

Albany, New York
February 19, 1946

Board of Managers
Albany Home for Children
Albany, New York.

Gentlemen:

As President of the Board of Managers of the Albany Home for Children, I have not each year submitted an annual report. The members of the Board were all acquainted with the general conditions and operations at the Home and an annual report from myself seemed superfluous.

As Dr. Winne has kindly and generously agreed to assume the duties of President for 1946, a very general summary of the four years of January 1942 to January 1946 seems not undesirable.

In January 1942 the war had been in progress but one month and we had not as yet felt much of the impact of that event.

Miss M. Ingeborg Olsen, our social worker, resigned early that year. For several months we were without the services of a social worker until Miss Elizabeth B. Campbell was engaged. Her association with us has been very beneficial to the Home, and at present it would be impossible to replace her at her present salary.

It was in 1942 that some of the boys who had lived at the Home went into service. In all 45 have been inducted, of whom 4 have been killed and 7, I believe, have been wounded.

The war also affected the staff. Miss Olive Reed, Miss Elizabeth Black, Miss Gertrude Bloodgood, Miss Charlotte Bergquist, Miss Muriel Halliday and Mrs. Harriet Rolfe left to join various branches of the service. A general feeling of unrest began to permeate the housemothers and assistant housemothers. Some left for better paying jobs. The places of those leaving were filled by available applicants, many of whom were unsuited either mentally or physically for the work. In nearly all cases their stay was of short duration and other women had to be hired whenever possible. It was found necessary to raise all wages. Our original starting wage of \$50. to \$55. per month and maintenance, no applicant would consider. We were obliged to raise this wage to \$60. to \$65. and even that failed to procure the right type of person. Because of wage increases to new staff members it was necessary to overhaul the whole wage structure and put those who had been with us for a period of time in higher brackets.

Due to the constant turnover of the staff and general unrest throughout the country, the discipline of the children suffered.

In 1943, Mr. Roland J. Huddleston, our Activities Director, joined the Navy. This further impaired morale as his successors, Mr. Wilfred Ackerly and Mr. David Kreher, were unable to maintain the high standard set by Mr. Huddleston. During the summer of 1945 Mr. West S. Brown, who had helped with activities at one time or another, was full time director. Under his guidance things went well. He left in September 1945 to resume his duties as headmaster of a school at Norwood, New Jersey. During October and November of last fall Mr. McPherson handled this work but in consequence was obliged to let other of his duties go, as there was not time for both.

In December 1945 we took on a temporary basis Mr. Charles E. Brown. He has done well, although he has had no previous experience working with children. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that we look forward to the return of Mr. Huddleston as soon as the Home provides a suitable apartment for him, his son and Mrs. Huddleston.

With the beginning of rationing, the Home was faced with a serious problem. We had always bought our staples at a time when the market was suitable. As the war progressed we were obliged to pay more for all foods and many lines were unobtainable. On top of this the O.P.A. decreed that no meat packer could sell cut meat directly to the ultimate consumer. We have always purchased most of our meat from the Albany Packing Company, who have cut it as desired and delivered to the Home. For some time after the O.P.A. directive, the Albany Packing Co. continued to do as formerly, but were finally forced to stop. Since that time we have dealt with various butchers, chiefly Mr. A. D. Hamele, at Mr. Wilson Codling's suggestion, but of course at an increased cost. The Albany Packing Company and Mr. Codling, however, have continued their generosity in giving the Home Thanksgiving turkeys, and at last spring's lawn party, a 15 pound ham and 24 cans of bacon which were raffled off for a substantial return for the Children's Fund.

In the purchases of clothing Mr. McPherson found great difficulty in obtaining required items. The quality was poor, the price higher than in former years, and many items unobtainable. He tried wholesalers in New York and other cities without success. It finally became necessary to buy from retail store sales and Montgomery Ward. Whitney's in Albany has been very kind in letting the Home know what articles were going on sale and when.

As the costs of everything went up, surplus commodities given the Home by the Federal Government at a cost to the taxpayers only, was stopped. Likewise a Federal Government lunch subsidy, which was collected for school lunches for a year, was terminated.

In addition to increased costs of food and clothing, the price of coal has increased \$3.58 per ton since 1942 and is of poorer quality. Before the war, the Home purchased its coal in carload lots, buying from whichever local firm submitted the

lowest bid. For several years prior to 1943 W. G. Morton was the lowest bidder. That year no coal dealer would bid on our requirements, as each was limited to about the same tonnage as in previous years. Mr. Morton said there was no money in our business and he wished to build up more profitable customers for after the war. Warner Morton reluctantly agreed to supply our needs at an increase of over \$2. per ton. Mr. Olcott took the matter up with the Solid Fuels Administration. Mr. Frazer, the then local head of that bureau, said that his department would see that our supplier, whoever he might be, would receive the necessary tonnage. We again requested bids, and Blackburn, being lower than Morton, was given the order. He has kept us supplied with coal, although at times not the size we wished and hence at a higher price. Also his price, due to higher mine costs, has been increased somewhat each year.

