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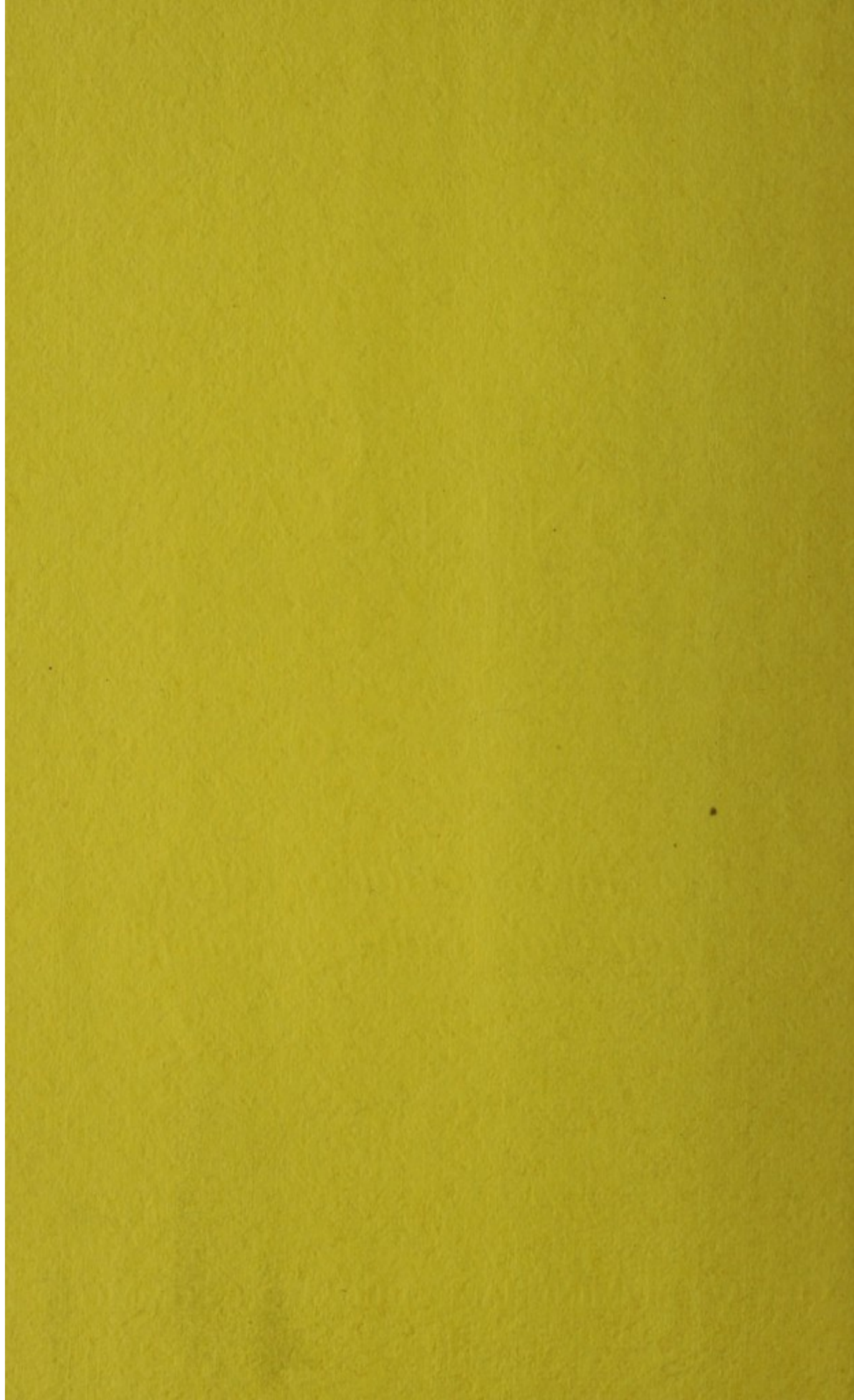
ANNUAL REPORT 1950

*of the Special Services
After-Care Sub-Committee*



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MEDICAL OFFICE
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.



CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REPORT

OF THE

SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE SUB-COMMITTEE

PRESENTED TO THE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1st OCTOBER, 1951

E. L. RUSSELL,
Chief Education Officer

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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Special Services After-Care Sub-Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

1950

The Special Services After Care Sub-Committee, which has been in existence since 1901, has pleasure in presenting its 50th Annual Report.

In this, its Jubilee Year, an attempt has been made to look back; to compare the aims and principles of yesterday with those of to-day; to assess the value of work already achieved and to consider plans for the future in the light of past experience.

The usual report on the year's activities has therefore been shortened somewhat, and the rest of the Report deals with the work achieved during the fifty years.

CASES DEALT WITH DURING 1950

During the year, 4,488 cases in all have been dealt with. Of these, 933 have been removed from the current list of cases, leaving 3,555 under active supervision. It will be noted that 352 new cases were reported during the year, as compared with 302 in 1949.

As in last year's report, the analysis on page 5 shows how all categories of cases are placed. Groups A and C show how all new cases have been dealt with. A and B give figures for those who attended school until approximately 16 years of age, while C and D analyse those cases excluded as ineducable before reaching school-leaving age. Groups a, b, c and d, are still receiving visits, while Groups e, f, g, h and i have now been removed from the current list; g and h may, however, be returned at any time.

