

ORGANIZED CHARITY IN IOWA¹

What is the status of organized charity in the different cities and towns of Iowa? is a question frequently asked by charity workers of this and other States. In order to find a satisfactory answer to this inquiry an investigation was begun by the writer a little more than two years ago. To present the results of that investigation is the purpose of this paper.

Iowa being a wealthy agricultural State with few large cities, it is generally assumed that there is here no problem of poverty. But the writer found, in a special investigation carried on in connection with the State census for 1905, that the different counties of Iowa expended \$960,275.18 for poor relief during the year 1904. And, moreover, this amount does not include the \$149,291.36 expended by the counties for the Soldiers Relief Fund, which is (if not a pauper fund) certainly a relief fund. It is true that the receipts from the sale of stock and produce from the poor farms of the State amount to \$99,340.32, and the receipts from relatives and friends of the inmates of the county homes aggregate \$15,786.59. And yet it is a fact that a net sum of \$994,439.63² has been spent in Iowa in a single year for poor relief. Add to this sum the large amount which is

¹ This paper was originally prepared upon the suggestion of Professor Isaac A. Loos and submitted as a dissertation in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in the department of Political Economy and Sociology of the Iowa School of Political and Social Science at the State University of Iowa. The writer is especially indebted to Professor Loos for valuable suggestions, and to The State Historical Society of Iowa for assistance in collecting material.

² This sum includes the amount spent for the Soldiers Relief Fund.

expended by private individuals, lodges, churches, the Silent Ministry, and many other charitable organizations, and the evidence is clear that there is at least some poverty in the proverbially prosperous and wealthy State of Iowa.

Mr. S. K. Stevenson, Superintendent of the city schools at Iowa City, undertook a somewhat similar investigation prior to the meeting of the Iowa State Conference of Charities and Corrections at Iowa City in October, 1902; and the results of his investigation were given at that meeting.¹ Letters were sent by him to cities and towns of the State with a population of two thousand or over. Fifty-eight replies were received. Sixteen cities were found to have permanent charity organizations. They were: Des Moines, Davenport, Marshalltown, Council Bluffs, Muscatine, Keokuk, Le Mars, Cedar Rapids, Oskaloosa, Mt. Pleasant, Cedar Falls, Iowa Falls, Red Oak, Harlan, Boone, and Monticello.²

With the blank used by Mr. Stevenson as a guide, suggestions were solicited from several of the leading charity workers of the State and a new blank was prepared containing the following questions:—1. Is there a permanent charity organization in your city? Name? (a) Do all churches, private societies, and public bodies work together in this organized charity? 2. How is public charity dispensed? 3. How is private charity dispensed? 4. Do you employ a permanent secretary in your town, county, or city, whose duty it is to coördinate the various charities? (If so state his salary.) 5. What record of cases is kept? 6. Is there

¹ Mr. Stevenson's work was done under the direction of Professor Isaac A. Loos of The State University of Iowa.

² The charity organization of Monticello, that is, the Ladies Benevolent Union, has recently disbanded.

a card of information used in the organized charity work? (If so will you kindly send a sample card) 7. How much money is spent annually for charity? (a) By county or township officers? (b) By churches, lodges, or similar organizations? (c) By private individuals? 8. Does your city (or town) apply the work test in wood yard, stone pile, or otherwise as a condition of relief? 9. Have you any employment agency, public or private? 10. In your opinion what per cent of the money is spent for the administration of the charity? 11. General remarks on the dispensation of charity in your city (or town). To this were to be added the name of city (or town), its population, the name of the person filling out blank, and the date.¹

Having determined what the blank should contain the next step was to decide where and to whom it should be sent. To get a thorough knowledge of the situation it was thought best to send blanks to all towns of five hundred inhabitants or over. The preparation of a list of names of persons to whom to send the blank was a more difficult task, since it was our desire to interest representative people of the different towns who were sufficiently well acquainted with local conditions to know the facts and sufficiently interested in charity work to secure the desired data. The membership roll of the Iowa State Conference of Charities and Corrections was at hand. Then, by correspondence with several of the leading charity workers of the State, several other names were suggested. To these the names of ministers of different churches who were interested in charity work in the different towns

¹ The blanks which were filled out and returned have been deposited in the library of The State Historical Society of Iowa.

were added. And finally, the list was completed by the names of superintendents or principals of city schools.

Three hundred and eighty-eight letters, containing a blank and a stamped envelope for reply, were sent to as many different towns of the State, one being sent to every town having a population of five hundred or over. In response to these three hundred and eighty-eight letters, answers were received from about one hundred of the larger towns and from a number of the smaller ones. Other letters were sent to the larger towns addressed to people who were interested in charity work. As many as five letters were written to different people in some of the towns before a satisfactory reply was received. After continued correspondence for over two years, and using some of the facts collected by Mr. Stevenson, material is at hand from every town in the State with a population of fifteen hundred or over, and also replies from one hundred and fourteen towns of the State having a population of less than fifteen hundred, thus making a total of two hundred and twenty-three replies from as many different cities and towns.

The table given below with notes contains in condensed form the data secured for thirty-nine towns reported as having organized charity. It should be observed, however, that a great deal of charity work, which in some respects would be considered as organized charity, is being done all over the State by such organizations as the King's Daughters, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Silent Ministry, Woman's Relief Corps, and similar organizations. This is particularly true in the smaller towns where there is little call for charity.