The use of soft coal was tried but without success. The heating equipment at the Home is not suitable for this type of fuel.

In 1943 our allotment of \$9,375. from the Community Chest was cut 10% along with other Chest Agencies. In 1944 this cut was restored but no additional funds were forthcoming. In 1945 the Chest allotted the Home \$8,000. but on a petition by Mr. Clark, Mr. Woodward and Mr. Corrie granted us an additional \$5,000. making a total of \$13,000.

Also in 1945, through the efforts of the various welfare agencies of Albany County, the Department of Public Welfare agreed to pay \$9. per week for board, an increase of \$2. per child per week. The Home made similar arrangements with the other counties who now pay \$10. per child per week.

The years 1942, 1943 and 1944 showed an operating deficit. Part of the deficit for each of these years as shown by the annual financial report, however, was due to capital losses, but the total deficit each year was charged to unexpended capital funds.

The year 1945 showed a marked decrease in population for the first several months, and consequently a larger deficit for January, February and March than would have been the case had the number of children at the Home been as large as in former years. Since April the number of admittances has risen, while the number of discharges has fluctuated considerably. The result has been a net increase in population of about 15 to 20 children over the low population months at the beginning of 1945.

Due to increased board income and extra allotment from the Community Chest, and various minor savings, the operations at the Home have been in the black since May, although we shall probably show a deficit for the entire year, but less than previous years.

During 1945 the State Department of Social Welfare made its periodic inspection. They advocated the installation of additional

fire escapes, made several minor criticisms, advocated the hiring of an additional social worker, and the putting into actual effect our agreement with Albany County in finding and placing in boarding homes certain of the children committed to our care.

There was considerable criticism by various members of the Board in the operations at the Home. These members felt that expenses were too high and should be drastically reduced. It was suggested that Rathbone Cottage be closed during the summer. However, by reducing the staff and using some of the older girls where needed, the savings of a closed cottage were practically accomplished. In September there was a considerable increase in the number of girls and had Rathbone been closed we should either have had to reopen it, or else have refused to accept these children. Had we declined to accept these girls we would have cut ourselves off from considerable income, created a bad impression among the committing agencies and also been shirking our responsibilities.

The physical condition of the buildings and grounds are fair. Much needs to be done.

1. I would mention extensive interior and exterior painting. Some of the cottages need this worse than others. Lansing must be done over before it can be occupied.
2. The installation of either a central heating system or the installation of stokers or oil burners in each building should be carefully looked into. In either case the heating of water for domestic purposes should be tied in with any new system.
3. Along with this should be considered the insulation of the third floor of all buildings.
4. Fire escapes are inadequate. Stair type escapes should be installed wherever necessary.
5. Trained staff should be employed in the cottages, which naturally means higher salaries.
6. Finding and placing children in properly supervised boarding homes should be tried. To handle this we need a full time social worker and board costs will in nearly all cases be higher than amounts now secured from the counties.

To accomplish all or any of the above more income is necessary and is needed now if we are to operate an up-to-date Home. There have been remarks made that if we are unable to operate in the "black" we should close the "HOME" until such a time as we can operate without recurring deficits. My personal feeling is that to do so would be shirking our duty and responsibility to the community and also to all those in years past

and present who have given their efforts and money to maintain a Home for Children.

For this reason I believe the Board of Managers should in the near future put on a drive for funds to be added to the Home's endowment. As any such campaign will involve careful planning and hard work, we all shy away from it looking for an easier method to meet our needs. However, if we have a real interest and believe in the work which the Home is doing, we will not be deterred in our efforts to see that the necessary money is raised.

I wish to thank each member of the Board of Managers for his interest and effort in behalf of the Home during the past four years. I wish particularly to express my gratitude to Dr. Winne for his great generosity in taking care of the children's health, as we could not operate without him. Also wish to thank Mr. Corrie for his active interest and time spent with the Boy Scouts. Dr. Winne and Mr. Corrie are the only two Board Members who have had any real contact with the children, and I believe it would be beneficial if we all took a more active interest in the children.

The ladies auxiliary has been splendid in their work in looking after the interior and the furnishings of each cottage. Through their interest and effort new rugs, draperies and furniture have been installed, much of the furniture having been painted by the ladies themselves. They have also sewn and remade garments for the children which otherwise could not have been used. To Mrs. Boss, the President, and the other ladies of the auxiliary, the Home and the Board of Managers owe a debt of gratitude.

Through the generosity and interest of Mrs. Sanford, a member of the auxiliary, any child showing a special talent is now able to obtain special instruction. Seven children have so far received guidance in music and drawing. To Mrs. Sanford we all extend our sincere thanks.

I also wish to express my appreciation to all the members of the staff who faithfully stood by us during the past four years under extremely trying conditions. Mrs. Turner has been of invaluable aid in handling the office work and much of the buying. Mr. Soper has continued his careful and efficient work in keeping our plant in repair. Miss Campbell has given the children individual guidance and counsel and has been of great service in her contacts with the schools, the children's court, and the department of public welfare.

