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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS
130 East 22nd Street
New York 10, N.Y.

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

No. 3

January, 1948

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ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

A brochure indicating the purpose, objectives and program of the National Association of School Social Workers is enclosed. When you have read it, won't you pass it along to someone who is particularly interested in education and mental health? If you wish more copies we shall be glad to send them.

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The March Newsletter will bring you detailed information about summer courses and training units to be offered by Schools of Social Work throughout the country.

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The Education Committee of the Association recommended to the Executive Committee that the American Association of Schools of Social Work be requested to accredit the school social work specialization in Schools of Social Work where this is offered, using representatives of our Association on a consultant basis.

The Executive Committee adopted the recommendation and the request has been accepted by the Board of Directors of the American Association of Schools of Social Work. Plans will be worked out mutually for a sound operation of such a program.

At the present time eleven accredited Schools of Social Work are providing supervised field work placements in public schools in the school social work department. (also called visiting teacher, school counselor, home and school visitor)

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Your Executive Secretary has recently consulted with representatives of seven public school systems in the country. In some instances there have been conferences or meetings with superintendents, associate superintendents, curriculum directors, directors of special services, and principals. There has been consultation on professional education with representatives of several Schools of Education, sometimes with the Dean and other times with various faculty groups. Conferences concerning professional social work education were possible with representatives of 13 Schools of Social Work.

In addition there has been direct contact with the U. S. Office of Education and the U. S. Public Health Service.

This month the Executive Secretary met with visiting teacher staffs in Pittsburgh, Detroit and Minneapolis. In Oak Park, Illinois, Dr. Smith, Superintendent of Schools and Miss Menzemer, School Social Worker, arranged meetings with both school and community personnel.

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Robert C. Taber, Director, Division of Pupil Personnel and Counseling, Philadelphia Public Schools, is Chairman of a Sub-Committee of the National Conference on Family Life. This sub-committee on School Counseling is preparing a section of material for the Conference to be held in Washington, D. C. on May 6, 7 and 8, 1948. The completed material will discuss the philosophy of and the need for continuous individualized service to children in school, the method and operation, standards and training for personnel engaged in such service, and the research needs in this service.

In addition to Mr. Taber, persons preparing portions of the report are Shirley Leonard, Florence Poole, Dr. Leonard Miller and Dr. Roy Hackman (Temple University), Dorothea Paul, Dr. Marechal-Neil E. Young, Rachel D. Cox, Emilie Rannells and your Executive Secretary.

This is the first National Conference on Family Life. Primarily it will be composed of working groups in which representatives of at least 125 national organizations will take part. Though there will be several large general sessions, it is from these working groups that the findings of the Conference will come. The study and analysis of factors affecting family life will dig deeply into established knowledge and experience in all fields. The ten selected fields of action are Home Management, Housing, Economic Welfare, Health, Education, Social Welfare, Legal, Counseling and Guidance, Recreation and Community Participation.

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II. AROUND THE COUNTRY

Mrs. Adriana Guzman, Assistant Director of the Puerto Rico School of Social Work has been on the mainland recently. She says Puerto Rico public schools have 95 school social workers. This implements legislation on an Island-wide basis. Puerto Rico has a centralized (Insular) Department of Education. The school social workers' salaries are comparable to salaries of similarly trained personnel in the community.

The Puerto Rico School of Social Work is training persons in school social work. They have three field centers in public schools and are currently training seven students. Last year two school social workers received master's degrees, and two more will do so this year.

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The City of Baltimore has had a visiting teacher program for a number of years administered in the Division of Special Services for Pupils. Mr. Edwin Stein is acting director and Miss Elizabeth Armstrong is supervisor. Minimum qualifications for visiting teachers are a Bachelor's Degree plus two years of teaching experience or two years of social work experience or a combination of both experiences. Some in-service training is given on an individual conference basis and some through regular staff meetings.

The Baltimore Department of Education has an annual program for all school staff called "Professional Study Activities". The theme of this year's program is "Understanding the Child in His School Environment". Workshops and organized study activities offered by various divisions and departments are scheduled for Thursdays after school closes. Of particular interest to our membership are two activity groups entitled "Pupil Personnel Problems of Attendance and Adjustment" and "Workshop - Child Guidance Cases". Also listed, among many other good group seminars, are "Community Study Workshop - The Community and Its Problems" and "Community Study Workshop - Orientation to Community Study".

Mr. John H. Fischer, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, serves as a member of the Board of the Baltimore Council of Social Agencies, Division of Family and Child Care Agencies. In October two meetings of the Division were scheduled. The general theme was "The Present Role of the Public Schools in Meeting Needs of Children". At the first meeting "What Does the School Offer the Child Today", a panel of persons from the curriculum field presented material on

- Helping Teachers Understand Children
- Helping Teachers Understand the Community
- Meeting the Needs of Younger Children

The second was a panel presented by personnel from the Division of Special Services of the Department of Education. This included visiting teacher, attendance worker (called home visitor), child guidance, clinic worker, reading clinic specialist, guidance and vocational placement worker, etc.