Instead of the usual practice of giving, for comparison, numbers of cases dealt with every two years for the past ten years, it will be seen that the numbers shown in this report are those for every tenth year of the Committee's existence, for the past fifty years. It should be pointed out that these numbers have not all been assessed in the same way as this year's. In Groups e, f, g, h and i, numbers from 1940 retrospectively, are totals from 1901 until the year stated; whereas the 1950 totals in these columns show only the number dealt with in the current year. The change has been made as it is felt that the total number can no longer be estimated at all accurately in these categories.

(a) CASES GAINFULLY EMPLOYED (Males, 1,420; Females, 777; Total, 2,197).

Although the total number of cases dealt with is smaller this year than last, the proportion of those gainfully employed is greater, particularly among women. This may be due to the fact that, as in the population as a whole, more married women appear to be in employment—some part-time only—in addition to their home duties. The pressure of the rising cost of living is probably the main reason for this. The continued demand for female labour in industry and the lure of high wages is a second important cause. It is difficult to assess whether the disadvantage of the mother's absence from the home, with the inevitable result of less care for the children, is compensated for by the extra comfort which can be provided by the mother's wages. There is no doubt that there are cases where children are being left with inadequate supervision in early mornings and on returning from school.

Substantial increases are noticeable in numbers reported in "Transport and Distributive Trades," (from 59 to 119), Factory Labouring (148 to 227), Machine Work (771 to 841) and Assembly and Packing (210 to 265). The increase in the number engaged in Transport appears to be due to a greater number of van-boys. Although the Youth Employment Officers try to dissuade some of the more promising youths from becoming engaged in this type of employment owing to its poor prospects later on, many lads prefer to accept such jobs because of the relatively high wages compared with those offered to school-leavers in factories. The increased number engaged on machine work, assembling and packing points clearly to where the additional women are being employed.

There are marked decreases in the numbers of both sexes engaged in Bakery and Food Manufacture (105 to 48), and Plating and Jewellery (35 to 7); the Hotel, Café and Canteen group (59 to 38) also shows a substantial drop, but for female employees only.

An average wage is not being stated, as the proportion of cases whose exact wage is disclosed to the Visitor is small and it is felt that an average of these would not give a true picture. From careful consideration and not from statistics, it is believed that the majority of adult men are earning weekly between £4 and £5, adult women between £3 and £4; and school leavers approximately 35/-. The highest recorded wages are £14, £11, £10 9s., £10, £9, £8 11s. and two of £8. All are adult males except for one, a 17-year-old boy who earns £8 11s. It is believed that the man earning £14 works both Saturdays and Sundays. All are employed in factories except one, who is a plasterer. A large number of the more highly paid men and women are engaged in semi-skilled piece-work.

Amongst the men, the following are some of the most interesting cases: "A" is aged 23 and under Statutory Supervision. He has been employed for over a year as a postman and is now applying to be appointed to the permanent staff. Upon leaving school he was said to be observant, interested in books, and a neat, careful writer. He works on a three-shift system and when on nights is engaged in letter-sorting. He does his rounds on a bicycle. "B," aged 29, is also under Statutory Supervision, has been married just over a year and is a steeplejack. He is said to be quite unperturbed by heights.

"C," is aged 27, and is under Statutory Supervision. To begin with he was employed as an errand boy, absented himself from work and proved

CASES DEALT WITH DURING 1950

	a		b		c		d		e		f		g		h		i		TOTALS	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
A—Left school at approx. 16 years during 1950 and placed under																				
(1) Vol. Sup'v'n	45	38	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	46	42
(2) Stat. Sup'v'n	88	57	8	7	—	—	1	—	6	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	103	67	88
B—Left school prior to 1950 and under																				
(1) Vol. Sup'v'n.	376	250	25	148	32	2	10	7	—	—	—	—	4	4	270	159	6	1	723	571
(2) Stat. Sup'v'n.	727	340	34	245	3	2	21	13	8	10	—	—	11	8	181	196	2	4	987	818
C—Excluded during 1950	4	2	47	30	—	—	2	3	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	56	38
D—Excluded prior to 1950	180	86	328	339	—	—	28	23	19	7	1	—	8	1	5	2	5	5	574	463
TOTALS	1420	773	442	773	35	4	62	46	35	22	1	—	24	14	456	357	14	10	2489	1999
Av'ge Wage, (approx.)	£4-£5	£3																		
TOTALS 1940	1725	1091	813	984	86	—	22	19	670†	478†	12†	13†	136†	481†	62†	49†	269†	188†	4395	3303
† 1901-1940	29/4	22/6																		
TOTALS 1930	1295	716	436	632	14	—	83	74	254§	222§	Not reported	Not reported	352§	232§	—	—	180§	103§	2614	1979
§ 1901-1930	30/3	20/11																		
TOTALS 1920	519	320	100	135	111	—	61	36	126*	112*	Not reported	Not reported	260*	190*	—	—	87*	48*	1264	841
• 1901-1920	31/7	22/6																		
TOTALS 1910	119	7/-	88		—	—	149		—	—	—	—	205†		—	—	23†		584	584
† 1901-1910																				

TRADES FOLLOWED BY THOSE WHO ARE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED.

