy in mother's smile; Sleep until the morning beam Stealeth in upon thy dream.

Thou whose everlasting arm Holdeth us from every harm, In thy love we sink to rest As the babe upon my breast; In our souls thy morning smile Maketh joy of care and trial.

The house-clean-jolly days are come The gladdest of the year: We cast the dust from 'neath the bed And look outside for cheer!

We put the flowers on the stove, The pictures on the table, We rub the brass and brush the chairs

With all the strength we're able.

So Mother Earth with gentle care Gets out her clean dresses; She puts new carpets on the woods And drapes her trees with tresses.

May goodness make our hearts like Spring And purity cast out fear, So when all without seems dark We can look inside for cheer!

ALCHEMY.

The great sun, moving through the sky, Shines on the earth all day, And in her secret caves and cells She stores the warmth away; Therein, by hidden wonder work Through all the days and hours, She takes the light and heat he gave And weaves them into flowers.

So, in the chambers of the heart We store all joys that come,— The beauty of the earth and sky, The lovelight of the home;

With all that shines upon our way, And weave them into song And smiles, and gentle deeds and words To help the world along.

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SUPERINTENDENT.

Mrs. Sara Vance Stewart

DONATIONS.

The following friends have sent dona-tions of clothing, magazines, books, toys, flowers, plants, good cheer, etc.: Mr. A. E. Benjamin, Mrs. L. L. Cohn, Mrs. J. L. Garson. Mrs. Abram Katz, Mrs. Howard Mosher, Mrs. Philip Present, Miss Becca Rosenberg, Mrs. Bernard Rose, Mrs. Isaac Stern, Mrs. S. Sloman, Miss Alice Stewart. Mrs. Van Veen. Mrs. Miss Alice Stewart, Mrs. Van Veen, Mrs. J. M. Wile.

SCHEDULE OF WORK.

Neighborhood Work.

Visiting Nurse. Nursery Kindergarten.

Neighborhood Baths.

Free Dispensary :

Wednesday afternoon, Dr. F. W. Bock. Thursday morning, Dr. J. S. Berkman. Library Open: Tuesday afternoon. Thursday evening: Penny Provident Bank.

Thursday afternoon and evening, Physical Training.

Il Training. Monday afternoon, Miss Irene Philips. Monday evening, Clothing Sale. Afternoon classes begin at four o'clock. Monday—Housekeeping, Cooking. Tuesday—Crocheting, Sewing. Wednesday—Box-making, Fancy Work Thursday—Garment-making, Sewing. Friday—Cooking, Housekeeping, Sing-br

ing. Saturday—Dancing.

Visitors welcome. Settlement open every evening except Sunday for work and play.



HENRY CONOLLY Loose Leaf Ledgers **Blank Books** and Printing STONE STREET

Rochester Phone 41. Bell Phone

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SETTLEMENT BULLETIN.



May Morning

OW the bright morning star, day's harbinger,

Comes dancing from the East, and leads with her

The flowery May, who from her green lap throws

The yellow cowslip, and the pale primrose.

Hail bounteous May! that dost inspire

Mirth, and youth, and warm desire;

Woods and groves are of thy dressing,

Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing.

Thus we salute thee with our early song,

And welcome thee and wish thee long.