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The Annual Meeting of the American Association of Schools of Social Work, held in Minneapolis, January 21-23, was a splendid contribution to the field of professional education in social work. Panel discussions were excellent. Some of the conference papers have had wide newspaper publicity.

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Miss Cordelia Cox has sent a summary of some data from the southeast portion of the country which is of interest.

You recall that both Virginia and Georgia have state-wide visiting teacher programs. In both states some special attention is being given to school attendance.

South Carolina has an "attendance teacher" program with a state-wide plan, but not yet state-wide in operation. Charleston and Greenville, South Carolina have school social work programs in operation.

West Virginia has a state-wide attendance program.

North Carolina's school attendance laws are administered by special attendance workers or by the superintendent of public welfare in districts having no attendance workers.

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Nine elementary school principals in Houston, Texas have asked for associate membership. We are glad to have this concrete indication of interest from school principals.

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San Diego City Schools, San Diego, California, issued in 1947 a complete, well organized Guidance Handbook for Counselors and Teachers in the Schools. This was prepared by a Handbook Committee under the direction of Dr. Richmond Barbour, Director of Guidance. Good material is in this book.

The introduction notes four principles of guidance:

1. Unity
2. The method of guidance is sharing
3. Guidance is an integral process in all education
4. Guidance is basically individual (group procedures may be followed, but the choices in which guidance is concerned are individual choices).

The book is divided into five major portions with sub-headings: The Introduction, Methods for the Study of the Individual, Information for Students, Guidance and Related Services of the San Diego City Schools (visiting teacher service included in this section), and Professional Relationships.

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Visiting teachers in Michigan will have a three day workshop on April 2, 3 and 4 on "Professional Problems in Dealing with Children". Two psychiatrists will be in charge of the three day session. One is Dr. Jimmie Hymes, New Paltz, New York, and the other Dr. John Dorsey, Clinical Director, Children's Fund of Michigan. The workshop is made possible by the Maud E. Watson Memorial Fund.

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III. MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

February 24th is the date of the session arranged by the National Association of School Social Workers to be held at the Annual Conference of American Association of School Administrators in Atlantic City. Dr. Willard E. Goslin will speak on "The Importance of an Individualized Service for Children in the Public Schools". Dr. Goslin has recently been elected President of the American Association of School Administrators.

The meeting is at 2:30 P.M., February 24, in the West Solarium, Marlborough Blenheim Hotel.

If your school principal or superintendent is planning to attend the Atlantic City meeting, won't you please extend a special invitation to him to attend this meeting?

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The National Association of School Social Workers has been asked to take responsibility for a sectional meeting at the annual meeting of the International Council for Exceptional Children in Des Moines, Iowa, April 25-28 at the Fort Des Moines Hotel.

A number of you plan to attend this conference. Others in your school may attend. Won't you let them know about our meeting and urge them to attend?

Details of the program, time and place will appear in the March Newsletter.

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Here is additional word on our meetings at the National Conference of Social Work. Miss Sue Spencer, Executive Secretary of American Association of Schools of Social Work and Miss Cordelia Cox, Professor, Richmond School of Social Work are discussants for Miss Janvier's paper, "Essentials of a Training Program for School Social Workers". The March Newsletter will bring you names of discussants for the papers by Dr. Thompson and Miss Mohr - "Children's Fears in Relation to School Attendance". Miss Florence Poole is chairman of the latter meeting and Miss M. Ethel Batschelet of the former.

The meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2:00 P.M. and Wednesday, April 21, 4:00 P.M. The business meeting of the Association will follow the Wednesday session.

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The International Congress of Mental Health will meet in London, August 11-21, 1948. One of our members has indicated a possibility of attending the Congress; a number of school social workers throughout the country have been asked to participate in regional commissions which are preparing material for the Congress. Through the coordinating efforts of Robert C. Taber, Director of Pupil Personnel and Counseling, Philadelphia, a section of material is being contributed on school services adapting mental hygiene principles to the educational process. Various members of the National Association of School Social Workers and interested persons, and the Executive Office have contributed to this section. Mr. Lawrence K. Frank, Executive Secretary of the International Committee for Mental Hygiene, requested the material for this section.

The International Committee for Mental Hygiene is "proposing the formation of a "World Federation for Mental Health" which will replace the present International Committee and which will be incorporated some time within the next few months. At the Congress meetings in London in August, 1948, a permanent Constitution and By-Laws will be adopted by the World Federation for Mental Health and a Board will be organized consisting of democratically elected delegates from many countries. The new World Federation for Mental Health will then apply to UNESCO and the World

Health Organization of the United Nations for recognition as the official international voluntary organization in the field of mental health.