OCCUPATION	VOL.		STAT.		EXCLUDED		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Assembly and packing	19	70	30	99	15	32	64	201
Bakery and food manufacture.....	4	1	26	12	5	—	35	13
Blacksmith	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Bookbinding	2	—	1	1	—	—	3	1
Boot repairing	21	—	18	—	2	—	41	—
Building trades	28	—	96	—	7	—	131	—
Cardboard boxmaking	—	1	—	6	—	2	—	9
Chemical trades	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1
Cinema & other entertainments	6	9	13	3	1	1	20	13
Cleaning and domestic	2	17	—	20	2	10	4	47
Clerical	1	6	1	1	—	—	2	7
Day Nursery	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Electrical and radio work	5	—	7	—	—	—	12	—
French Polishing	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Garage	2	—	5	—	—	—	7	—
Gardening and Agriculture	9	—	13	—	5	—	27	—
Glass blowing	—	—	4	—	1	—	5	—
Guide to the Blind	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Hairdressing	—	3	1	—	1	—	2	3
Hotel, café and canteen work	3	12	1	19	1	7	5	38
Labouring	64	1	89	1	71	1	224	3
Laundry work	—	9	—	13	—	3	—	25
Leather trade	1	4	4	2	1	2	6	8
Machine work	149	127	314	205	18	28	481	360
Nursing	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Odd jobs and errands	6	—	12	1	15	2	33	3
Painting and decorating	11	—	17	1	—	—	28	1
Paper manufacture	—	—	7	1	1	—	8	1
Plating, jewellery & optical tr'des	2	3	2	—	—	—	4	3
Plumbing	6	—	6	—	1	—	13	—
Remploy Factory	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Roadwork	3	—	16	—	6	—	25	—
Salvage	3	—	17	1	1	—	21	1
Stabling and kennel work	3	1	1	—	2	—	6	1
Tailoring and sewing	—	11	—	2	1	—	1	13
Transport & distributive trades.....	37	1	60	—	21	—	118	1
Upholstering	3	—	8	—	—	—	11	—
Window cleaning	2	—	6	—	1	—	9	—
Woodwork	19	—	35	1	5	—	59	1
Salesmen and shop assistants	5	11	1	8	—	—	6	19
TOTALS	421	290	815	399	184	88	1420	777

so troublesome that he was recommended for institutional care. He was recommended by the Mental Health Service's Medical Officer to have indoor employment and strict supervision. Since then he has improved steadily. He is now a smart, well-mannered and alert young man and has been employed as a clerk in a solicitor's office for some years. His main hobby is music and he is one of a Circle whose members take turns in organising musical evenings. He recently presented a recital of gramophone records, showing complete confidence and presence of mind as well as some acquaintance with musical and gramophone technicalities. He is to be presented to the Case Committee as no longer in need of supervision.

"D," aged 17, is under Voluntary Supervision. Upon leaving school it was stated that he was a good swimmer. He is now a Baths Attendant and enjoys this very much.

"E," aged 17, and under Voluntary Supervision, works with his brother at the University where they clean and feed the animals in the laboratory. Wages, £3 10s.

Three men on the Disablement Register are employed at Remploy Factories because of serious handicaps, rendering them unable to be employed at present in the ordinary competitive field. One has recently been discharged from a sanatorium, and the other two are severely crippled.

The following women are also worthy of note:

Three girls, aged 17, all themselves ex-residential schoolgirls, are satisfactorily engaged in domestic work at Springfield House, Baskerville and Haseley Hall Residential Schools, respectively.

"F," aged 22, has recently been presented to the Case Committee as no longer in need of supervision. Her parents have bought her a hairdressing business which she runs successfully in co-operation with a lady assistant who undertakes the permanent waving.

"G," aged 22 (under Statutory Supervision) looks after the home and her sister's children during the day, and is well known to many people outside one of the principal Birmingham hotels, where she sells newspapers in mornings and evenings.

"H," aged 28 (under Statutory Supervision) has been employed for several years as a domestic at a Children's Hospital. She has recently been promoted to Matron's Maid.

(b) NOT GAINFULLY EMPLOYED (Males, 443; Females, 769; Total 1,212).

The following table shows how those not gainfully employed are occupied:

	VOL.		STAT.		STAT. EX.		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Engaged in:								
Home duties	—	88	—	188	3	31	3	307
Helping local tradesmen	—	—	—	—	15	—	15	—
Attending O.Cs. & I.C.	1	1	3	—	121	79	125	80
Having Home Teaching	—	—	—	—	11	15	11	15
Receiving other tuition	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
No occupation	24	63	39	64	225	242	288	369
TOTAL	25	152	42	252	375	369	442	773

HOME DUTIES, 310. All cases noted in this category are married women or others fully occupied in managing the home or taking the major part in its running. Those who undertake part-time paid work have been included in (a).

HELPING LOCAL TRADESMEN, 15. During 1949, 19 males were helping local tradesmen, 10 of whom were under 16 years of age. During 1950, only 2 out of a total of 15 are under 16, and of the remaining 13, all but one are over 17. All those over 16 who require it, are receiving National Assistance grants. The trades include milk, bakery and newspaper rounds, market gardening, poultry farming, selling firewood and helping in local shops.

ATTENDING OCCUPATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL CENTRES, 205. This number shows a considerable increase over that of 160 reported in 1949. The opening of the Industrial Centre in January 1950 is responsible for part of the increase, while the rest is accounted for by the opening of a sixth Occupation Centre in April 1950, in the Glebe Farm district, where the need was very great. The total number of places available in Occupation Centres in the City is now 170 and 24 in the Industrial Centre. The total shown includes all boys and girls who attended during 1950, and is therefore greater than the number attending at any one time. All Occupation Centres except Farm Street accommodate 30 children. Owing to the inadequacy of the Farm Street premises, the maximum accepted there varies between 15 and 20, all of whom are boys. Alternative premises have been found to which this Centre will shortly be transferred.

