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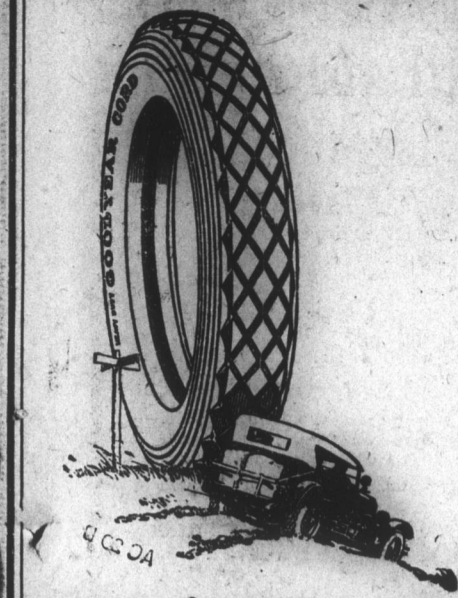
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State Plan For Care, Relief And Education of Cripples

BY ALONZO MYERS.

Orthopaedic Surgeon, Charlotte, N. C.

Recently Dr. Alonzo Myers, orthopaedic surgeon of Charlotte, was invited here by the Kiwanis Club to make an address on the care and relief of crippled children at its weekly meeting. Dr. Myers was unavoidably detained, but was kind enough to send the speech which he had prepared for the occasion. Our people are taking a great interest in crippled children, and we are sure Dr. Myers' address will be of interest and value to them. It is as follows:

There has been for many years an uncertain realization on the part of the general public of the problem of the cripple. A knowledge of the immensity of this problem, and an understanding of its peculiar nature, has been in the possession of only a very limited professional group, who have had intimate contact with it.

The Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in this State is to present the nature and immensity of this important social problem, and to find a well distributed organized leadership which is so constituted that it can draw all interested persons and agencies into a co-operative movement

designed to solve the problem of caring for all the cripples in the State. It is the desire of this department to arouse public interest and to establish a complete understanding of the problems of the cripples.

The chief reason the cripples have been so long and so largely neglected, is that the solution of this problem depends upon the "co-operation of experts" in the general fields of health, education and welfare, and that they have had "no way to co-operate."

The State Department proposes to create "the way" through organizations in every community which are dedicated to the interests of cripples.

In order to do this, it must not only be the "spokesman" for the cripples, but must get groups of people to "speak for him" in every community. For this reason, the appeal has been directed through the civic organizations because of their wide distribution throughout the country. Rotarians, Kiwanians and members of other civic organizations individually can educate the public everywhere and unitedly, with the co-operation of the educated public, they can move every community to do their duty toward the "lease of these."

Excellent work is now being done in many communities by Rotarians, Kiwanians, Lions, Masons, Elks and other organizations of men as well as by various women's clubs. Numbers of monthly orthopaedic clinics are established throughout the State.

The purpose of these clinics is to serve as a medium through which all may co-operate who wish to assist in preventing and repairing the tragedies of nature and of accident which are registered in the bodies of the unfortunate.

It is well known that most commonwealths have "programs" for the care of their insane, feeble-minded, criminal and dependent. Most of them have neglected the cripples because their problem is not only highly technical and calls for a complicated type of co-operative service, but because they have not been sought out and brought to public notice.

The International Society for Crippled Children advocates the formation of State Societies for Crippled Children to serve as "the medium" through which "this message of co-operation" may be promulgated. Rotarians in many states have organized such societies and invited all interested persons and agencies to join with them in seeking the best way to bring to cripples their birthright of opportunity.

Such societies are not child-caring

organizations, nor do they duplicate the work of existing agencies. On the contrary, they stimulate all to do a greater work and guide them to more co-operative efforts.

In this state the department already named has adopted practically this very plan.

This means that the civic organizations must take the initiative in coordinating the interests and work of public health, medical, hospital, educational and social service authorities with the operative plans and efforts of state agencies. They must assume the responsibility of seeing that it works continuously on a basis of efficiency in their community.

We must "seek" cripples. Experience has definitely shown that "waiting for application" is not satisfactory. There is "an historical prejudice" to be overcome. Cripples have to be reassured that their condition is no disgrace and their hope, with that of their relatives, must be restored and sustained. When they feel that it is a "chance not charity" that is being offered and that "we care," they will respond in greater numbers. Herein is the great opportunity for private philanthropy.

It is the State Vocational Rehabilitation Department's plan to bring the greatest good to the greatest number of cripples in North Carolina. This can only be accomplished by serving cripples, as far as possible "in and near their own homes" by local authorities such as city and county health and welfare departments, who shall work in accordance with the "state plan."