ORGANIZED CHARITIES IN IOWA

| NO. | CITY OR TOWN | POPULATION 1905 | NAME OF ORGANIZATION | PAID SECRETARY | RECORD OF CASES | CARD OF INFORMATION | WORK TEST |
|-----|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Ames | 3292 | Dorcas Society | no | none | no | no |
| 2 | Anita | 975 | Girls Charity Club | no | none | no | no |
| 3 | Boone | 9500 | Boone Benevolent Society | no | yes | no | no |
| 4 | Burlington | 25318 | Charity Organization Society | yes | yes | yes | no |
| 5 | Cedar Falls | 5329 | Associated Charities | no | yes | no | no |
| 6 | Cedar Rapids | 28759 | Sunshine Mission | no | yes | no | no |
| 7 | Charles City | 4546 | Church Relief | no | yes | no | yes |
| 8 | Clarinda | 4020 | Woman's Alliance | no | yes | no | no |
| 9 | Clinton | 22756 | Associate Benevolent Society | yes | yes | no | no |
| 10 | Colfax | 2553 | Woman's Relief Corps | no | yes | no | no |
| 11 | Council Bluffs | 25231 | Associated Charities | yes | yes | yes | no |
| 12 | Creston | 8382 | Union Benevolent Association | no | yes | no | no |
| 13 | Davenport | 39797 | Ladies Industrial Relief Society | yes | yes | yes | no |
| 14 | Decorah | 3918 | Union Aid Society | no | none | no | no |
| 15 | Des Moines | 75626 | Associated Charities | yes | yes | yes | no |
| 16 | Dubuque | 41941 | Dubuque Charity Organization | no | yes | no | yes |
| 17 | Eagle Grove | 3122 | Equality Club | no | yes | no | no |
| 18 | Eldora | 2278 | Eldora Ladies Aid Society | no | yes | no | no |
| 19 | Forest City | 1665 | Woman's Relief Circle | no | none | no | no |
| 20 | Fort Dodge | 14369 | Associated Charities | no | yes | yes | no |
| 21 | Grand Junction | 1058 | The Ladies Relief Society | no | none | no | no |
| 22 | Grinnell | 4634 | Charity Organization Society | yes | yes | no | no |
| 23 | Harlan | 2645 | Ministerial Union | no | none | no | no |
| 24 | Iowa Falls | 3049 | Associated Charities | no | yes | no | no |
| 25 | Keokuk | 14604 | Associated Charities | yes | yes | yes | no |

| NO. | CITY OR TOWN | POPULATION 1905 | NAME OF ORGANIZATION | PAID SECRETARY | RECORD OF CASES | CARD OF INFORMATION | WORK TEST |
|-----|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| 26 | Le Mars | 5041 | Associated Charity Society | no | yes | no | no |
| 27 | Marshalltown | 12054 | Organized Charity Association | yes | yes | no | yes |
| 28 | Missouri Valley | 3330 | Ladies Benevolent Society | no | none | no | no |
| 29 | Monticello | 2156 | Ladies Benevolent Union | no | yes | no | no |
| 30 | Mt. Pleasant | 3576 | Federated Charities | no | yes | no | no |
| 31 | Nevada | 2262 | Nevada Charity Association | no | yes | no | no |
| 32 | Oskaloosa | 10203 | Associated Charities | no | yes | no | no |
| 33 | Ottumwa | 20181 | Open Door Mission | no | yes | no | no |
| 34 | Sac City | 2120 | Church Associated Charity Organiza'n | no | none | no | no |
| 35 | Sheldon | 2564 | Dorcas Society | no | yes | no | no |
| 36 | Sioux City | 40952 | Associated Charities | no | yes | yes | no |
| 37 | Tipton | 2125 | United Aid Society | no | yes | no | no |
| 38 | Webster City | 4797 | Associated Charities | no | none | no | no |
| 39 | Wilton Junction | 1139 | Union Aid Society | no | none | no | no |

NOTES ON THE TABLE

1. Officers of the Dorcas Society assist the Overseer of the Poor, who receives \$50.00 per year.
2. Small town in which there is very little need of charity work.
3. Small society doing very little work. What relief is given is distributed by ward committees.
4. For fourteen years this Society has been the center and source of information of the charity interests of the city.
5. The Woman's Relief Corps works in connection with the Associated Charities and has an employment agency.
6. The work is carried on by a committee appointed by the Mission. A careful record of all cases is kept. Perhaps the Sunshine Mission should not be considered as organized charity, as its work is primarily religious, not charitable.
7. Here the object is to encourage the poor to help themselves.

The work test is invariably applied for those who are able. A committee is appointed from each church which serves for a period of one year. The organization assists in enforcing the compulsory school law.

8. Committees are appointed for each ward and they make a thorough investigation of each separate case. They are granted an allowance for the worthy poor.

9. The English Protestant churches work together. Charity is dispensed by the President who hires a lady assistant as her agent.

10. The Woman's Relief Corps emphasizes charity work not only among its own members but among all. A large and responsible committee is appointed, which investigates all cases of poverty. Collections taken at union Thanksgiving meetings are turned over to the Woman's Relief Corps committee.

11. The Superintendent of Associated Charities gives all her time to the work. A visiting nurse is also employed by the organization. The Overseer of the Poor acts on the advice of the Associated Charities.

12. All the Protestant churches except the Episcopal and Lutheran work together in this organization.

13. The Associated Charities has disbanded and the Ladies Industrial Relief Society has taken up the work. Their fundamental idea is to encourage industry and not to pauperize by charity.

14. The Society is composed of a committee of ladies who secure very little coöperation among the several charitable organizations of the city.

15. Des Moines has a large and influential organization, but there is need of closer coöperation between the city authorities and the Associated Charities.

16. The Charity Organization society secures very little coöperation. The Catholic churches have two very efficient charity societies, namely, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and the Saint Elizabeth Circle. The Humane Society does a great deal of charity work.

17. A committee of the Club solicits aid from the citizens and distributes it to the worthy poor.

18. Representatives from different churches work together in this Society.

19. Small town and very little call for charity.

20. The Secretary gives a great deal of his time to the work, but receives no salary. A committee is appointed for each ward of the

city and an additional committee is appointed whose duty it is to look after the transient poor.

21. Small town and very little need of a charity organization. A committee appointed by the Ladies Relief Society has charge of what charity work is done.

22. The Overseer of the Poor works in connection with the Charity Organization Society. The Agent of the Charity Organization is not employed for all of her time, but is paid for the time actually devoted to the work of the Society.

23. The ministers of the Protestant churches constitute the Union; and they work with the Overseer of the Poor.

24. The Secretary serves gratuitously. Charitable organizations of the city secure membership in the Associated Charities by the payment of an annual membership fee. Charity is dispensed by means of ward committees.