At the end of one year of existence, the Industrial Centre has already become indispensable. Owing to the fact that only 12 boys can be taken at a time, and to the length of the waiting list, two classes have been formed: 15-18-year-olds attend on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, while over-18-year-olds attend on the remaining two days. This plan appears to work very well as quite a number of the lads are useful at home and could not be spared to attend every day. There are many others, however, who have not yet had an opportunity to attend and it is hoped to be able to increase the staff from one to two male instructors during 1951 so that up to 20 can be admitted in each group.

Of the children attending Occupation Centres, it has been possible to transfer to the Industrial Centre, or place in employment every boy of approximately 16 years. There continues to be a small number of girls over 16 attending. Several children have been admitted under the age of 5 and have started to respond very well to the training.

The staff at each centre consists of a Supervisor, an Assistant Supervisor and a Welfare Attendant, all of whom are full time. Guides are employed to bring the children to the Centres.

School meals and free milk are provided, and all children have periodical medical and cleanliness inspections. Where necessary they have been referred to the School Clinics for treatment.

One Supervisor gained the Diploma of the National Association for Mental Health during the year, making the total of trained Supervisors three. The majority of the Staff have attended and benefited by short residential refresher courses also run by the National Association for Mental Health.

In December 1950, an exhibition was held of a large variety of hand-work and art done by the children at the Occupation Centres and the boys

at the Industrial Centre. Many members of the public showed surprise at the standard of work which these children were capable of producing.

HAVING HOME TRAINING, 26. This is the total number of cases who were receiving home training at the end of 1950. The average for each term has been approximately 30, but these are constantly changing as they are admitted to Occupation Centres, and institutions. It is interesting to note, that of the 15 girls, only 5 are under 16, 6 are between 16 and 18, and 4 are over 18 years of age, while of the 11 boys, all are under 16 except one who is under 18. This is partly accounted for by the fact that more girls than boys want to continue handwork in the home after the usual Occupation Centre leaving age. It is also because the Occupation Centre waiting list contains more boys than girls.

Of the 6 girls under 16, 2 are crippled and will attend Occupation Centres when transport is provided for such cases in 1951. The parents of the other 4 have all refused Occupation Centre training. Of the 10 boys under 16, 4 are crippled and will also have a chance of attending Occupation Centres within the next year. Four of the remaining 6 are on the Occupation Centre waiting list, while the parents of the other 2 have refused Occupation Centre training.

All the cases over 16 are either in too poor a state of general health, or do not want to attend Occupation Centres or Industrial Centre.

RECEIVING PRIVATE TUITION, 2. Both of these are girls whose parents have refused Occupation Centre training and have engaged private tutors instead.

NO OCCUPATION, 657. Most of the Statutory and Voluntary cases in this category are either able to be of some use in the home, or are in too poor a state of health to be employable. Of the excluded cases in this group, 225 are men and boys. 61 of these are able to be of some use in the home or neighbourhood; 58 are either helpless or of little use; 35 are on the Occupation Centre waiting list although 12 are not yet sufficiently advanced to benefit by training and another 2 are crippled and cannot be admitted until transport is provided. 18 are on the urgent Industrial Centre waiting list, but this is by no means the total number who would benefit by Industrial Centre training were it available for more. Many others are included among those useful at home. 31 are on the institution waiting list. Many of these are helpless or violent and relief is urgently needed for the parents' sake. In 14 cases, parents have refused to accept training. Most of these boys are useful and the reason for refusal is generally that the parents feel they are too high grade to be admitted to an Occupation Centre. The majority of these have attended schools up to about 12 or 13 years before being excluded as ineducable, and most of them will be employable at 15 or 16 years. 5 cases are so unsettled in employment that they cannot fairly be included under the heading "gainfully employed." The remaining 2 are under consideration for cancellation of the original exclusion order as they now appear to be capable of benefiting from attendance at school.

Of the 242 statutorily excluded women and girls, 113 are useful at home; 55 helpless or of little use; 20 on the Occupation Centre waiting list; 14 attending the senior girls sewing class on Tuesday afternoon; 27 on the institution waiting list; the parents of 11 cases have refused training for them, and 2 cases are unsettled and in irregular employment.

All unemployable persons who require it are receiving National Assistance grants varying between 15/- at 16 years of age to about 35/- when over 21 years of age. This is of very great help to parents who previously found difficulty in keeping an adult defective adequately clothed and fed.

(c) IN H.M. FORCES, MERCHANT NAVY AND W.L.A., 39.

	VOL.		STAT.		EXCL.		TOTALS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Army	31	—	3	—	—	—	34	—
R.A.F.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
W.L.A.	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	4
Merchant Navy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	32	2	3	2	—	—	35	4

The three men under Statutory Supervision managed to join the Forces in spite of the usual notices sent out to prevent this. All appear to be doing satisfactorily at present. One has been promoted to the rank of Corporal and is serving in Egypt. The second has served in Italy and is now in Germany. His letters home describe life abroad and his writing and spelling are said to have improved considerably. The third youth joined the Forces direct from Borstal and is in the Royal Pioneer Corps.

(d) RECEIVING RESIDENTIAL CARE IN HOMES, ETC.

