

An Innovation In The County Fair.

Preaching the Gospel of the Anti-tuberculosis Crusade, Opening the Door For Needy Children and Teaching the Wiser Use of State Institutions.

THE State Charities Aid association will send to thirty-six of the county fairs and also to the State Fair at Syracuse a new type of exhibit. This exhibit is intended to foster a more general interest in practical social work in the small cities and rural communities of the state. It consists of three principal divisions—(a) prevention of tuberculosis, (b) caring for needy children, (c) wiser use of state institutions.

This exhibit on the prevention of tuberculosis is intended to bring home to every visitor to a county fair who will take a few minutes to examine and to one who is passing along casually and glance at it purely out of curiosity the fact that the disease which causes the largest number of deaths in the state is a curable and, above all, a preventable disease. The exhibit will consist of maps stating briefly the well known facts about tuberculosis, of charts and diagrams showing its prevalence in various localities, of pictures of hospitals, sanitariums, dispensaries and other provisions for consumptives, models of outside sleeping porches and other facilities to aid outdoor treatment and of the various appliances needed in the consumptive sickroom in order to give the patient proper care and protect other members of the household.

To Arouse the People.

In the small towns and rural districts of the state tuberculosis is almost as prevalent proportionately to the population as in the large cities, and the purpose of the State Charities Aid association in sending out this traveling exhibition is to arouse the people to a realization of the extent of the disease and to show them how it may be cured if taken in time and, most important of all, how it can be prevented. The county fairs offer a splendid opportunity of reaching the people of the rural districts and bring home to them the essential facts about this disease as to its nature, its extent, how it spreads, how it may be cured and prevented. Over 400,000 people, it is expected, will hear the gospel of the anti-tuberculosis crusade.

Care of Needy Children.

The division of the exhibit that deals with the care of needy children is intended to popularize the work of the State Charities Aid association in providing homes in families for orphans and destitute children, of whom the exhibit shows there are 30,000 in the state, supported at an annual expense of over \$5,000,000.

The association receives such children from local officials and institutions and places them in carefully selected family homes. It maintains that this is quite as much to the advantage of the families as it is to the children. The childless home needs new interest, an enthusiasm awakened by the presence of the child quite as much as the child needs the care of a foster father and mother.

Pictures of many homeless children who have been placed in families will be shown, and in other ways this work will be graphically set forth. Among the pictures are one showing a maiden lady and her family of eight adopted children and pictures of forty motherless babies placed in childless homes, photographs of homeless little boys and girls placed in families and of homeless mothers with babies placed in situations at domestic housework.

State Institutions.

While the state of New York provides generously for many classes of its dependents, a more general knowledge of the exact nature and purposes of these institutions is necessary to secure their highest usefulness. Too frequently the insane are secluded at their homes until the disease has become chronic, epileptic and feeble minded and retained until past the teachable age. Cripple children are not sent to suitable hospitals for treatment until too late to secure the best results.

This section of the exhibit will therefore tend to popularize the state institutions by presenting attractive pictures of them and at the same time suggest a wiser and therefore more humane, effective and economic use.

Two authorized representatives of the State Charities Aid association will accompany each exhibit to explain to visitors any of its features as which they may be especially interested, to answer any questions that may be suggested by any feature of the exhibit and generally to assist in popularizing and extending the practical work of the State Charities Aid association for the betterment of public institutions, the care of needy children and the prevention of tuberculosis.

SHOWING THE WAY.

Free literature on the best methods of tuberculosis prevention, advice on the proper use of medical services, and information on the various state institutions may be had with the exhibit and will be given to visitors.

thousands at the county fairs this fall. As immense amount of appropriate literature will be provided for distribution at each of thirty-six of the largest county fairs by the State Charities Aid association and the state department of health. Among the pamphlets and circulars are a number on tuberculosis, such as "Information Pamphlet," Knopf's essay on "Tuberculosis as a Disease of the Masses and How to

ORGANIZED BENEVOLENCE.

Good Work of the State Charities Aid Association.

The State Charities Aid association through its work in the field of philanthropic effort has become quite well known in this state. By some, however, the nature of the organization is misunderstood. It is not a state organization in the sense of receiving state funds or operating under state appointment. It works in all parts of the state and its membership represents all parts of the state. The headquarters are at New York city, but it is engaged in active work in practically every county of the state. In a word, it represents organized benevolent effort directed toward the accomplishment of specific purpose for social betterment.