25. County officials and Associated Charities work together to the extent that no aid is given to anyone except upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Associated Charities, who is the Overseer of the Poor for the city.

26. The Society aims primarily to give immediate relief. After the third application for help the case is turned over to the county. The city is divided into four districts, each of which is in charge of a committee of three. The committee makes a thorough investigation before relief is given.

27. The Association was organized in 1893 and has been gradually growing in influence and effectiveness since its organization.

28. Charity work of the town is carried on chiefly by a committee from this Society.

29. The organization has recently disbanded.

30. Association not very active. Secretary serves gratuitously. Very little work done.

31. Very little work done by the organization, which spends about \$20 annually.

32. Work is carried on by the Secretary and ward committees. About \$400 distributed last year. The Secretary serves without salary.

33. This organization is primarily religious rather than charitable. A city missionary is employed who aids in charity work.

34. Collections are taken each month in the churches. The Ministerial Union has charge of the distribution.

35. The charity work of the city is left largely to a committee appointed from the Dorcas Society.

36. Reorganized in 1904. City council refused to continue the support of a Secretary in 1905; hence, at present the work is in a dormant state.

37. Churches have a nominal representation but the work is primarily carried on by ten or twelve interested individuals. About \$25 in money and a large amount of clothing were distributed last year.

38. The Associated Charities was organized in November, 1904. It is really an organization of the different churches. A committee of three from each church constitutes the executive committee.

39. The Union Aid Society is an organization of the different churches of the city.

The table and notes above show that of the thirty-nine organizations reporting, only eight have paid secretaries or agents—Burlington, Clinton, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Grinnell, Keokuk, and Marshalltown. This statement needs, perhaps, further explanation, since Des Moines and Keokuk are the only towns that have a regular paid Secretary. Burlington, Council Bluffs, Davenport, and Marshalltown have a regularly paid Agent. Grinnell has an Agent who spends only part time in the work, receiving pay for the actual time spent. Clinton has an Agent employed for the winter months only.

In the matter of keeping a record of cases a considerably better condition is found to exist. Twenty-nine of the thirty-nine towns reporting keep a record of charity cases and the amount given in each case. Several of the organizations require a very complete record to be kept, while others have only general records.

The following blank, which is self-explanatory, is a good illustration of the extent to which the record of the cases in

some of the larger charity organizations of the State is carried:—

CONFIDENTIAL REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
ASSOCIATED CHARITIES, FORT DODGE, IOWA

From.....to whom was referred

NAME OF SOCIETY

Name.....Address.....Date.....

1. Have you given material aid?....In cash?....\$.Food?....
Clothes?..... Fuel?..... Rent?.....
At total money expense to relieving society for month ending..... \$.....
2. Is the aid to be temporary (less than a month).....
Or is it likely to be continuous (i. e. for a number of months)?.....
3. Has work been secured?..... Kind of work?.....
Temporary or permanent?.....
4. How much are the family earnings per week at present?.....
5. What property or debts have they?.....
6. Are the habits and character of the family good?.....
7. Is the family likely to become self-supporting?.....
8. Sanitary conditions?.....
Is the house clean?....Is the plumbing in good order?....
Does water stand in the yard, street or cellar?....
Other unhealthful features?.....
9. Have the family any relatives?.....What Church?.....
10. Do the children attend school?....Or what Sunday School?....
11. How often do you visit the family?.....
12. Any changes in the condition of the family as the result of your visiting?.....
13. General Remarks:

Date of Report.....

Signed.....

Received at Central Office.....

Decision of Executive Committee.....

The following blank is used by the associated charities of Burlington, and shows very clearly the extent to which the better organized charities carry their investigation:—

INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. Street and No. of house.....
 2. Number in family, names and ages.....
 3. How long in the city.....
 4. Who are earning anything.....
 5. Amount earned per month.....
 6. Any others able to work.....
 7. Trades or vocations.....
 8. What else can they do.....
 9. Why are any out of work.....
 10. Amount of rent.....
 11. In debt.....
 12. Habits as to intemperance.....
 13. State of health, (Whether Cripple, Epileptic,
Deaf, Dumb or Blind).....
 14. Assistance most needed.....
 15. Sources of relief.....
 16. Nationality.....
 17. Any relatives.....
 18. References.....
 19. Church attendance.....
 20. Church membership.....
 21. Chief cause of destitution.....
 22. Character of relief given.....
 23. Number of visits made this family by visitor.....
 24. Ability to read and write.....
- Further remarks.....

Some of the organizations keep a very much less extensive record, which is, nevertheless, very definite and useful. The Ladies Industrial Relief Society of Davenport is a good illustration of this class of organization. A record of the following questions is kept:—1. Name of applicant. 2. Name of wife or husband. 3. Occupation. 4. Residence. 5. Date of coming to city. 6. Children in family with their age and occupation if not in school. 7. Nativity. 8. Church. 9. Resources. 10. Relief asked; through whom. 11. Causes of distress. 12. Visited. 13. Decisions.

Cards of information made out by the persons of the city who report cases for the associated charities to investigate are used in Burlington, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Keokuk, Sioux City, and Fort Dodge.

Application of the work test was found to be applied only in Charles City, Dubuque, and Marshalltown. This is perhaps due to the fact that the large majority of cases applying for aid are in destitute circumstances and some aid is necessary at once. It should be remembered in this connection, however, that in all the different societies a thorough investigation is made, and all members of the family who are able are compelled to work.

A regular employment agency was found to be in operation in Des Moines, Davenport, Keokuk, and Oskaloosa. This does not mean that the other cities having organized charities do not emphasize the importance of finding work for dependent people. In fact one of the most important functions of any society of organized charity is to find work for people who are destitute. In a great many cases (in fact nearly all) the charity organization itself is an employment agency. In all of the larger cities of the State the Y. M. C. A. works in connection with the associated charities in securing work for the unemployed.