	VOL.		STAT.		EXCL.		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Mental Hospitals	8	5	15	8	21	19	44	32
Infirmaries & Homes	—	—	1	4	1	1	2	5
Sanatoria	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Epileptic Colonies	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
Prisons & Borstals	2	1	4	—	—	—	6	1
Children's Homes	—	—	—	—	8	6	8	6
Training Camp	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	10	7	22	13	30	26	62	46

Of those in Mental Hospitals, only one is under 16 years of age. He is a boy who is certified under the Lunacy (Scotland) Acts. Those in Prison and Borstal are dealt with under delinquency.

The children in residential care are placed as follows:

- 2 in Cottage Homes and under Children's Department.
- 4 in Residential Nurseries.
- 4 in R.C. Children's Homes.
- 4 in Rudolph Steiner Homes.

One youth, a cripple aged 18, who attended one of the Birmingham Schools for the Physically Handicapped, has been accepted for training at a rehabilitation Camp. The Education Committee has made a grant to cover the expenses of his training.

(e) ADMITTED TO M.D. INSTITUTIONS DURING 1950 (Males, 35; Females, 22; Total 57).

The figure given in last year's Report (137) was the number of cases admitted in the two-year period 1948-49. Even so, the yearly average has dropped and there is ever-increasing difficulty in finding places for even the most urgent cases requiring institutional care, despite every effort on the part of the Mental Health Service's Inspectors. The waiting list continues to grow alarmingly, and many parents are quite unable to cope with the problem of a helpless or violent defective in the home. No early solution of this problem can be expected until more buildings can be erected or allocated for this purpose, and the necessary staff found for them. The Occupation Centres have on their registers, several children who are awaiting institutional care, and while no such children are accepted if their behaviour is felt to be harmful to the others, the need for extreme vigilance and extra attention imposes an additional strain on the staff.

The following two examples illustrate the kind of problem created by these children:

"X" is a boy aged 14 who was excluded as ineducable from a Special School in 1946. His I.Q. was stated to be 40. Since then he has attended four Occupation Centres. In each case he had to be removed because of his spiteful and destructive behaviour. At home and at Occupation Centre, if left unsupervised for the briefest time, he succeeded in getting into trouble. The home circumstances were not favourable as the parents were continually quarrelling and sometimes separated. The mother at the best of times a hysterical and aggressive type of woman, was driven to a frenzy by the continual scenes between her husband and "X." Complaints were always being received from the neighbours and on two occasions "X" was charged with assault and appeared before the Juvenile Court. On the second occasion he was admitted to an Institution as a "Place of Safety" pending the presentation of a Petition under the Mental Deficiency Acts. He has now been certified.

"Y" is a girl aged 7 who suffers from epilepsy. She has never attended school and was officially excluded early in 1949. The father and mother are intelligent and co-operative. There is a history of mental illness on the father's side of the family. She was admitted to an Occupation Centre in May, 1950, and is still attending in spite of her uncontrollable behaviour. If not held by the hand or on reins, she runs away at every opportunity. Adequate supervision is a serious problem even at the Occupation Centre where she is one of a very small group and on more than one occasion she has eaten clothing and other objects in the space of a few seconds. At home, where her mother has household duties and a young child to look after, "Y's" behaviour is causing grievous distress. Several times she has been returned by neighbours or police after having been found in busy roads some distance from the home. She has deliberately destroyed her brother's toys, neighbours' property, and recently ruined a newly decorated room in the house. She is only one of many similar cases urgently awaiting institutional care.

Of the 14 males under Statutory Supervision who were admitted to institutions during 1950, 4 were certified direct from Residential Special Schools, at the age of 16. One was certified under the minimum age for exclusion (2 years). The others varied in age from 17 to 46.

Of the 12 women under Statutory Supervision, the youngest was 17 and the eldest 32.

Of the 21 excluded males, 13 were under 16 years of age when certified. The remaining 7 varied from 18 to 37 years of age.

All 10 excluded females were under 15 when certified.

(f) PLACED UNDER GUARDIANSHIP. 1 male.

The one case placed under Guardianship during 1950 was a boy of 14 who had previously been under Statutory Supervision and who was attending an Occupation Centre.

(g) FURTHER CONTACT IMPOSSIBLE. (24 Males; 14 Females; Total: 38).

It is interesting to compare this total with that for the two year period 1948-9 given in last year's Report, which was 573. Many cases were at that time removed from the current visiting list because they had not been traced for some years. This year's total shows that it is no longer necessary to do this and those included in the 38 have all been contacted up to 1950 when supervision could no longer be continued for the following reasons:

5 Men under Voluntary Supervision:	2 left district. 2 unable to be traced. 1 visits resented.
5 Women under Voluntary Supervision:	2 unable to be traced. 1 visits resented. 1 never at a Special School, referred on account of behaviour difficulties only, was found to be of normal mentality and referred to Psychiatric Clinic for treatment.
11 Men under Statutory Supervision:	3 left district. 5 visits resented. 3 unable to be traced.
9 Women under Statutory Supervision:	2 left district. 6 unable to be traced. 1 visits resented.
8 Excluded Men under Statutory Supervision:	5 left district. 2 unable to be traced. 1 visits resented.
1 Excluded Woman under Statutory Supervision:	1 left district.

It is satisfactory to note that no cases under school leaving age, or among immediate school-leavers have been lost sight of.

All cases under Statutory Supervision who have left the district, have been referred for supervision elsewhere.

(h) PRESENTED TO CASE COMMITTEE (Males, 456; Females, 357; Total, 813).