Mr. McPherson, our superintendent, has carried the brunt of the work necessary to keep the Home in operation. He has worked long hours under most adverse conditions. Due to the instability of much of the staff, he has had to devote much time to obtaining sufficient workers. Due to the lack of trained workers and the

unstable nature of many who were hired, Mr. McPherson has always had the worry that several might walk out at any time leaving the Home stripped of help so as to be almost unable to operate. He has not in my estimation received from us the credit nor appreciation due him for his efforts on the behalf of the children, whose welfare is always uppermost in his thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,

T. W. Dwight
T. W. Dwight
President, Board of Managers
1942-1946

January 1946

Mr. John F. McPherson
Superintendent,
The Albany Home for Children.

My dear Mr. McPherson:

The following is my report as Attending Physician to the Home on health conditions there during the calendar year of 1945:

The general health of the children has been very satisfactory; there has been no general illness, barring a prevalence of colds in times of bad weather, and there has been almost no serious illness of individuals. This, too, in the face of the admission of a large number of new children and a rather unsettled staff situation. Later, in the presence of a general epidemic in the city of a mild type of probable influenza, we have had a few cases.

There have been several small outbreaks of digestive disturbance (nausea and vomiting and occasionally diarrhoea) in one or more cottages, but careful checking has failed to reveal the cause. None of the outbreaks were severe either in the number of children involved or in the degree of illness of the individuals. There was also an outbreak of Nonne's dysentery in Lathrop Cottage, involving in all about 18 children and mostly in the youngest group. This apparently arose from contact with a newly-admitted child who acted as a carrier. The outbreak lasted in all about two weeks but only three children were really ill.

There have been only eight cases of what are generally known as "contagious" diseases, 5 cases of mumps and 3 cases of chicken pox, all in Lathrop Cottage. Recently in the same cottage there have been found a few cases of ringworm, some of which are of the scalp. Those apparently came from the same child who introduced the dysentery.

ACCIDENTS -

We have had the usual run of accidents most of which occurred in play or through falls. One boy was accidentally shot in the ankle by another boy in the clandestine use of a 22 rifle. These accidents, 21 in all were as follows:

Bruise of eye by a snowball.....	1	
Concussion from fall	1	
Fractures (clavicle 1, ankle 1)	2	
Gunshot wound (with slight fracture of bone)	1	
Lacerations requiring suture	10	(All but one of these received anti-tetanus serum.)
Puncture wound of palm (by nail)	1	
Sprains	2	
Tooth injuries (1 extraction required)	2	

One boy who had had a recent operation on his groin was injured in a fracas and the incision broke open.

There were 23 accidents in 1944.

HOSPITALIZATIONS - There have been 25 children hospitalized as follows:

Cellulitis of arm (no operation	1
Capsulectomy	1
Chronic abscess thigh (cause undetermined)	1
D and C and stem pessary inserted	1
Foreign body (bullet) in ankle	1
Infection hand (nail puncture)	1
Ingrown toe nail	1
Mastoidectomy	1
Observation	3
(psychiatric 1, kidney 1, throat 1)	
Phlebitis L. leg	1
Tonsilectomies	11
(with adenoidectomies in some cases)	
Injury to groin	1
Rheumatic heart disease	1
(In the Childs Hospital; carried over from 1944)	

Hospitalizations in 1944 - 35

RADIOGRAPHS - These were as follows, 26 in all: (44 in 1944)

Chests.....	9	The chest radiographs
Dental	1	were: four check-ups of
Fractures ...	10 (or suspected fracture, various)	possible tuberculosis
Foreign body.	1 (bullet in ankle)	cases, two of new tuber-
G. I. series.	1	culin-positive children,
Jaw	1	two of suspected cardiacs,
Sinuses	3	and one of a new child
		giving history of recent
		fracture of ribs.

Fluoroscopic exams: 2 (chest 1, G.I. 1)

The following CLINIC VISITS were made at the Albany Hospital:
425 in all as compared with 494 in 1944.

Chest.....	11	Portussis	1
Ear, Nose & Throat ..	135	Public Health	18
Genito-Urinary	6	Skin	56
Gynecological	5	Surgical	85
Medical	28	Orthopedic	11
Neuro-psychiatric ...	6	Pediatric	45
Neuro-surgical	1	Well baby	17
		(for vaccinations)	

DENTAL CLINIC - The Drs. DeRisi, who have looked after the teeth of our children in our own dental clinic for several years past, resigned as attending dentists on June first, thus terminating a long and, at least to us, very pleasant and satisfactory association. We were very sorry to have them leave. After some delay we were able to secure the services of another dentist, on a somewhat different finan-

cial basis, in the person of Dr. Herman H. Tilman, who has been kept busy. There have been an unusually large number of children admitted to the Home this year and, as many of them have come with but little previous dental care, the work has been heavy. Under the new arrangement with the welfare departments of the counties sending children to us they have agreed to make financial reimbursement to us for the initial work needed beyond a certain minimum, the expense of the after-care to be borne by the Home as usual in the past. This arrangement has saved the Home considerable expense and has also permitted an increased stipend to the dentist.