Charity workers of the State have followed the development of organized charities in Keokuk with a great deal of interest, it being the only city in Iowa at the present time where the Secretary of Associated Charities is an officer of the county. He is Overseer of the Poor for the city of Keokuk; and the county grants aid only upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Associated Charities.

ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF KEOKUK¹

Before the spring of 1897 frequent public appeals were made by the relief societies and churches of Keokuk to the citizens for help for the poor and unfortunate. The men and women of the community are big-hearted and generous and no such appeal ever fell on deaf ears. In reponse to these solicitations all sorts of supplies were donated by merchants and by committees appointed for the task. Instead of any permanent alleviation of distress or decrease in poverty both seemed to grow under this method. Keokuk is situated on the great Mississippi highway in such a way as to become the dumping ground of all sorts of undesirable humanity, so that at certain seasons the situation was truly alarming.

In the latter part of March, 1897, the minutes of a meeting of the Benevolent Union (the leading relief society) showed that it was the sense of the Union that it could no longer single-handed cope with the growing problems of charity. As a result of this decision a meeting of men and women, representative of good citizenship, was upon the invitation of Mrs. S. Carter, the President of the Union, called at her home on May 13, 1897. At this meeting the application of the principles of organized charity was suggested as a solution of some of the difficulties at hand. To concisely present the matter, a paper was read on *How to Adapt Charity Organization Methods to Small Communities*. After a general discussion of the plans and principles set forth, it was decided to continue the study of methods and a com-

¹ Through the kindness of Mrs. W. J. Roberts, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Associated Charities of Keokuk, this short history of organized charity since 1897 was furnished to the writer.

mittee¹ was appointed to meet and further plans for systematic charity organization in Keokuk. Several informal meetings and conferences were held until a satisfactory constitution and by-laws were prepared. These articles were submitted to a mass meeting held in the county court house on July 12, 1897, and adopted without change. A Board of Directors was appointed.²

A meeting for the organization of the Board of Directors was held July 16, 1897. Mayor N. B. Collins was elected President; Judge Logan, 1st Vice President; Mrs. S. Carter, 2d Vice President; Col. H. B. Blood, 3d Vice President; Mrs. W. J. Roberts, Secretary, and Mr. Frank Weber, Treasurer. All churches and benevolent organizations have been represented on the Board and all lines of religion and politics have been ignored. Those supporting the organization include a large portion of our best citizens.

The first report on dollar membership shows a total of three hundred fourteen. The organization has, of course, had discouragements. Some of the wisest men, and those who have ever since most staunchly supported it, were at the outset doubtful of the feasibility of its methods and principles. Generally speaking, however, its progress has been steady and sure. It has ever striven to cover the five cardinal points, namely, to act only on positive knowledge gained

¹ The Committee selected consisted of Judge Logan (Chairman), Mr. C. P. Birge, Mr. E. S. Baker, Mr. Geo. Rand, Mr. John H. Cole, Mayor N. B. Collins, Mrs. S. Carter (President of Benevolent Union), Mrs. W. J. Roberts, Mrs. J. L. Root, Mrs. A. M. Steel, and Mrs. J. W. Stark.

² Judge Logan, Mayor N. B. Collins, Mr. L. A. Hamill, Col. H. B. Blood, Dr. J. W. Stark, Mrs. S. Carter, Mr. E. S. Baker, Mr. Frank Weber, Miss Lou McGavie, Mrs. W. J. Roberts, Mrs. Adams Ballinger, Mrs. Geo. Rand, Mr. McNamara, Mr. N. Lowitz, and Mr. C. H. Wolfe.

by thorough investigation; to relieve worthy need promptly, fittingly, and tenderly; to prevent unwise alms to the unworthy; to strive to raise to independence those willing to help themselves; and to take pains to prevent children growing up as beggars and paupers. It was a difficult struggle to convert the community to the plan of a trained paid Secretary; but it was done and done harmoniously and slowly, step by step.

The first annual report showed that there had been expended by the Superintendent of the Poor \$1500 less than in the previous year, that the aid had gone more nearly where it belonged owing to investigation and registration of cases, and that the tramp nuisance had been practically abolished by the ticket system. The savings system was established in the public schools; and from time to time the Society, through committees appointed, threw its influence for the enforcement of the Compulsory Education Law. This year the appointment of a Truant Officer shows that this influence, with that of the school officials and others, has not been in vain. There have always been standing committees¹ on the Board.

A petition was presented by the Board of Directors of the Associated Charities to the County Supervisors at Ft. Madison, January 2, 1899, asking that the office of Overseer of the Poor be placed under the direction of the Associated Charities to the extent that no relief be given except upon the investigation and recommendation of the society. The Supervisors complied with the petition and appropriated

¹ Committees for Case Conference, Friendly Visitor, Conference Committee on Indigent Children, and Finance Committee.

\$200 as a test with the promise that more would be forthcoming if this was satisfactorily expended.

As the society through its Secretary acquired knowledge of and acquaintance with the condition of the poor, the conviction grew that the yearly expenditure of public funds for material aid was too great, not alone because it was a burden to the tax payers but also because it gave them and the city at large the handicap of increased pauperism with its inevitable attendant of shiftlessness, crime, and misery. The Associated Charities is thoroughly in sympathy with material relief, and there is much need to be met by clothing, food, and fuel. But these are not lasting remedies for poverty or pauperism; for the charity that only provides the temporary dole of relief is not charity but cruelty pure and simple. In this way the care of the poor went on and the coöperation of the society and County Commissioners progressed until in the summer of 1901 the work of the disposition of county relief of the Keokuk needy was placed entirely in the hands of the Associated Charities, which enabled the Society to solve so well many vexing problems of the worthy unfortunates.

The following are the statistics at hand furnished by the General Secretary:—For the year 1900–01, under the old administration, the amount spent was \$3943.00. For the year 1901–02, under the administration of the Associated Charities, the amount spent was \$1944.35. For the year 1902–03, under the administration of the Associated Charities, the amount spent was \$1727.85. These figures tell their own story of discriminate and indiscriminate charity.

