

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Youngsters Are Large Share Of Those Aided Through Drive

(This is the second of a series of six articles on the Torch Drive. The third, telling of the fight against juvenile delinquency by services participating in the United Foundation fund-raising effort, will appear in The Birmingham Eccentric next week.)

Volunteers in the Torch Drive provide care for many very young members of the community. A considerable portion of the money they raise will go toward paying for services to small children, services which would not otherwise be available.

Many youngsters are helped through such organizations as the American Hearing Society, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation, the Michigan Epilepsy Center, the Michigan Society for Mental Hygiene, the Sister Elizabeth Kenny Foundation, and the United Cerebral Palsy Associations. All of these health services will benefit from the Torch Drive.

Services of the Community Chest, which also are financed by the Torch Drive, make possible the feeding, clothing and sheltering of youngsters from broken homes. They include also hospitalization and clinical and nursing services at costs which families can afford. They cover a variety of recreational activities.

These services last year, for instance, cared for more than 14,000 children through pre-adoption, institutional, and foster home programs. They provided the facilities and trained personnel.

CARE OF children in institutions today is far removed from that in the traditional "orphanage" of fiction. The services such as House of Providence, Sarah Fisher Home, Methodist Children's Home, the Edwin Denby Memorial Home, St. Francis Home, and others, combine approved child psychology practices with the most modern facilities.

Even though the name "orphanage" or "orphans home" is included in the corporate names of several of these institutions, fewer than 4 per cent of the children are actual orphans. Most of the youngsters come from broken homes.

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Children of Adoption. Because of the excessive demand, however, the standards are extremely high.

The Methodist Children's Home Society each year, for instance, placed around 35 children in adoption, against 400 applications from families wishing to adopt youngsters.

There are four big steps toward actual adoption of children from the Methodist Home. More than nine out of ten families are eliminated before they can claim a child. Similar standards are applied equally difficult from other services.

The first requirement of the Methodist Home is an application blank which must show that the would-be parents have been married at least five years and are not more than 30-40 years older than the child they wish to adopt. They must also establish the certainty that they will not have natural children later. Children or one-child families have the preference, although some exceptions are made.

THE APPLICATION should show, too, that both adopting parents are members of the same Evangelical church, must live in a home where there will be a separate room for the child, and must be able to play outdoors when he is older. The requirement that both parents be members of the same church unit eliminates more than one-third of the applicants.

The Methodist Home further stipulates that children shall not be placed in homes where alcoholic beverages are served. This preliminary application stopped more than half the 400 families who applied for adoptive children from the Methodist Home last year.

The second step is an interview with the prospective parents. The Society insists that the child be placed in a home where the prospective parents disagree with this viewpoint, they will get no child. The Society insists that the child be placed in a home where the prospective parents disagree with this viewpoint, they will get no child. The Society insists that the child be placed in a home where the prospective parents disagree with this viewpoint, they will get no child.

THE FINAL step is matching available children to prospective parents. Personality, physical characteristics, background, are considered. The would-be parents are interviewed with the child. Sometimes they don't want it. If they do, they must obtain legal release from the real parents, if living.

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plays an important part in keeping Detroit's very young in good health is the Visiting Nurses Association.

Although its services are spread over the entire population, nearly one-fourth of its cases are of children under 18. In addition to the specialized types of child care, a great many services, such as community and neighborhood centers, provide a wide variety of nursery, playground, camping, entertainment and education programs for youngsters.

ANY CHILD under 12 years of age not afflicted with a contagious disease is admitted. As soon as they step inside the door, they receive the attention of a physician. This preliminary examination enables the doctor to spot contagious diseases and recommend immediate treatment.

Medical, surgical, eye, nose and throat, social hygiene, diabetes, cardiac, endocrine, nephritic, diastolic, premature, orthopedic are treated. Last year 5-270 patients stayed at Children's Hospital an average of 14.3 days. More than 18,000 used the hospital's outpatient facilities, which include 20 clinics.

Children's serves as a "receiving" hospital for accidents to children. It is located in a downtown area of heavy traffic.

Children's Hospital does not stop with treating ailments. It sees to it that its patients are happy. The doctors and nurses realize that a child is psychologically well physically different from an adult. The handicap of illness or injury is not permitted to interfere with normal development.

EQUALLY AS important as the hospital treatment is the convalescent care provided by Children's Hospital. Medical care, physiotherapy and occupational therapy are provided at the hospital's Convalescent Home at Farmington. As many as 200 children at a time are helped to recovery at this "country home."

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