It was mentioned in last year's Report that there were still many cases who had not been contacted for various reasons for up to ten years. Some of these can no longer be traced and others appeared to have had satisfactory records before being lost sight of. The above total of 813 (as compared with 340 for the previous two years) includes many such cases. All men and women on the current visiting list are now under active supervision.

Men and women under Voluntary Supervision who have satisfactory records are considered for removal from the current file at the age of 24 or, in some cases—such as on the satisfactory completion of service in the Forces—at an earlier age.

Married men and women under Statutory Supervision are considered from the age of 25 years: the unmarried are not usually considered under 30 years. A few men and women who have been removed from the current register as no longer in need of supervision, continue to call at the After-Care Office. If help is needed, it is, of course, given. Any cases removed from the active list, are immediately returned if they are later felt to be again in need of friendly supervision.

(i) DECEASED. (Males, 14; Females, 10; Total, 24).

Causes of death include:

Pneumonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Heart Failure	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Meningitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Carditis	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cerebral tumour	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Epilepsy	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Parkinson's disease and sleepy sickness	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Result of accident	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cause unknown	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
					—
					24
					—

In one case, pneumonia was induced as the result of shock following a burning accident while the woman was suffering from an epileptic fit.

Four cases were under 16 years of age.

DELINQUENCY

During 1950, 55 offences were known to have been committed by 52 persons, while three persons have committed two offences each within the year. Twenty of the 52 offenders had previous convictions during or prior to 1950 as follows:

4 had 3 previous offences.

3 had 2 previous offences.

13 had 1 previous offence.

Only two of the 52 were women.

The following are the offences with which they were charged:

Theft	20
House, shop and factory breaking	11
Inflicting bodily harm	6
Immoral and abnormal behaviour	4
Obtaining goods under false pretences	2
Forgery	2
Larceny	2
Felony	2
Murder	1
Cruelty	1
Neglect	1
	<hr/>
	52
	<hr/>

The following list shows the results of the proceedings:

Placed on Probation	20
Fined	8
Admitted to M.D. Institutions	4
Committed to Prison	4
Committed to Borstal	3
Committed to Quarter Sessions	1
Committed to Assizes	1
Bound over	1
Divorced	1
Dismissed owing to lack of evidence	3
Remanded	3
Discharged conditionally	1
Adjourned	1
Result not yet known	1
	<hr/>
	52
	<hr/>

1 Offender was aged 51.

5 offenders were aged between 25 and 35.

11 offenders were aged between 21 and 25.

22 offenders were aged between 18 and 20.

13 offenders were aged under 18.

52

The boy found guilty of murdering his younger brother was 17 years of age and under Statutory Supervision. He had already been recommended for institutional care. He has now been placed in Rampton Institution.

THE WORK OF THE AFTER-CARE COMMITTEE. 1901 to 1950.

The Special Services After-Care Committee has now completed fifty years of service and in this, its Jubilee year, we who seek to carry on the work take the opportunity of paying tribute to those men and women whose foresight and efforts led not only to the better understanding of defectives and their problems, but to the legislation which made it possible to tackle such problems for the first time on a national basis. We would remember, with gratitude, our first Chairman, Dame Ellen Pinsent, on whose suggestion the After-Care Committee was founded in 1901 and who later did so much to promote the passing of the 1913 Mental Deficiency Act. We should like to mention too Miss Clara Martineau, Chairman for eleven years, who also, by her devoted service to defectives, achieved progress not only locally but nationally.

THE EARLY YEARS

The After-Care Sub-Committee was founded in May 1901, with the object of keeping a record of the subsequent history of children who had left the Special Classes for defectives (forerunners of Special Schools) and of assisting them as far as possible to find work. Crippled and deaf boys and girls were also included.

The care of defectives can be carried out in two ways. They can be retained in the community and given the necessary guidance and support not only in earning a living, but in carrying out the minimum responsibilities of citizenship so that the burden on society is lightened and the happiness of the defective and his relatives increased; or they can be removed from the community to a special environment such as can be provided to-day in an institution for mental defectives. Opinion as to which of those methods is the more satisfactory has altered more than once during the fifty years, and it is interesting to note what has caused those changes.

During the first twelve years when After-Care work was being organized in Birmingham, there was little opportunity of dealing with defectives by removing them from the community. The only type of institutional care available was in the workhouse or prison. The most degraded and violent cases found their way there eventually, but such institutions did not set out to provide care or training adapted to their special needs; besides which, the parents of many objected either to the taint of pauperism or to contributing towards the defective's support. Sometimes the defective himself objected, as in this case quoted from a 1907 Minute: "George T. was earning 15/- a week selling newspapers and absolutely declined to go into any Institution."

These handicapped people had therefore to be dealt with in the community—a community, let it be stated, considerably less sympathetic towards the handicapped than that of to-day. The children—both leavers from Special Classes and those "rejected for admission to Special Classes, as imbecile"—must have differed widely in their capacity for learning. No detailed standardized intelligence tests were used to grade them before or after admission to Special Classes. Almost certainly there would be included in their number both "problem" children of average intelligence and children who would now be regarded as ineducable.