The last important work accomplished by the organized

charity movement, although by no means the least, has been the employment of a visiting nurse. The work was taken up a year ago as an experiment, the Board of Directors voting to employ some one in that capacity for a period of three months who showed the qualities of mind and heart that would equip her for friendly visiting. Her duties were, among others, to visit the sick and aged and minister to their needs. By a fortunate combination of circumstances a capable woman with the training of a nurse was secured. She was supplied in a modest way with clean linen and such articles and materials as were necessary in her work. At the end of the three months the experiment was such a success that the work was continued indefinitely. The last report of the General Secretary on the work of the nurse is as follows:—

Visits have been made into homes of the sick, aged, and infirm, but it is impossible to reduce the good accomplished to figures. It is seen in cleaner homes and happier lives. Suggestions are slowly absorbed, yet in the past twelve months improvement is apparent along many lines. Homes have greatly improved both from a sanitary and aesthetic standpoint. Flowers, books, and magazines have found their way where they will do the most good. Daily visits with clean linen have been made to the sick and infirm. Complete outfits for maternity cases have been secured, also delicacies for the sick, through the Associated Charities and their friends.

THE CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY OF BURLINGTON¹

The Charity Organization Society of Burlington was organized in November, 1891, and has been in continuous and active existence for the past fourteen years. The first offi-

¹ Through the kindness of Mr. W. W. Baldwin this short history of organized charity in Burlington is contributed.

cers of the Society were the following: President, W. W. Baldwin; Vice President, Dr. H. P. Ewers; Treasurer, John T. Remey, and Secretary, Miss Marion Starr. Dr. Ewers and Miss Starr have since died. Mr. Baldwin has been President and Mr. Remey has been Treasurer continuously since the organization of the Society. Miss Carrie B. Nairn is now the Secretary and Agent.

The Society was founded through the active personal efforts of Miss Marion Starr, who, together with her sister, Mrs. Hadley, proffered the use of rooms on the main business street (convenient of access) for an office and the home of the Society. This office they have always occupied free of rent. The rooms are pleasantly furnished, heated by steam, contain a small library, and are open every day in the year at stated hours. The records of the Society are kept in the office.

The expenses are for a janitor for the rooms, stationery, postage, and the expenses of the annual meeting. But the main expense is the salary of the Agent, who is paid \$40 per month. The average annual expenses of the Society since its organization have been approximately \$500, or about \$7,000 in the aggregate. This has all been contributed by citizens of Burlington interested in the work, and has been procured by personal solicitation, which is made in the month of December in each year.

A daily journal is kept by the Agent, showing a full history of every case, that is, of every person or every family known to be an applicant for charitable relief in this city. A condensed memorandum of this information is kept upon cards forming the card catalog, which is always available to

the public and accessible to anyone who wishes to make inquiry.

There is, in the office, a record to date of every person (or family) who has received aid from the county or from the Relief Society or from any church or society, or in any way belonging to the pauper class. This information is available to anyone by telephone or otherwise, and special written reports are made promptly upon request, giving full information regarding any case.

The Agent, Miss Nairn, is a woman of ability and long experience, who devotes her time to the work of the Society. She is constantly employed making investigations and devising means for best helping the poor and unfortunate in the community. She confers daily with the Overseer of the Poor, receives daily reports from the County Physician of illness in pauper families, and is consulted upon all questions of public relief. No case is placed upon the county list against the advice of the Society.

The Agent works in close coöperation especially with the Relief Society, the King's Daughters, and the various churches. Both the Relief Society and the King's Daughters grant their relief in accordance with Miss Nairn's suggestions. Many times the County Supervisors and Overseers of the Poor have publicly recognized the value of the Society and have frequently offered financial assistance, which has uniformly been declined, except in one instance.

This work is not heralded in the newspapers, but is of value in dealing with the pauper question. For years the Society maintained, at its own expense, a wood and stone yard as a work test to assist the authorities in handling the

tramp evil. This is no longer necessary as the county maintains such a test, largely through the influence of the Society. There is little publication of the Society's work. We have always gone upon the theory that would-be paupers are less apt to take care of themselves and their families if they feel that they can go to a "Charity Society" readily and be helped, and, therefore, the less said about relief work and public charity the better. The aim is to maintain an efficient, industrious, watchful, working organization, with intelligent agents who use their good sense while they sympathize, but have as little notoriety about it as possible.

The Agents of the Society attend conventions. Several times the Society has been represented at national conventions of charities and correction; and it has had eminent speakers from abroad deliver addresses in Burlington upon the subject of charity.

The work of the Society is highly appreciated in this city, and perhaps as much is being done in this direction as can be done wisely in a community of this size, with few paupers and plenty of work for all who are willing to work.

The keynote of organized charity in Burlington is not to do as little as you can for the poor, but to do all you can to find out why they are poor and make every endeavor to put them in a position where they can take care of themselves. If they cannot do that, then have them assisted by friends or relatives if possible, without publicity; and only allow them to go upon the county list and be recognized as permanent paupers as a last resort, especially if there are children in the family.

THE ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF DES MOINES¹

The citizens of Des Moines were first aroused to the need of giving better and more scientific care to those in distress by the Ministerial Association, which, on November 20, 1887, decided that a more humane and scientific method should be developed. The objects as stated at this meeting were to reduce vagrancy, prevent duplication, secure proper and adequate relief, elevate the home life, and prevent children from becoming paupers. The methods to be used were coöperation with all existing agencies, registration of all families and individuals needing assistance, and investigation in order that aid might be secured from other societies or from the funds of the organization. The association decided to include "volunteer visitors" as one of the features of the work. The organization was to be of an auxiliary nature, assisting the Ladies Aid Society in visiting confirmed paupers and families tending toward pauperism with the idea of preventing the latter from becoming permanent paupers. The Society was to aid the Orphans Home and Free Dispensary, and to encourage personal giving among the wealthy. They planned the establishment of an Employment Bureau in order that those seeking aid might be assisted in a way most beneficial to themselves. For the tramp and the man out of employment they planned a "Way Farers' Lodge" or "Friendly Inn."

