

EDITOR GOES VISITING

WAYNE COUNTY TRAINING SCHOOL

By G. R. A.

Mention the activities of Wayne County, including the city of Detroit, and most people immediately think of automobile production, concrete highways, congested traffic, bank robbers, political scraps, and Hamtramck. Few people—probably Wayne County's own people—think of their county in terms of real humanitarianism. To get them to do so we suggest that they take a trip out to the Wayne County Training School, just outside of Northville, and allow Dr. Robert H. Haskell, superintendent, to conduct them on a tour of the institution.

two meals. This is most unusual for a newspaper, who is lucky to get food in such large measures at any time. Of course, for drug-gists, school superintendents and grocers, food is always available.

The Wayne County Training School is Wayne County's experiment in dealing with boys and girls, between the ages of eight and twenty-one, who are very backward in their studies and who because of lack of parental restraint and proper ancestral background, require specialized direction to improve their morals and behaviorism; this kind of boy and girl is what Wayne County is trying to salvage from the offspring of society. Although operating slightly over a year, the institution under Dr. Haskell's care now has 452 children in it, and already the attention of educators all over the land has been directed toward it; here is an experiment on a scale that amounts to a money investment of nearly three millions and Dr. Haskell and Mrs. J. A. Howell, 1905 acres, and buildings that are expertly fitted to educate and follow the children in them. A staff of special teachers, with Charlotte A. Steinbach as principal, has

EINSTEIN, RELATIVELY SPEAKING



Professor Albert Einstein, discoverer of the theory of relativity, snapped in his home in Berlin, Germany—his latest photo. With him is Frau Einstein and their daughter Margot.

daily contact with the boys and girls.

Dr. Haskell, who is now only 42 years of age, was at one time Supt. of the State Asylum for the Criminally Inane at Ionia. For eight years he held that position, given to him, a Republican, by former Governor Woodbridge S. Ferris, Democrat, whom he was only 32 years old. Inclined to be a trifle stout, (we didn't say fat, Dr. Haskell is seemingly possessed of a mind that thinks to the bottom of a subject, and tells those thoughts with slow precision, Dr. Haskell impresses one as just the type of human being best fitted for the task. Above all his knowledge of the subject he has built within himself a heart that is friendly and helpful; on the trip over the grounds last Thursday it was plain that this fine chap loves his work and his wards, and that they love him, too.

If you are interested in the work of this institution at Northville, we suggest that you read what follows, taken from a recent pamphlet issued to explain the origin and function of the Wayne County Training School.

The Wayne County Training School which admitted its first pupils in September last, is the latest adjunct to the sociologic and educational forces of Detroit and Wayne County. Although the readers of the Detroit Educational Bulletin, from the activist part of the educational forces of the City took in the movement leading to the establishment of the school, are well informed in general about the project, it has been thought well to review the subject here.

The problem of the higher grade feeble-minded in the community had become increasingly perplexing with the tremendously rapid growth of Detroit and Wayne County and the additional complexities of living consequent thereto until all existing facilities for their care, treatment and supervision were already taxed far beyond capacity for several years ahead. It was this situation that influenced the voters of Wayne County in 1922 to authorize the establishment of this new institution. A most delightful site was procured, one thousand acres in extent, in the picturesque northwest corner of the County, midway between Plymouth and Northville. Marcus E. Burrows of Detroit, in October, 1923, was selected as the architect. All matters concerning the buildings and their

construction were delegated to a subcommittee of the Building Committee of the Board of Supervisors, consisting of the Honorable William H. Maybury. The contracts for the construction were awarded to the W. E. Wood Company of Detroit in March, 1924. Construction proceeded speedily until with the approaching of the completion of the buildings in the fall of 1925 an ordinance, which became effective on December 1, 1925, was enacted, providing for the functioning of the school, the purchase of its equipment, and creating the Board of Administration.