For thirty-five years its principal work has been the visiting of public charitable institutions and the enactment of legislation in securing appropriations and administrative measures for the protection, development and efficiency of these institutions. It is im-

erally and figuratively regarded as the "devil" of the state. Then, again, we can recall occasions when we have cursed the instrument and likened it to an invention of the devil—as, for instance, when it disturbed our slumber on a peaceful quiet Sunday afternoon with its voice of brass or when the occupant of the flat above used it to entertain his guests in the wee sma' hours of the night. On the whole, however, we have enjoyed the phonograph and regard it highly for the appeal it makes to the aesthetic sense. Thus far its efforts have been in the main confined to the field of amusement. Now it is about to broaden the sphere of its activity and usefulness. It is to enter the field of education. It is to teach the people, to teach them something about tuberculosis.

A Voice That Will Convince.

At each county fair visited by one of the tuberculosis exhibitions of the State Charities Aid association a large talking machine is to be used in connection with the exhibition. The people will hear a voice telling them in solemn tones that in this country every day throughout the year over 400 lives

THE FIGHT ON TUBERCULOSIS.

History of the Campaign Against the White Scourge.

It is an awful indictment to the civilization and enlightenment of the twentieth century that in the world at large there is an annual sacrifice of precious human lives to the number of 1,095,000, more than two a minute throughout the entire year, in our own great nation more than 100,000 annually, in the state of New York more than 15,000 each year!

In this state almost simultaneously two great agencies awoke to the necessity of undertaking a vigorous and active educational campaign for the prevention of this disease. These agencies are the New York state department of

of sending a traveling tuberculosis exhibition to educate the people along the desired line. After much difficulty the legislative appropriation of the insignificant sum of \$1,000 was secured, and with this amount an exhibition was finally produced. The two forces, state department of health and the State Charities Aid association, joined hands and in November, 1907, started a state campaign in the city of Utica. Rome, Troy, Albany, Schenectady, Canandaigua, Geneva, Auburn and Cortlandt, where the campaign closed June 1 for the summer, were visited in turn.

In each of the cities visited the plan of operation was substantially the same. It consisted, generally speaking, of three main divisions—investigation, education and organization.

The Tuberculosis Map.

The investigation is quite extensive and includes a search and transcript of the death records of the city for at least a ten year period. Comparative charts are made showing death rates according to population, age, sex, nativity, etc., as determined in each city and in relation to other cities of approximately the same population. Perhaps the most striking representation of the results of the investigation in each city is "the tuberculosis map." Upon a map of the city is located by black headed pins each death from tuberculosis during a ten year period. Such a map always stirs up considerable interest and gives the people an idea of the fearful ravages caused by the disease in their city. It is also invaluable in determining centers of infection, congested housing, etc.

The education of the public is effected principally through a course of stereopticon lectures held in connection with the tuberculosis exhibition of the health department and through the distribution of instructive literature. The lectures are arranged to reach particular groups which have been previously notified of the special meeting through individual letters. Some of the groups reached are the County Medical society, clergymen and teachers of public, private and parochial schools, labor unions, women's clubs, secret societies, fraternal and insurance orders, nurses and medical students, Italians or other foreign population, employees of large industrial establishments and all such other groups as may be suggested by local conditions. The public also is invited to each meeting and considerable authoritative and helpful literature distributed. In addition to the special meetings, a mass meeting is held in a large hall or church, at which men of national reputation qualified to speak from the scientific or economic standpoint address audiences which are always notable for number as well as intelligence.

Of more than local interest was a mass meeting held in Albany, Jan. 27. The largest theater in the capital city was filled, the entire house was reserved, and hundreds unable to obtain reserved seats applied for general admission tickets. Hon. Joseph Choate, president of the State Charities Aid association, presided. Governor Hughes, Lieutenant Governor Chanler, Hon. James W. Wadsworth, Hon. William W. Armstrong, Hon. Eugene H. Porter and others of wide reputation spoke, including Professor William H. Welch of Johns Hopkins university, who came from Baltimore to appear at this really historic meeting.

Following the active campaign of "local committee" is organized, and to this committee is intrusted a constructive programme for the purpose of obtaining specific results in the way of preventing the disease. Different measures for relief and prevention—as, for example, municipal legislation, dispensary, visiting nurses, education and



A SECTION OF THE EXHIBITION OF THE STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION WHICH WILL BE SHOWN AT COUNTY FAIRS AND AT THE STATE FAIR AT SYRACUSE.

Combat It," Rogers' "Working Programme For a Small City," the "Don't" card and the circular entitled "Consumption" issued by the state department of health.

The pamphlet called "State Institutions and How to Use Them Wisely" gives a short sketch of the various state institutions, where they are located, who they are for, what the treatment consists of and how admission for suitable cases may be secured.

Those who are interested in the work of the bureau for the placing out of dependent children in private families will be given blanks showing the steps that must be taken in making application for a child.