The organizers of this movement decided that all the churches and charitable societies of the city, as well as the Mayor, Chairman of Board of Health, Chairman of the Hos-

¹ From data furnished by David A. Glascoff, Secretary of Associated Charities, Des Moines.

pital Committee, and the Superintendent of the Police, should constitute the controlling body. They called a meeting November 21, 1887, in the Y. M. C. A. parlors. Attorney General Baker presided and Rev. Geo. C. Henry acted as secretary of the meeting. Among those most active in this meeting were Dr. H. O. Breeden, Dr. Van Antwerp, Rabbi Fendenthal, Dr. Fisher, Dr. Moore, Judge Cavanagh, Messrs. Merrill, Ottis, McVey, Berryhill, and Becky Young. The following officers were elected: President, J. H. Merrill; 1st Vice President, T. S. Wright; 2nd Vice President, W. H. Flemming; Secretary, James G. Berryhill; and Treasurer, E. F. Witter.

Rev. H. O. Breeden drafted the first constitution of the society, which was named the Charity Organization Society of Des Moines. Their first meeting was held on November 28, 1887, when they decided that the council of control should be composed of representatives from each denomination in the city and from all the charitable institutions. General offices were provided, and on December 13, 1887, John D. Bradish accepted the position of General Secretary. His report, covering the period from December 13, 1887, to March 1, 1888, shows that there were two hundred and seventy-two families consisting of 1143 individuals applying for aid. Of this number two hundred and thirty-six were white and thirty-six colored. They were divided as to localities as follows: 108 families on the west side, 147 on the east side, and 17 on the south side. Of the total number, 209 were given aid in one form or another, while 63 were refused. They were divided as to social conditions into professional beggars, imposters, thriftless people, and intemperate.

The following extract from the *Iowa State Register* of January 5, 1888, published over the signature of W. Christy, Overseer of the Poor, shows the feeling of the community toward the Charity Organization Society at that time; and it also shows the closeness of the coöperation between the county Overseer of the Poor and this Society:—

The late movement of citizens for the purpose of concentrating and systematizing relief work in the city is one to be commended, if carried out according to their proposed plan. The successful work of this plan in other cities gives us every assurance that such an organization here properly supported will accomplish much good, and when permanently established on the basis of true charity and sound business methods will be asked to take charge of the relief system of the entire city.

On January 7, 1888, the Overseer of the Poor opened his office in quarters occupied by the Charity Organization Society and was in close coöperation with the Society, accepting their recommendations for relief and having them investigate all cases coming under his notice. The need was very strongly felt at this time for a lodging house in order that the tramp and the man out of work might receive proper care. Public men were interested in this movement and aided it somewhat; but very little was accomplished.

In 1891 the Charity Organization Society moved into quarters in the city hall, which were furnished gratuitously by the city council. It was then found advisable to divide the city into districts, for each of which a visitor was appointed. The general office was kept open only during cold weather; and a careful record was kept of the amount of provisions given to the poor, but little or no attention was paid to preserving a careful history of the families.

When Miss Charlotte Goff took up the work as General Secretary in May, 1895, she felt the need of an office open during the entire year. This she succeeded in securing. And here we note a change in the methods of the Charity Organization Society. Formerly it was simply a relief-giving society; while now almost no relief was given, but great stress was laid on investigation and securing from other sources adequate relief. Up to this time little thought had been given to the harm done by duplicating the work of others; but now every effort was made to prevent this overlapping.

The city was again divided into districts, one person being responsible for each district. Coöperation with the Overseer of the Poor became very nearly perfect, a large amount of assistance for the poor being obtained from that office on the recommendation of the General Secretary. Through the coöperation of the County Supervisors, the Charity Organization Society secured the contract street work, which was used in giving employment to those able bodied men asking charity. This work opened up the employment feature of the work—a department continued in one or another form until the present time.

Miss Goff, appreciating the need of training women in domestic service, opened up a sewing room where instruction under the careful guidance of a skilled woman could be received. Girls classes were established in southeast Des Moines, and much visiting of the poor was done in all parts of the city by volunteers.

The "Provident Fund," which was a feature of this work in the spring of 1895, had for its object the instillment of

thrift in homes of the needy by collecting weekly such small amounts as the people could spare. This continued as part of the work until the schools took it up and established saving stations in each school building.

For many years the Society depended for the greater portion of its support on an annual "charity ball." This was abandoned in 1903, and the support of the Society was secured from churches, fraternal and benevolent societies, business firms, and private individuals who were urged to support the work because of its value to the community.

Miss Charlotta Goff, having been offered a position with the Associated Charities of Washington, D. C., resigned her work as General Secretary, and on November 20, 1901, Mr. John Beardsley took up the work. The efficiency of Mr. Beardsley's work and the condition of the Associated Charities are well reflected in a resolution unanimously adopted by the directory board of the Commercial Exchange on October 15, 1902.

Resolved, By the directory board of the Commercial Exchange of Des Moines, that we heartily endorse the methods and work of this association, which effects a material saving to the taxpayer by reducing rather than increasing the number of families dependent upon the public and upon charity for support; that we pledge ourselves and urge all our members of the exchange to give no relief to applicants except upon the investigation and recommendation of the Associated Charities; and to refer to this association, for investigation and report, all persons who may apply to us for relief.¹

The General Secretary's report shows that for the year ending April 20, 1903, the Associated Charities had dealt

¹ Quoted from the *Twelfth Annual Report of the Associated Charities of Des Moines, Iowa.*

with 186 families aggregating 655 individuals, of whom 294 were adults and 361 were children. The floods of 1902 and 1903 gave the Associated Charities an opportunity for additional work. Over 300 families were aided during the flood of 1902, and over 1500 families were aided during the flood of 1903. The extra work caused by the flood necessitated the hiring of two assistants to the General Secretary for several months during the summer of 1903.

A very important step, and one which promises much for organized charity in Des Moines, was the organization of the city conference¹ on November 12, 1903. It is an attempt to bring all the charitable and philanthropic organizations of the city into friendly conference.