The total number of dental visits was 478, divided as follows:

to Dr. DeRisi at our clinic ...	186
to her private office	14
to Dr. Tilman at the clinic ..	278

This compares to 600 visits the previous year.

EYE CASES - Seventy-two visits were made to Dr. Bodell's office as follows:

New children for initial examination	24)	
Check-ups (two year interval) of others	16)	52 visits
Treatments and accidents, visits,		15
Post operative visits		5

In 1944 there were 56 visits.

The E. Peters Optical Co. has been very cooperative in looking after the glasses. The children are very careless with their glasses and the breakage has been very great.

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS and TREATMENT -

As stated above there were 18 visits to the "Public Health" (venereal disease) clinic. Four of these visits were check-ups on two cases of congenital syphilis whose Wassermann reactions are now negative. The remaining visits were those of the one child in the Home at present who still has a positive Wassermann. She is a recently admitted case. Of the 78 Wassermann tests on an equal number of new children this year all were negative except that on this one child.

Tuberculin tests were done, as usual, on all new children, of which four were found to react positively, but they showed no other signs of the disease. Four children visited the chest clinic for check-ups. We have no children under serious observation at present. Some of those about whom we were concerned formerly have either been discharged from the clinic or have left the Home. Eighty-five tuberculin tests in all were made this year - in 1944 there were 28.

Twelve children were vaccinated. Twenty-eight were Shick tested for susceptibility to diphtheria. The twelve positive reactors were


all immunized with toxoid. Electrocardiograms were made on four children with known or suspected heart disease. One child had a basal metabolism test made. One child had 3 x-ray therapy treatments for seborrhoeic eczema.

A total of 168 complete physical examinations were made - 130 in the pediatric clinic and 38 in the medical clinic. Those included not only the 78 new children but the annual examination of all the others. In 1944 there were 138 such examinations.

I made 51 visits to the Home. In my absence or inability to serve Dr. Otto Faust kindly made two visits, Dr. E. S. Goodwin three visits, and Dr. E. N. Kemp one visit.

Miss Marian Fingar has very satisfactorily continued as our Resident Nurse throughout the year. To her and to all others who have aided in our efforts to maintain the health program at a high level or to care for those children who were ill I wish to express my sincere thanks.

Respectfully submitted,


Charles K. Winne, Jr. M.D.
Attending Physician

file → ALBANY HOME FOR CHILDREN

ANNUAL REPORT

1945

Mr. Theodore W. Dwight
President, Board of Managers
Albany Home for Children
Albany, New York.

Dear Mr. Dwight:

The year 1945 in retrospect seems to be characterized best by the single word 'change'. Perhaps no other year has contained so many great issues for the American public. 1945 began with the worry that a world conflict would be extended indefinitely and with bitter discouragement following the failure of optimistic forecasts. Thus at its beginning a difficult adjustment was required of everyone. Through the year we felt mixed feelings of gratitude and deep concern as first the European conflict ended, then the Pacific war with awe-inspiring suddenness, and we recognized a future destined to be unlike anything experienced before.

Such an introduction as the above to the report of a home for children may seem out of place but I should like to underscore the fact that everyone found it difficult to approach life on the basis of his previous experiences. There seemed always to be many new aspects to everything that needed to be done.

It is needless to say that children do not suffer directly when adults experience such tensions. I believe that it is fair to state that they suffer in indirect proportion to the understanding they have of the concerns and worries of adults and that in times of such change grownups are prone to think no one understands, least of all, children.

Difficulty in making purchases of items needed for everyday existence, concerns of school teachers regarding overdue increases in salaries, worries of staff that younger people would replace them at the end of the war, concerns about the value of one's earnings and savings in a future of higher prices, have been a few of the things which have caused unrest among the adult world and have created an environment in which children felt left out. The fact that public schools are now much more concerned with behavior problems and attitudes than ever before, is a reflection of these same concerns of the young in the community at large.

This introduction is made to give us a perspective in reviewing some of the trends observed during the past year. At the beginning of 1945 we experienced a drop in our population which threatened our financial security. One of the main causes of the decline in population is the increase in financial aid given by State and Federal agencies to parents and

relatives of children enabling many more children to stay in their own homes or in homes of relatives. Other factors are the tendency of enlightened children's agencies to re-establish broken homes and return children to them, or to place children in foster homes where this is not possible. Older children who otherwise have been economic handicaps in normal times found a great demand for their services in war and related industries. There were reports embarrassing to many of our staff that children seventeen through twenty were earning more than mature, well-trained people. It should be recognized that this trend is one which has been in process for many years but that it has been offset in the case of our agency by an increase in our services to counties outside of Albany. The following table suggests this trend toward a decline in number of children who can be helped by an agency such as ours.