The pamphlet on tuberculosis that will be distributed most widely by the State Charities Aid association will be particularly valuable in that it will contain a very brief and concise statement in the simplest language possible of the latest scientific knowledge concerning tuberculosis. There is contained in the preparation of this pamphlet such experts as Dr. Hermann M. Biggs, chief medical adviser of the department of health of New York city, Dr. Livingston Latham, executive secretary of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and Mr. Homer Folks of the State Charities Aid association. It is thus authoritative, and it presents the present day knowledge about the disease in a brief and concise manner.

The use of all technical terms has been avoided, and the pamphlet has been arranged in every respect so that the subject can be easily understood and grasped by every one.

It is subdivided into sections corresponding to the different sections of the exhibit, so that it will serve as a guide and director of the exhibit and assist in making permanent the impressions derived from the pictures, models, charts, etc., by enabling visitors to take to their homes detailed statements teaching the same truths.

It is believed that the sending of these exhibits to the various county fairs, together with the distribution of literature and the work of the personal representatives of the association, will form a unique and valuable contribution to popular education in social work. In large cities the humanitarian spirit finds expression in organized charities. In rural communities and in smaller cities it too often finds no medium by which to express itself other than agencies to accomplish good in some far-off country. If these exhibits find their way to the rural districts, which is fully as strong in the rural districts as in the cities, to practical work for individual and social betterment at home, they will have achieved their purpose.

possible, however, to go through wards of public institutions year after year and see the endless procession of unfortunates entering the doors of these institutions without asking the questions: "Is there no limit to the recipients of public aid? Must the authorities look forward indefinitely to ever increasing numbers of public hospitals and charitable institutions, the capacity of which never overtakes the demand? The association instituted an investigation to ascertain the causes, individual and social, of poverty, sickness, insanity and in general of inefficiency and misfortune and to find out whether any of them were controllable. While many of the causes of death and of distress are illusive, one of them stands out everywhere clearly and in bold relief at the head of the list of causes of death in most localities, and never dropping lower than second place is tuberculosis. It is pre-eminently a great contributing factor to the supply of inmates and patients for hospitals, asylums, county and state institutions and for the list of those receiving other relief. It is because of this fact that the State Charities Aid association has engaged in the campaign against this disease.

PHONOGRAPH IN A NEW ROLE.

To Lecture Daily at the County Fair on Tuberculosis.

The phonograph, for a number of years a source of pleasure to those of us whose ears are not so delicately attuned as to appreciate only the beautiful timbre of such instruments as the organ, the violin, the human voice or the cello, is now to enter upon a new and serious role.

In the past we have kept time to the martial strains of one of Sousa's masterpieces as it was being run off the reel; we have listened to the touching bit of sentiment of the "mother" songs; we have smiled indulgently at the rapturous outburst of the fatuous lover as he boldly and extravagantly declared that the world would be his if his love were returned. We have heard the voice of the great and the near great upon immortality, the tariff of the labor question and wished that the statesmen were present in person instead of his empty voice as we listened.

are yielded up in tribute to the great white plague, more than were lost at the awful Iroquois theater fire several years ago, and it will tell them that most of these deaths from the disease were unnecessary. The voice will tell them how the disease spreads, under what conditions it is most prevalent. It will warn the inhabitants of the rural districts that to nail their window shut is to drive a nail into their coffin. They will be asked to throw open the close, shut up parlor which is used only for an occasion like a wedding or a funeral—to let in the fresh air and blessed sunshine even

health and the State Charities Aid association.

It is something more than two years ago that two men in this state, acting independently of each other and of their own individual initiative, put their minds at work on the problem of educating the people of the Empire State on tuberculosis. The Hon. Homer Folks, secretary of the State Charities Aid association, believed it a proper function of that association to attack tuberculosis to the end that there might be removed a great contributory cause of poverty. He believed that as the association existed for alleviating the



TAKING THE CURE AT STATE HOSPITAL FOR INCIPIENT TUBERCULOSIS, RAYBROOK, N. Y.

though it does fade the carpets. They will be reminded that it is much better to let the carpets become faded than to allow the bloom to fade on the cheeks of their children. They will be told how the disease may be cured, but it may be prevented. Selections from comic opera and popular airs will be interspersed to amuse the visitors to the exhibition. Everybody will be entertained and at the same time instructed.

condition of the poor it was not illogical that it should strike directly at a great preventable cause of indigency. A substantial contribution was given to the association to undertake the work, and thus was made possible the anti-tuberculosis crusade now being conducted by the association. At the same time that Mr. Folks was bending his energies along this line the Hon. Eugene H. Porter, state commissioner of health, conceived the idea

publicity, sanitarium treatment and after care, hospital for advanced cases—are assigned to the special effort of sub-committees, and the definite and important steps already taken more than justify the effort, time and money expended. In each city visited some practical measure or measures have been adopted and are now in force since the prosecution of the campaign, and their adoption is directly due to the carrying on of the crusade.