The Treasurer's report shows that \$1573.11 was raised by subscription for the year ending April 24, 1903; that \$952.41 of this sum was spent for salaries; \$188.76 for relief and contingent expenses; and \$174.00 for rent. The amount raised by subscription was donated by five hundred and forty different individuals and organizations.

Mr. David A. Glascoff, of the Associated Charities of Washington, D. C., took up the work as General Secretary January 1, 1905, and has been following along the lines laid down by his predecessors. Friendly visiting has been emphasized, a lady assistant giving her entire time to this phase of the work. The provident fund, which had been allowed to lapse, has been revived. A great many cases applying for aid from the county are now investigated by the Associated Charities.

¹ The first officers of the conference were: Hon. G. S. Robinson, President; Mrs. D. B. Lyons, Vice President; Mr. John Beardsley, Secretary; and Mr. B. C. Ward, Treasurer.

The *Report of the Associated Charities* for eight months ending September 1, 1905, shows eight hundred eighty-nine applications for services to distressed families, four hundred thirty of which were reported by the needy themselves, and four hundred fifty-nine by coöperating organizations and individuals. Seventy-one families were given material relief from the funds of the Associated Charities; two hundred and twelve have received aid from other sources; and seventy-nine families were furnished with employment. The essential facts in four thousand four hundred and eleven cases are now on file in the office of the Associated Charities and immediately available to anyone interested.

The problems confronting the Associated Charities of Des Moines are numerous. There are no laws regulating the erection of tenements or condemning those now unfit for human habitation. There are no laws relative to overcrowding and sanitation. There is need for a better enforcement of the compulsory education law and a more rigid following up of the child labor laws. Without a better enforcement of these laws the outlook for the children of the poor is very dark; and the citizens of Des Moines will continue to pay taxes for the support of those whom they have pauperized.

The Associated Charities needs at least one trained nurse who will give her entire time to "district nursing." This has been supplied in part by the Methodist Hospital, but not to the extent that they feel it should be. A visiting nurse needs properly prepared food for those under her care; and thus there is need of a "Diet Kitchen." Steps are being taken to secure such a kitchen as a department of the Associated Charities.

THE ORGANIZED CHARITY ASSOCIATION OF MARSHALLTOWN¹

The Organized Charity Association of Marshalltown was formed in April, 1893, with Rev. F. E. Judd as the leader and organizer. A constitution and by-laws were adopted. The society was founded not upon mere sentiment, but upon strictly business principles. The first officers of the society were: President, Rev. F. E. Judd; Vice President, Mrs. Jos. Holmes; Secretary, Mr. C. W. Price; Treasurer, Mrs. J. L. Williams. The need which called such an organization into existence is found in the first circular printed by the Association under the title of *Some Facts*:—

There are many homes in this city, including those of self-supporting working men, destitute of a single newspaper, and there are hundreds of families which have no reading matter that makes for better living. Two-thirds of the fathers and mothers in these homes read vile and trashy novels. One-half of the mothers in these destitute homes are very ignorant, some of them incapable of making even the simplest garments for the children, all of them incompetent to use prudently the small wages earned by their husbands.

A large per cent of the poorer classes, including self-supporting workmen, never go to church. They say: We haven't clothes good enough. * * * * * Some of our oldest workers testify to the bad moral influence in many of these homes. The families of little children are growing up in the midst of this pollution to curse our community in future years.

During the year of 1893, \$2412.17 was spent to aid 150 families in this city. The Poor Master testifies that seventy-five per cent of these families could have furnished one or more persons to do manual labor in recompense for this assistance. Much of the money given

¹ The information concerning organized charity in Marshalltown was furnished to the writer through the kindness of Mrs. Whitehead and Mrs. Alice G. Fletcher, President of the Organized Charity Association of Marshalltown.

to the poor is bad money because it pauperizes and destroys manhood, even little children become beggars.

The problem which should concern every serious-minded citizen, and the problem which the Organized Charity Association is endeavoring to solve, is how to furnish work to every able bodied person who applies for aid, and, if necessary, teach them how to do the work.

In October, 1893, an Agent or Manager¹ was employed at a salary of twenty-five dollars a month. It is the duty of the Manager to investigate all cases of need reported by the district visitors and provide relief. This officer also has charge of a store room in which is stored different kinds of goods, donated by the generous public. The educational part of the work is made prominent, and the Manager distributes reading matter not only to the homes of the needy, but also to the homes of working men where no reading matter is found. It is the rule to give nothing gratuitously, but to require a small recompense either in work or money, except with those who are unable to work. The motto of the society, "To help others to help themselves," is constantly emphasized. Meetings are held monthly, at which time the Manager makes a complete report of the work of the month. Mass meetings have often been held where all the philanthropic organizations of the city took part, thereby creating a general interest.

In 1896 a Sunday school was organized in a little building owned by the associated charities in a locality where it was very much needed. The school was a non-sectarian school until 1901 when it was given into the hands of one of the Congregational churches.

¹ Mrs. P. M. Sutton was the first Manager.

When the society was organized the finances were kept up by a membership fee of one dollar a year. Later the plan of circulating a book was tried and is in use at the present time, together with a subscription list. The membership fee having been abolished, various entertainments have been given to raise money. A May party netted \$151; a dancing party, \$144.50; a charity concert, \$160.75; and a lecture by Jane Addams, \$60.80. At Thanksgiving time the store room is replenished very materially by the school children carrying gifts to the school room. Donations in money often come to the Manager to be used for special purposes.

During the time of the activity of the society it may be interesting to know that several families have received aid and encouragement in time of trial, which has enabled them to rise out of poverty and become self-supporting. Some are now living on farms and look back to the Organized Charity Association as the friend who gave them aid, without which they would have been unable to secure their present economic condition.

Some are widows who while their children were small could hardly have kept them together without the help and friendship which the society supplied. These children are now at work, and many of them prominent citizens of the town. The chief difficulty with the organization in the past has been a financial one. But at the present time there is a movement on foot which promises to remedy this difficulty by securing the coöperation of all the philanthropic organizations of the city.