POPULATION TRENDS

	<u>1935</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1945</u>
From Albany County ...	139	106	51
From other Counties ..	<u>3</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>65</u>
Total	<u>142</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>116</u>

(Figures are for December of each year)

Both the housing shortage and the opportunity for highly remunerative employment have reduced the number of foster homes available and perhaps made some relatives less willing to care for children whose parents are inadequate. During July the State of New York effected a program by means of which financial aid could be given to second degree relatives, uncles, aunts, sisters and brothers for the care of dependent children. Several children formerly here have benefited from such an arrangement and are now with relatives. It is likely, therefore, that this trend will continue and will parallel the development of adequate housing needed for foster homes.

The trend toward a lower population has been offset first, by an increase in the number of children from other counties and second, by the approval of the Board to accept private pay cases and temporary care cases. A review of the intake and discharge table for the year 1945 outlined herewith will suggest another trend, namely, that children are in our custody for shorter periods.

ADMISSIONS and DISCHARGES 1943-1945

		<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1943	In	2	0	7	0	0	7	3	4	5	4	2	0	34
	Out	5	1	1	1	3	10	6	6	11	1	2	1	48
1944	In	0	4	7	4	2	0	5	3	3	0	0	3	31
	Out	1	2	2	1	0	12	3	9	2	3	5	8	48
1945	In	4	4	8	5	5	10	2	14	14	7	1	3	77
	Out	3	5	5	6	2	3	4	8	9	10	9	8	72

Because many unusual factors affected family life during this year and because we instituted a new program, 1945 is not a typical year. It can be assumed, however, that there will be an increase in the number of private pay cases, particularly in the instances of mothers or fathers who have lost their partners and who desire to provide good training for their children but find that an income from State or Federal agencies inadequate to meet their standards of living. We now have several such cases. The need for care for children for shorter periods will continue but perhaps will not be as acute as suggested by the current year. Because of improving child welfare services it appears very definite, however, that children will remain in our care for much shorter periods than they previously did. In the future it will be the exceptional case in which a child comes to us at the age of two, is cared for through its childhood and adolescence, and is discharged at some degree of maturity. In the light of these facts it does not seem that withdrawal of war time restrictions, even though the one-year draft program is approved by Congress, will have any effect on increasing the age range of our group, nor of giving us the opportunity to train many children completely over a period of years.

If the above trends continue and if the problems indicated by them are to be met, this agency should consider seriously the matter of foster home placement as an adjunct to its services, or it should definitely take the attitude that it is solely a re-training center for children whose needs have to be met temporarily, or for children who need a special kind of attention which can be provided only in this environment. If we are to do the second job to the exclusion of the first, if we are to emphasize a re-training program and serve our own and neighboring counties in this way, we will need soon to employ an expert teacher who will give children from varying backgrounds, the basic training they need in order to be assimilated in the public school system.

It will be noted from the table of intake and discharge listed above that there was a great influx of children during the year, particularly in the months of June, August and September, when a total of 38 children were admitted. It will be recognized that it is impossible for an agency to proceed normally when one third of its population changes in so short a period. Because of this influx our children sensed a radical change. Standards set by our Children's Committee were strange to a large portion of our population, and our staff, being relatively new, neither sensed the problem nor was capable of solving it. The difficulties both the children and staff had to face are suggested by a review of the handicaps which several of the new children brought with them. A fifteen year old girl who has since adjusted well, was at first implored to brush her hair and make herself neat in appearance. Gradually it was learned that it had not been her custom to care for herself, that her great-grandparents with whom she had been living had such a meager standard that this child neither knew how to use a comb, wash her hair, nor did she know that dishes were washed after use in most homes, that her clothing needed to be washed regularly and that she could do it herself. Another child somewhat younger took a great deal of time to eat, and had

become a serious problem to the foster parents with whom she had been staying. She had lost weight and refused to eat a reasonable amount even though encouraged to do so. Left pretty much alone by the housemother and the other girls when she refused to eat what was placed before her, her hunger and the normal interest of others in food gained the upper hand and she has become a healthy, robust child. A sixteen year old boy who came from a farm environment did not realize that most boys and girls bring school books home to study at night and he still resents this necessity which he associates with city life. His resistance to school work is complicated by the fact that he has little sense of property values, never having possessed anything which was completely his own. At first he applied his ideas of communal living, liberally helping himself to trousers from the clothing cabinets and to the possessions of other boys. Because he was a large boy, he learned his lesson slowly, but very effectively. An opportunity for him to work on our farm gave him a position where he felt some success and has made school work and the rules of property rights more tolerable for him. It should be recognized that changes in the behavior of new children are not achieved without a good deal of concern among other boys and girls who have adjusted to our way of life. It should be recognized, too, that those who have been here longer, who have not learned well, are likely to revert to previous patterns of behavior when they recognize their old way of life in the behavior of a recent addition to the family.

A third trend seems to be indicated, namely that the training of the older children we now receive is less adequate. It is probable that this trend likewise reflects improving standards of child care in our own and neighboring counties. It would be comforting to feel that in the future we would receive only children young enough to be properly trained and that we would have them long enough to give them fine standards of citizenship. But community programs designed to bolster the American home will increasingly find places for the young child and the older well trained child which more nearly parallel the child's family life. The average age of children in our care has been dropping and in 1945 dropped to 3.30 years.