Building of more institutions may bring a high quality of service to a small number of children for short periods of time, but it can have no great place in making self-supporting citizens out of all of the many types of cripples located in all parts of a state. The building of institutions should only follow a "state survey" of facilities and the number and distribution of those who need those facilities.

In order to accomplish "the greatest good" in the state, private agencies must take the initiative. Horace Mann, and those he inspired, did this for normal children in the general field of public education. The International Society for Crippled Children has conceived the idea that Rotary, Kiwanis and other service organizations have an opportunity to assume a similar leadership now for cripples.

Conclusion.

These purposes include no desire to create a monument to the work or memory of any person or organization, except that which the world may be willing to bestow, in its memory upon those who place "service above self."

The goal is reached in two steps. The first brings care, relief, education and habilitation to cripples, and the second destroys the causes which produce cripples. When we prevent the causes, the goal is reached and the work comes to an end—for it is only a means to an end.

Leadership in this noble undertaking is eminently worthwhile, has been patiently awaited, and represents a modern Knighthood that will bring to its sponsors the highest praise of coming generations, because it is a service exemplary of the highest virtues of our civilization.

A Movement Without Bounds.

When and wherever a service organization assumes this responsibility, its membership entertains a vision which extends beyond a local club, or an immediate community. It becomes a united movement of national and international proportions.

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LOVE OF WIFE IS TROUBLE SOLVENT

Insists on Caring for Incapacitated Husband; Wants Him With Her.

High Point, Feb. 15.—After being married for more than 23 years, an aged man and woman appeared in municipal court and called upon Judge Don MacRae to settle a little dispute between them. The judge did, and settled it to the satisfaction of both the husband and wife.

Aged and crippled, the man came forward when his name was called. He was told that he was charged in a warrant by his wife with abandonment and non-support. The wife was then called. She appeared to be a few years younger than her husband, and in much better health.

Judge MacRae looked at the couple for a moment before he spoke. Then he said, "You two people have been living together. I understand, for more than 23 years, and now you have trouble. Let's fix this thing up and you go back together."

The woman told his honor that was what she wanted to do and that the reason she had brought her aged husband into the court was that she hoped something could be done to make him return home.

The husband then testified that he was unable to work and did not want to stay at home and live on his wife. He said he had rather be dead. But Judge MacRae said the case was an easy one and not like the average case of that kind—filled with bitterness—but was a case of love.

After some discussion the husband told Judge MacRae that he would be glad to return to his wife and do all he could, but he realized he was not physically fit to care for himself and he did not want to have his wife who has served him so faithfully for many years care for him and then work for his food.

But the aged woman testified and told the judge that she would be glad to work for her husband and do all she could for him.

"Judge," she said, "what I want most is his companionship. I miss him so much. I love him and want him with me. I know he can't work and I will do all I can to make things comfortable for him."

The court told her that her position was appreciated and that the feelings of her husband were appreciated. Judge MacRae said he admired both the man and the woman

WOMAN SHOOTS HERSELF IN TEMPLE

Mrs. McEwen, of Nashville, Tenn., Kills Herself Following Depression.

Asheville, Feb. 15.—Mrs. John S. McEwen, of Nashville, Tenn., committed suicide Sunday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Sherrill, 186 South Broad Avenue, by shooting herself through the right temple. She was boarding with Mrs. Sherrill.

It was stated that Mrs. McEwen had been in a depressed frame of mind for some time, but she gave no intimation of her intention before she took her life.

Mrs. Sherrill's daughter was in the house at the time of the tragedy. Mrs. McEwen went into Mrs. Sherrill's room, found a revolver lying there, and is thought to have picked it up.

Mrs. Sherrill's daughter dashed up stairs upon hearing the pistol shot and found Mrs. McEwen in a dying condition.

The wounded woman was taken immediately to the French Broad Hospital for treatment, but efforts to save her life were of no avail. She died about one hour after being taken to the hospital.

No report of the death of Mrs. McEwen was rendered to the coroner or to the police, it was stated Monday, and no investigation was conducted. Mrs. Sherrill refused to make any statement in regard to Mrs. McEwen's death, nor would the daughter discuss it.

It is understood that Mrs. McEwen came to this city some time ago for her health and was treated at an Asheville sanatorium. She was discharged about a month ago, when she moved to Mrs. Sherrill's as a boarder.

Two Bound Over on Charge of Assaulting Aged Woman

Charlotte, Feb. 15.—Oscar Martin and James Knotts, young white men charged with criminally assaulting and robbing Mrs. Mary J. Wright, aged Newell woman some days ago, waived preliminary examination when their case was called in city court today. They were bound over to Superior court without bond and remain in jail.

Brattleboro is making elaborate preparations for the Vermont State ski championship tournament, which will be held there February 17-18.