"The forthcoming Congress will provide an opportunity for professional groups from many nations to work together towards common mental health goals. Recommendations formulated at the Congress will serve as a base for national and international planning for referral to WHO and UNESCO. Thus for the first time in history mental health planning on a world scale is about to begin, and this Congress is the first step."

"The International Conference on Mental Hygiene is distinctive in the way in which it is being organized. Instead of consisting principally of papers by individuals, the program is to be built around the reports of numerous small discussion groups, or "Preparatory Commission", which are being established throughout the various participating countries. Some of these Commissions will at first consist of representatives of one profession only, such as a group of psychiatrists, or of psychologists. Most of the Commissions will be "multi-discipline" from the outset. By "multi-discipline" is meant that Preparatory Commissions will consist of representatives of three or more professions or disciplines. For example a Commission might include two or three psychiatrists, a social worker, and an anthropologist or two; another might include half a dozen nursery school teachers, two or three psychologists, a pediatrician, and a public health nurse. Commissions which start out as single-discipline will be encouraged to include representatives of other disciplines in their discussions and will thus become multi-discipline.

"The purpose of this multi-discipline structure is self-evident. Experience has shown that often when professional groups with similar interests but different background come together to discuss the same problem, the views of each are broadened and each is able to approach the problem more constructively."

The focus for the United States' effort shall be: What has war done to the children of the world and what can we do about it? Some preparatory commissions may wish to broaden this further to "what do we do to children that leads them as adults to make war, and what can we do about it?"

The theme is "Mental Health and World Citizenship". Main topics are:

- Aug. 16: Problems of World Citizenship and Good Group Relationships
- Aug. 17: The Individual and Society
- Aug. 18: Family Problems and Psychological Disturbance
- Aug. 19: Planning for Mental Health; Organization, Training, Propaganda
- Aug. 20: Mental Health in Industry and Industrial Relations
- Aug. 21: Practical Conclusions and Recommendations

The International Conference on Child Psychiatry will precede the above meetings. The theme of this conference is "Personality development in its individual and social aspects with special reference to aggression".

- Wednesday, Aug. 11: Aggression in Relation to Emotional Development, Normal and Pathological
- Thursday, Aug. 12: Aggression in Relation to Family Life
- Friday, Aug. 13: Psychiatric Problems in the Educational Sphere
- Saturday, Aug. 14: The Community and the Aggressive Child

Preliminary copies of the program for the Congress on Mental Health are available in our office. Membership is open to "trained workers in mental health and related subjects and to members of recognized organizations connected with such work". Information regarding fees, application blanks, and travel are also available in our office.

IV. READING MATERIAL

A compilation of "Social Work Fellowships and Scholarship" offered for 1948-49 is available on request from the American Association of Social Workers, 130 East 22nd Street, New York 10, N. Y.

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"Principles of Confidentiality in Social Work", is a pamphlet prepared by the Committee on Records of Washington, D. C. Chapter of the American Association of Social Workers. The cost is 25¢. Obtainable at American Association of Social Workers, 130 East 22nd Street, New York 10, N. Y.

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The National Conference on Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency has made available the following reports, which can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.:

Community Coordination	.15
General Recommendations for State and Community Action	.10
Juvenile Court Laws	.15
Juvenile Detention	.15
Juvenile Court Administration	.10
Institutional Treatment of Delinquent Juveniles	.20
Role of the Police in Juvenile Delinquency	.15
Housing, Community Development and Juvenile Delinquency	.15
Recreation for Youth	.25
Mental Health and Child Guidance Clinics	.10
Youth Participation	.10
Case Work - Group Work	.15
Church Responsibilities	.15
School and Teacher Responsibilities	.15
Home Responsibility	.15
Rural Aspects of Juvenile Delinquency	.25
Statistics	.15

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A publication which should be widely read because of its relation to both education and industry is the "School-and-Work Programs" bulletin.

War conditions created a new interest in School-and-Work Programs. The U. S. Department of Labor and the U. S. Office of Education have recently issued a pamphlet which is a study of the experience in 136 school systems. Educators were interested in this project because the realities of employment were brought closer to the school. Those concerned with the protection of young workers were interested because of the necessity for safeguarding the interests of young people while on the job.

It includes a section on Purposes of School-and-Work Programs, on Types of Arrangements for Releasing Students for Work, Popularity of the Programs, Kind of Work Undertaken by Students, Controls Exercised by the Schools, Attitudes Toward the Programs, Good and Bad Features, and The Future of School-and-Work Programs.

Obtainable from U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. for 20¢.

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