Our population in the future therefore will be drawn from a wider area, their stay may very likely be of shorter duration, and our job a more intensive one. Good standards of child care do not however mean the closing of institution doors. As trained personnel enter this field there will be a greater need for our services and a more appropriate use of them. It is in this area that our present social worker is particularly effective in guiding others in the use of our facilities.

In the appraisal of our work during the year it is desirable to analyze some of the temporary cases we have had. There was, for example, the two sisters who came from a very responsible family in which the father recognized the value of an agency such as ours and where no relatives were able to help when the family physician advised Mr. and Mrs. C. that the wife would have to go to Arizona to clear up an aggravated case of asthma. Mother and father were

gone for three months during which time we kept the parents were informed weekly of the progress of the children and the parents in return kept a steady stream of post cards and letters coming to the children. The older of the two children was helped to interpret the temporary situation to the younger child aged four so that when the parents returned there was only a brief worry by the mother about her youngest child not recognizing her. After a day or two with the parents, these children were able to pick up very closely where they had left off. In another instance an attractive girl of ten who seemed very old for her years was helped by us for a period of four months while a neighboring county checked on relatives who could provide a home for her. The change in plans for this child was necessitated by the fact that she could not manage to adjust to a stepmother whom the father had recently married. Then there were three boys, children of a service man recently inducted into service whose wife expected another child and who had to undergo an operation for acute appendicitis. We helped these children for six weeks until relatives could come from the West coast to assist in the management of a very much deprived home. There was another child whose mother suffered from a severe nervous disorder requiring shock treatments and Carol spent three months with us until her mother was able to resume a more normal life again at home. And still another family - the great levelling factor of the public schools brought the very poor home condition of two adolescent girls to their attention so that the elder daughter asked the county children's agent for help in developing a more American home. The two older girls were sent to the Albany Home where they received training and an understanding of the way others lived, while a trained housekeeper taught their mother to manage more effectively under better standards of cleanliness. This family was reunited after five months.

It is obvious that re-training of children who come from meager backgrounds and the assimilation of children who come for short periods of time requires more careful supervision than a program in which children can be once trained thoroughly and then helped to adjust to various aspects of life as they face them. It is significant that there have been many successes among our family of more permanent residents even though the attention of less experienced staff was required predominantly by a new group of children. A boy came to us early in the year who was so obviously rejected by his mother that it was not surprising to us that his behavior involved stealing, incorrigibility, undependability and lying. Before considering admission of the child an attempt was made in several interviews to help the mother understand that when she saw this boy she was thinking not alone of him but of his father who had broken her faith in others. The boy seemed to express in every way that what he wanted from his mother was her attention and devotion and that all he received from her was criticism and lack of attention. We agreed, therefore, to try the boy in our environment here. In the first week he broke into a room and took some funds belonging to another child. The housemother in this case meted out a severe punishment which was sentencing him to be trustworthy in all matters and told him that she was going to

trust him in every respect but in order to do so, he would have to reveal details of his behavior so that they could both agree that he was responsible. Her method would not have worked had not her personal concern for his welfare, her devotion to the job she had set for herself, and patient effort on both sides enabled this boy to return to his home at the end of the year as one of the most trusted and most dependable boys in her cottage. This boy will be successful in his own environment only if we can work continually with the mother to help her understand how the method employed here became effective.

Most of our older children feel very strongly that their life would be happier in a private home and this is particularly so when they begin to think of friendships with members of the opposite sex in the community. A brother and sister who had been here for many years were returned to the home of their mother when it was felt that these two could manage fairly well on their own. It is touching to notice that these children return frequently to visit old friends here and seem to leave with great reluctance when their permits have expired. There was not as much stability in their home life as they had hoped for and we still have a job to do with them in helping them to adjust to a life in the community without depending so much on us. On Christmas Eve the boy in this family returned to the Home and asked to decorate the cottage Christmas tree which he was allowed to do with the help of others. As the tree was trimmed he expressed resentment toward his mother who had not understood the importance of a family Christmas tree which the boy had purchased when he learned that there was to be none. He had been thoroughly discouraged when returning from work he found the tree had been trimmed by his mother and one of her friends.

Much of our success during the year in the face of great odds has been due to the large number of friends we have gained in the community. Perhaps more people this year have felt that their efforts at making others happy should be specific and tangible. At any rate we have been able to develop lasting associations for a large number of our children who would not be as successful without them. During the year when help was short, one lady in a neighboring community telephoned that she had noticed our ad very frequently and offered her services when an emergency arose. She came in on Sundays and holidays on very short notice, occasionally saying when called, that she would be in as soon as she had finished preserving food that she had started at the time, indicating the fine spirit she displayed and suggesting the kind of encouragement such an attitude gave to us. Subsequently through her personal interest she developed an opportunity for one of our handicapped boys to meet not only her own family but a man who had parallel interests and a real concern for him, showing how thoroughly she understands the efforts made to develop character and the methods by which this can be obtained. The boy involved has profited greatly because he has had an opportunity to express himself through his music, managing our chicken farm, and meeting new personalities without great concern for himself. Previously a completely dependent boy who had been handicapped by a lack of sustained interest, he has now become a