In 1906, 223 persons were visited, 148 of whom were mentally defective, the others being physically handicapped. On reading the early Minutes and Reports, one cannot but feel the burning enthusiasm and inflexible determination of those pioneers who were the first to try to find suitable employment for the almost unemployable. A special Employment Bureau Sub-Committee was set up and a few of the most experienced voluntary visitors undertook to interview employers and persuade them to give a trial to some of the most doubtful cases. In numerous places, references are made to the unrewarding nature of this work. In 1906 it was mentioned, for instance, that forty mornings were spent trying to secure employment for thirty-three "out-of-work children." Only five cases were satisfactorily placed and in only three of these five cases was it felt that there was a reasonable chance of retention. "It often takes three or four mornings walking about a neighbourhood and calling on one employer after another before work is found. Sometimes it is all in vain" and "It is one person's entire work . . . following up one case . . . and finding fresh situations always with increasing difficulty, as the patience of the local employers becomes exhausted and the number to whom we can apply becomes less. What encourages us to keep on trying is the fact that we really do help a few cases . . ." It should be made clear that the After-Care of the higher-grade cases was proceeding satisfactorily and those mentioned above were the cases we should to-day regard as unemployable.

Some years later it was felt that the efforts to obtain employment for those lower-grade cases were out of all proportion to the results, and that some alternative means of providing for them must be found. It is a well-known fact that the unoccupied person is most likely to fall into trouble, and it is therefore not surprising to find that the number who became seriously degraded was very considerably higher than to-day and the degree of degradation often much more severe.

GOVERNMENT AID

The exposure of these unemployed and unemployable defectives to the constant risk of leading criminal and immoral lives caused the After-Care Committee to alter its policy. The experiment of obtaining work for many of them had proved unsatisfactory. It was felt that some provision must be made to cater for such people in special institutions and not in the community. This opinion led the Committee to support very strongly the impending Mental Deficiency Bill which was to provide legislation for the setting up of special institutions for the mentally defective and for the permanent supervision of defectives in the community. It was therefore with something near to consternation that there was received in 1912 the Government's announcement that they were unable to proceed with the Bill on the grounds that it was an infringement of the liberty of the citizen. The matter seems of sufficient historical importance to quote the following in full from the 1913 Report:

"A Special Meeting was held on 3rd December 1912, and the following resolution passed:

'That this Sub-Committee have heard with dismay that it is the intention of the Government not to proceed with the Mental Deficiency Bill this session, and respectfully urge that the postponement of this measure is little short of a national calamity,

and appeal to His Majesty's Ministers to reconsider their decision and to pass the Bill into law this session, or if that is now impossible, early next year.'

This was afterwards adopted by the Education Committee. Copies were forwarded to the Lord Chancellor, the Home Secretary, the President of the Local Government Board, the President of the Board of Education, the Chairman of the Lunacy Commissioners, and the local M.Ps., and letters were addressed to all Education Committees in England and Wales informing them of the action that had been taken and asking them to adopt similar measures. It is known that sixty-one Education Committees took steps to urge the Government to pass the Bill into law at the earliest possible moment."

The following year the Report was able to state:

"From the first, we have insisted on the necessity for continuous control for the majority of the feeble-minded. The passing of the Mental Deficiency Act last year was therefore a matter of extreme gratification to us."

It was hoped that now the greatest need could soon be met—the provision of institutional care for a large number of defectives in the community. This relief was not to be felt at once, however. The immediate benefit which did accrue, was the provision of a grant from both the Board of Control and the Local Statutory Committee for the Care of Defectives, on whose behalf the work was now to be undertaken. Under Clause 48 of the Mental Deficiency Act, a contribution might be made out of money provided by Parliament towards the expense of any voluntary body which had undertaken the duty of assisting or supervising defectives, and in 1914 the After-Care Sub-Committee resolved to apply for such a grant. The Central Association for the Care of Mental Defectives in London now requested authorities to estimate costs so that they could make a recommendation to the Board of Control. Only London's and Birmingham's estimates were regarded as of any value and the cost per head given by both was almost exactly the same. Birmingham's total estimate of costs in that year was £93, which may be compared with the expenditure of £13,600 in 1950. The first grant from the Board of Control for the year ending June 1915, was £60. The promise of this grant led to the appointment of the first paid visitor in 1914.

Progress was halted by the first World War, but by 1920, a new phase had begun and the difficult pioneering stage was largely at an end. The numbers on the books had risen by this time to 3,542, 2,282 of whom were mentally defective, the others being physically handicapped. The same year, the care of the physically handicapped was handed over to the Juvenile Employment and Welfare Bureau as requiring "neither less nor more assistance and advice than scholars in ordinary schools" and the Special Schools After-care Committee concentrated all its attentions on the care of the mentally defective. Although progress was slow, the necessary legislation for improvement was now in existence. The following extract is taken from the 1921 Report:

"The After-Care Committee is convinced that the pioneer work culminating in the Mental Deficiency Act of 1913, and the setting up of the Board of Control and Statutory Committees for the care of

the mentally defective is now bringing its results. The increased interest shown in the subject of mental deficiency by Local and Poor Law Authorities and, if to a less extent, by the public generally, should gradually lead when financial circumstances improve to the establishment of sufficient colonies for those mentally defective persons who need care and control. Then and not till then can the problem of the mental defectives be said to be making material progress towards solution."

And

"The Institutional accommodation for mental defectives is still deplorably inadequate throughout the country as a whole, and great difficulty was experienced last year in finding vacancies even for urgent cases notwithstanding all the efforts of the Local Statutory Committee for the Care of the Mentally Defective."