This Board of Administration, seven in number, has three members, the Superintendent of Public Schools of the City of Detroit, your own Frank Cady, the County Commissioner of Schools, Eber W. Yost, and the Presiding Judge of the Probate Court, Henry S. Hulbert, holding office by virtue of their elective positions; the other four members, Mrs. Robert Beattie, Milton M. Alexander, Tracy W. McGregor, and William H. Maybury were elected by the Board of Supervisors to serve initial terms of one, two, three and four years, respectively. The ordinance combines admirably central control in matters of finance through the Board of County Auditors and the Board of Supervisors with local autonomy of purpose and program through the Board of Administration. Dr. Robert H. Haskell, Medical Superintendent of the Ionia State Hospital, Ionia, Michigan, since March, 1915, and prior to that time, Assistant Medical Director of the State Psychopathic Hospital at Ann Arbor and Instructor in Mental Diseases in the University Medical School, was chosen as head of the School in January, 1926.

There are already constructed twenty-six main buildings: sixteen identical cottages housing fifty children each; a ten room Central School for academic subjects, a West and East School for boys' and girls' industrial training respectively; a Hospital with four

WE HEARD IT SAID BY—

Chester Mack, president of the Detroit Park Exchange Club: "The removal of much of the Ford Motor company's plant and offices from Highland Park to River Rouge has resulted in a decrease of people employed in our city from 42,000 to about 23,000. It has also meant the lowering of the Ford assessment of our tax rolls to the extent of \$80,000,000. Right now little more than the buildings of the thriving Highland Park plant remain."

wards of eight beds each, operating room, dental clinic, laboratories, etc.; an Auditorium Building; an Auditorium Building with spacious club quarters on the ground floor for employees; a central Service Building with Main Kitchen, Bakery and employees' Dining Rooms; Laundry; a Power Plant. The general type of architecture is modern Romanesque with attractive light-colored brick and effective terra cotta treatment of the cornices, main entrances, and windows. The buildings are regularly two stories high without attic or basement, fire-resistant in construction with joint, hybrid lath floor and roof construction. Landscape developments have been begun, concrete roads are being laid, living quarters for the professional staff workers and fire protection are under way. The first pupils were admitted in September of January 1, the population was one hundred and sixty-six. By July 1, 1927, it is expected that the number will approximate four hundred.

In effecting the organization of the School, free use has been made of the part played by the Special Class movement in the public school system in helping to alter the viewpoint of the community with regard to the higher grade feeble-minded as well as the present day psychiatric approach to the prevention and unravelling of their behavior problems. In fact, it may frankly be said that it was this hopeful viewpoint of the socialization of the higher grade feeble-minded that led to the founding of the school rather than any aftermath of the "alarmist stage" with its sole remedy in custodial isolation. Admission is restricted to individuals between eight and twenty-one years of age with preference to those under fifteen. Admission is also limited to the higher grade feeble-minded capacity with the rough measurement of a probable ultimate intelligence quotient of not less than fifty. For the present, statutory limitations prevent admission except by Probate Court commitment.

Have Two Classes Two main classes of the higher grade feeble-minded are being kept closest in mind in developing the field of the school: Those who with the best probable future horizons may be able to continue through the special class department of the public school system satisfactorily but still need some further training to fit them for economic participation in society; and those whose home influences through family feeble-mindedness or other cause of lack of understanding and capacity are such as to nullify every possible stimulus toward adequate socialization that even the best special class teacher might exert, with the almost inevitably resultant addition to inherent deficiencies of the feeble-minded of unpleasant social beginnings and perhaps fundamentally psychopathic trends. It is to be expected, unfortunately perhaps, that the uppermost problem in too many of these cases is one largely concerned with the eradication of lawless infantile tendencies and a tedious beginning of

normal training with their replacement by healthy interests, a development of greater individualization thus afforded there must be added the unusually comfortable and attractive living conditions provided for those engaged in the demanding work of cottage individualization possible under an life supervision which makes it easier to obtain workers better qualified to apply the teachings of mental hygiene principles to their problems. Well Equipped The educational department is well supplied with modern equipment. (Continued on next page.)

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