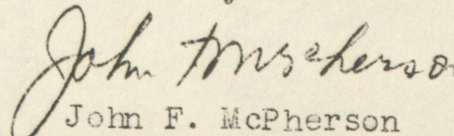
boy who is able to express himself with confidence and only occasional guidance. After a visit with friends on New Year's day he telephoned from the depot to his housemother stating that he had in his possession two ducks and wondered how to get them up to the Home. Not knowing whether they were dead or alive, the housemother wondered at his concern until he pointed out he did not want to carry a crate of live ducks on the bus. After he returned to the Home, he proudly displayed his new possessions and announced his decision to start a new business of raising ducks. There is another boy, one of real talent, whose interest in school work had flagged and whose need for special attention we had not been able to meet. He had found it difficult to spell and uninteresting to read, until a family from a neighboring village agreed to take him on weekends with his school books. His school work became the center of their attention until he lost his defensiveness and he has since developed a competency in school work which has been surprising to his teachers.

As older boys and girls return for visits we are reminded of the great responsibility we have for the welfare for boys and girls who receive our care. It seems flattering that they return here first as they come back from overseas or from distant points. until one recognizes that what they are concerned about most is what is left of home, the place they have had in their minds when the going was difficult. Questions are about former staff members and children. One often learns for the first time of intimate friendships with other boys or girls. They are anxious to pick up the threads of their life where they dropped them and they can best do that here.

If there is any common feeling about the year 1945 it is like that of the young men returning from service. What we did during 1945 wasn't what we wanted to do but it had to be done and we lived from day to day doing it. We are anxious now to pick up the threads of our old life but we find a new fabric woven of them. Yet we have faith in a successful future because we have felt the support of new staff members who share our determination to do the job that needs to be done; because the more experienced staff have stuck to their posts and retrained new workers;; because the Womens Auxiliary has lent us a real hand in so many ways and particularly in making our Lawn Festival a financial success; because the Board of Managers has given us support and encouragement at great personal sacrifice in time and effort in a difficult year; and because there is an increasing number of people in the community who understand and share in our efforts; because parents are grateful and because young men and young women write and come back home.

I am sure you sense my gratitude to you for your untiring patience and guidance during these war years, and to Mrs. Dwight who has so graciously relayed messages and rewarmed meals so that emergencies here could be met.

Sincerely


John F. McPherson
Superintendent.

ALBANY HOME FOR CHILDREN

DIRECTORY OF

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WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

AND

PERSONNEL

FEBRUARY 1945

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Reuben Clark

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Edmund W. Corrie

May William C. Dearstyne
Arthur E. Sayles

June Louis L. Woodward
Prentiss Carnell, Jr.

July Theodore W. Dwight
Charles Cross

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September Douglas W. Olcott
Walter S. Stedman

October Rev. Kenneth B. Welles
Reuben Clark

November Dr. Charles K. Winne, Jr.
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December Louis L. Woodward
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January 1946 Theodore W. Dwight
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LANSING COTTAGE - Closed for duration

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Mrs. Robert E. Whalen

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PERSONNEL

<u>ADMINISTRATION BUILDING</u>		<u>Date Employed</u>
John F. McPherson	Superintendent	3-8-40
Elizabeth B. Campbell	Social Worker	4-7-42
Nancy S. Turner	Secretary	1-8-33
Irene W. Templeton	Stenographer	6-4-41
Marion Fingar	Nurse	6-23-44
Vacant	Teacher	
Charles L. Keck	Storekeeper	4-24-34

ACTIVITIES

David L. Kreher	Director	12-11-44
* Donna E. Campbell	Asst. Director	9-12-43
* Frances M. Merrick	Librarian	9-1-44

MAINTENANCE

Brainard Soper	Foreman	3-9-32
Alex. B. Sharpe	Asst. Foreman	10-1-42
Darwin W. Tayntor	Night Fireman	1-10-45
Matthew D. Geurtze	Fireman	10-7-42
Vacant	Farmer	

COTTAGE STAFF

LATHROP

Dorothy E. Sutliff	Housemother	9-15-42
Winifred Dieckelmann	Asst. "	5-8-43
Ellen O. Wood	" "	2-5-45
Ethel Lappeus	" "	11-1-44
Marion E. Rice	" "	10-10-42
Mary Thompson	" "	12-15-42
Penelope Bradford	" "	11-8-44

* Student part time

COTTAGE STAFF contd.