TRAINING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

As a result of the impossibility of removing many defectives—juvenile and adult—from their own homes, some alternative method of alleviating the social problem created by their behaviour had to be found. A suggestion to establish a "Central Workshop or Amusement Centre" had already been made as early as 1914, before any Occupation Centre was in existence in the country; when enquiries were sent out, however, out of 137 replies, only 7 indicated a desire to attend a Central Workshop and 4 an Amusement Centre, and as these were so scattered it was decided to take no action at that time. It was not therefore until 1923 when the need became more general that two important suggestions for dealing with unemployable cases were made: "the possible establishment of an Occupation Centre for children of too low-grade intelligence for education in a Special School" and "the provision of a workshop for unemployable youths or girls who have left the Special Schools."

In 1924 the first Occupation Centre in Birmingham was opened for sixteen children at Friends' Hall, Farm Street, as an experiment for six months, only a few years after the first Occupation Centre in the country was opened in London. The aim was "to train children in habits of cleanliness and industry," and the results were so encouraging that a second was opened at Stratford House, Highgate, Birmingham, in 1925. The estimated cost for the first year was £180, £150 of which was met by the Mental Deficiency Act Committee, £20 by the Board of Control and £10 from voluntary sources. Both these were half-day Centres. A third and fourth—also half-day Centres—were opened in 1928 and 1929. Not till 1931 was the first Industrial Centre opened to cope with the older unemployable boys and men; this also was successful from the start. In 1937, the first full-time Occupation Centre opened at Kingstanding, to replace two of the existing half-time ones.

By 1939 the Committee's paid staff consisted of an After-Care Officer, three After-Care Visitors, and five Occupation Centre staff all occupied full-time with the after-care and training of defectives in the community. In the same year the Annual Report made the following comments: "Twenty years ago, the tendency was to send every ineducable defective who was deemed to be incapable of self-support, to an institution. To-day it is more generally known that the institution is the very last place to which some of these defectives should be sent."

RECENT ADVANCES

The second World War again checked expansion, and progress was at a standstill until 1945. In the last five years, legislation has been passed which should in time solve many problems, but as in the years immediately after the passing of the 1913 Mental Deficiency Act, the benefits cannot always appear immediately.

Under the National Assistance Act, 1946, every unemployable defective over sixteen is entitled to a weekly grant varying between 15/- and 30/-. This has brought great relief to many parents who have previously found it almost impossible to provide adequately for the needs of youths with insatiable appetites and a marked ability to wear out their clothes quickly.

The co-operation of the Mental Health Services, the N.S.P.C.C., the Children's Committee, hospital almoners, probation officers and social workers in many spheres has, throughout the years, lightened the task of the After-Care Visitors, and few cases nowadays can reach a serious state of hardship or neglect before receiving assistance or care. The Royal Institute for the Blind have also helped; it may be of interest to mention that one of those they visit is "L," who was among the first six cases referred for supervision in the Special Schools After-Care Minutes for 1901, and is still on the visiting list fifty years later.

Between those lower-grade persons who are accepted as unemployable and the highest-grade feeble-minded who seldom have difficulty in obtaining suitable employment, lies that group of people who are certainly capable of earning their living, but who require help in finding work and special consideration from employers once they are engaged. For these, registration under the Disabled Persons' Employment Act is often of very real help. The Disablement Officers at the Labour Exchanges and Officers of the Youth Employment Department prove most understanding, and the After-Care Visitors no longer have added to their work the task of finding suitable and sympathetic employers for doubtful starters.

Another recent advance, is the provision made under the Education Act, 1944, for the referring for Statutory Supervision of boys and girls from ordinary schools where it is felt that this would be beneficial. Thus, it is now possible to contact and supervise young people who, although in the same need of help as those who actually attended Special Schools, were previously denied this opportunity.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Despite these improvements, the adequate provision of institutional accommodation remains the most urgent need; this is not because it is any longer felt that the majority of defectives need it, but because there will always be a small group who cannot benefit from any welfare or training facilities sufficiently to take their places in the community, and who, unless removed, will constitute a severe nuisance or danger to the family, neighbours and general public. At present, owing to the extreme shortage of vacancies in institutions for the mentally defective, many defectives are having to be retained in the community at a grievous cost to the happiness and health of the rest of the family; unfortunately, with the present shortage of all types of buildings and suitable staff, no early solution of this problem can be expected.

With less troublesome defectives, the position is much more hopeful in Birmingham. There are now six full-time Occupation Centres, and one new Industrial Centre replacing the original one which was destroyed during the war. Training is provided for over 170 children and 24 youths and there are 19 full-time paid staff. In addition, it is hoped eventually to open a Training Centre for unemployable older girls and women, where simple laundry and cookery lessons can be given, and the instruction in crafts started at Occupation Centres can be continued.

It is also the Committee's policy to transfer the older and less commodious Centres to more modern and spacious buildings. It is interesting to note that Farm Street, the original Birmingham Occupation Centre, will be transferred to its new premises at the New Church Hall, Wretham Road, early next year. For over twenty-five years, Farm Street has stood for happiness and security to many children and parents alike, and in spite of its grim surroundings, lack of playground space and architectural disadvantages, many joyful hours have been passed there and much good work achieved.

And so, in spite of fifty years of social progress, the work for the mentally-handicapped founded on Dame Ellen Pinsent's inspiration continues to be indispensable. It has enlarged and its nature has in some ways changed, but the main principles on which we base our work to-day are little altered:

1. To assist all employable persons to find suitable work in order that they may take their places as self-supporting members of the community.
2. To provide training centres where all unemployable persons can learn happily to develop to the full their limited capabilities.
3. To give help and advice where required.
4. To foster the right attitude towards mentally-handicapped persons.