		<u>Date</u> <u>Employed</u>
<u>WASSON</u>		
Nellie Ray Allen	Housemother	12-9-42
Ella M. York	Relief "	1-11-45
Helen E. Lansing	Asst. "	2-5-45

<u>PARSONS</u>		
Dorothy E. Geurtze	Housemother	5-24-44
Vacant	Relief "	
Hessie Brockett	Asst. "	2-6-43

<u>FULLER</u>		
Mary W. Washburn	Housemother	9-16-44
Harriet B. Rolfe	Relief "	2-17-45
Edna M. Goodrich	Asst. "	5-15-44

<u>RATHBONE</u>		
Elizabeth C. Frier	Housemother	1-11-45
Catherine M. Harrand	Relief "	10-26-44
Martha Williams	Asst. "	9-28-44

LANSING - Closed for duration

RECEPTION UNIT

Kittie M. Clayton	Housemother	4-1-38
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RELIEF

* Susan A. Ross		1-15-45
* Jane Hagy		10-1-31
Louise Beplat		9-28-44

* Former Staff members

Mr. John F. McPherson, Superintendent
Albany Home for Children
Albany, New York.

My dear Mr. McPherson:

I beg to submit herewith my annual report as Attending Physician to the Home.

In spite of the somewhat upset condition that several of the cottages have been in at times this past year, due to the unprecedented but understandable overturn in the staff membership, I cannot see that it has made any difference in the physical health of the children. There have been some unhappy psychological results from some of the confusion, but this has been manifested in behavior and school problems which are not in my jurisdiction (fortunately for me).

On the whole the health of the children has been excellent. We have had the usual colds, upper respiratory tract infections, and digestive disorders commonto children, but with no untoward results in any case. There has been no serious illness and naturally no deaths. This report will therefore be mainly statistical in nature.

We have had but few cases of communicable disease. There were two cases of scarlet fever (mild), one each of whooping cough and mumps, and thirteen of German measles. The latter comprised a house outbreak in Lathrop Cottage.

There were twenty-three accidents recorded, most of them received while the children were at play, basket ball and ice skating being the most common offenders. One child dislocated his elbow, another his shoulder; there was one fracture of the upper arm and one of both bones of the lower arm. One boy was struck in the eye by a stick in the hands of another causing a serious haemorrhage in the eye ball from which he has not yet fully recovered his sight. One girl was bitten in the face by a non-rabid dog. Four children were cut on head or face in various ways; one child was punctured in the arm while playing darts. The other injuries were sprains of various joints, -- wrist, knee, fingerz, and thumbs.

Thirtyfive children were hospitalized as follows:

Abscess (under arm) (operated upon) ..	1	Scarlet fever	2
Appendicitis (one with operation)	2	Mastoidectomies ..	2
Dislocated elbow	1	Lobar pneumonia ..	1
Exploratory operation for mass under		Myringotomy	1
arm (no pathology found)	1	Tonsilectomies ...	13
Fractured humerus	1	Otitis media	1
Infectious lymphcytosis	1	Rheumatic fever ..	4
Observation of head injury	1	Undescended test-	
(child fell from truck while "hooking"		icle with oper-	
a ride).		ation	1

Of these admissions nineteen were operative cases, as noted.

There were 41 children radiographed. Of these 10 were of the chest in new children with a tuberculous family history or of children being followed in the chest clinic for a similar reason; three were of teeth and four were of the mastoid region. One gastro-intestinal series was made. The others were of arms, legs, joints, etc., of the children before-mentioned as accident cases. Radiographs are routinely taken of all injured members where there is any possible question of fracture or dislocation.

Four hundred, ninety-four visits were made to the various clinics of the Albany Hospital, as follows:

Allergy	20	Neurology	3
Child guidance	24	Orthopedics	13
Chest	14	Pediatrics	55
Ear, nose and throat ..	123	Physio-therapy	6
Genito urinary	10	Public Health	103
Gynecology	2	Dermatology	48
Medicine	25	Surgery	50
Well Baby	3		

Six hundred dental treatments were given in our own dental clinic, still so satisfactorily conducted by the Drs. De Risi. In addition to these ten children received special treatment in their private office.

There were 56 visits to Dr. Bedell's office; 32 for fitting of glasses and 24 for various needed treatments.

General physical examinations were made of 138 children, either at the Home or in the Albany Hospital Clinic. Routine general examinations are made each year of each "old" child in addition to a very careful complete check-up of each "new" child at once on admission.

No examinations were made of the staff membership this year for reasons well known to you. These should be done when the general situation quiets down to normal or to near that point.

In addition to the general examinations mentioned, the following special examinations were made of certain children:

Basal metabolism	1	Schick tests	65
Electrocardiograph	4	(New 48, repeats 17)	
Wassermans	40	Toxoid was given to 25	
Tuberculin tests	28	children	
(On new or suspected			
children. Of these			
none were positive.			

January 13, 1947

Dr Charles K. Winne, Jr
151 Chestnut Street,
A_lbany, N.Y.

Dear Dr Winne:

The regular meeting of the Board of the Childrens' Home comes Wednesday of this week. While I am very much interested in the Childrens' Home I feel that I am rendering no service to it at all and consequently keeping somebody off the Board who might be of real help to you.

I have enjoyed working with that group but I have to be away from the City so much and the obligations of the College are so tremendous that it seems wise for me to resign from your Board.

I trust you will understand my position thoroughly and that it will be perfectly satisfactory for your Board to accept this resignation.

With very kind regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John M. Sayles,