THE ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF SIOUX CITY¹

In January, 1903, Rev. J. D. O. Powers, in his annual address as President of the Humane Society, called attention to the need of an organization of the charities of Sioux City for better coöperation in their work. A committee was appointed to consider the proposal. The committee held a number of meetings and took some preliminary steps for the creation of the society.

Early in November a new impulse was given to the movement by the attendance of a number of persons from Sioux City at the meetings of the State Conference of Charities and Correction at Des Moines. On their return a meeting, called by the Humane Society, brought together representatives of every organization doing charity work in the city.

The meeting was held Friday afternoon, November 27, at the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. There was a large attendance and great unanimity was shown. The meeting voted unanimously in favor of the organization of an associated charities. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution and to nominate a board of directors.

Organization was completed on December 14 by the adoption of a constitution and the election of a Board of Directors. The constitution is patterned after that of the Associated Charities of St. Paul. It states that "the general purpose and plan of operation shall be to promote the coöperation of the several public and private charitable agencies of Sioux City; to establish a central registration office with the record of the charitable work of all said agencies for their use and benefit; to coöperate with said charitable

¹ From information secured through the kindness of Professor F. E. Haynes.

agencies in such investigations as they may desire, or as may be necessary to make accurate and complete records, and to promote the general welfare of the poor by means of friendly visitors; to promote plans for the encouragement of small savings and any other agencies for the development of a spirit of independence and self-help; to inform the public in regard to the general work of the charitable organizations of Sioux City; to exchange information with other like organizations throughout the country, all without interference with the management of any existing charitable organizations and without administering relief from its own treasury. Considerable discussion was provoked by the last clause of the article just quoted. It was finally adopted after it had been made clear that to grant relief directly from its own treasury was contrary to the fundamental principles of its work. Such relief properly comes from the funds of other charitable societies established to minister to special needs. Only in emergencies should the funds come from the organizing society itself.

The officers elected were: T. Arthur Thompson, President; Rev. Ralph P. Smith and Dr. Agnes Eichelberger, Vice Presidents; Mrs. H. I. Brown, Secretary; and D. E. Hardy, Treasurer. The remaining members of the Board of Directors were Mrs. T. S. Ingersoll, Mrs. J. M. Cohen, Mr. A. L. Galinsky, Mrs. J. Schulien, Mr. A. Van Wagenen, Mrs. S. P. Marsh, Rabbi Eugene Mannheimer, Dr. P. B. McLaughlin, Rev. J. L. Kerby, Rev. J. F. Watts, Rev. Dr. F. Newhall White, Mr. W. P. Manley, Professor F. E. Haynes, Rev. O. W. Ferm, Rev. S. L. Chandler, Rev. J. D. O. Powers, Mr. E. E. Stephenson, Professor J. G. Hobson,

and Mr. N. Tiedeman. The Board of Directors consists, therefore, of twenty-five members, eight being elected each year. An Executive Committee of five members, in addition to the officers, will act during the intervals between the monthly meetings of the directors. The Executive Committee consists of Mr. W. P. Manley, Rev. F. Newhall White, Rev. J. L. Kerby, Mr. E. E. Stephenson, and Professor F. E. Haynes.

Early in February, 1904, the actual work of the society began with the arrival of the new General Secretary, Miss Charlotta Goff. Miss Goff was for a number of years Secretary of the Associated Charities of Des Moines, and has lately been Assistant Secretary of the Associated Charities of Washington, D. C. The city council allowed the General Secretary seventy-five dollars per month as salary. This system continued until the spring of 1905, when Miss Goff, the General Secretary, resigned, and the city council refused to continue the support of a Secretary. The association at present is in a dormant state owing to the financial problem and the absence of a General Secretary.

THE ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF COUNCIL BLUFFS

The Associated Charities of Council Bluffs was incorporated in January, 1901, and differs very much from any other organization in the State in that it emphasizes primarily the care of small children. While as an association it gives outside assistance and aid to some extent, both in finding work for those needing it and in coöperating with other associations, its special efforts are in caring for needy little children and thus helping the parents to an honest living by

their own work. In order to carry out this plan the Associated Charities has organized and supported "The Creche." This institution is described in a circular issued in 1902 as follows:—

Having purchased a permanent home (though it means much self-sacrifice and struggle until it is paid for), a noble work for the unfortunate infants of Council Bluffs has been begun. Here are over thirty children of various ages, from the infant of a few days to the boys and girls of twelve years, under Christian love and care. For a small sum parents may have for their children shelter, food, clothing and care of a trained nurse under the supervision of the Superintendent and of the best physicians of the city. The children of suitable age are sent regularly to school and are trained carefully in morals and in behaviour.

Some of these are children of hard working parents who cannot maintain a home, yet are glad to pay what they can afford towards the care of their children and at the same time support themselves. Some are waifs knowing no love but that freely given them in the nursery. The Superintendent gives generously of her strength and experience and is mother to the numerous family which fills the cribs upstairs and crowds the tables below. Most of the clothing for the children is furnished by the Association partly through contributions, very important help in this line being given by circles of ladies who meet to sew for the *Creche*, making many little garments and mending the well worn piles of clothes fresh from the laundry. The advantage of the *Creche* is that whenever the parent wishes, the child may be taken home again. Parental ties are not broken and parental responsibility has not been lessened but rather increased. Visiting days at the *Creche* are Tuesday and Friday of each week, and visitors are heartily welcome. A visiting nurse has been employed by the Associated Charities to assist the Superintendent at the *Creche* and also to help needy families in the city.

The association aims to secure the coöperation of all the

different charitable organizations as well as the officials of the city. The Mayor, the Chief of Police, the Overseer of the Poor, and all pastors of churches are ex-officio members of the Associated Charities.

THE ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF DAVENPORT

The Associated Charities of Davenport having turned over its work to another organization has not been as successful as some of the above associations.

The society was organized on December 4, 1886, and opened its office on January 1, 1887, in the basement of the old high school building. Several prominent citizens were among its first promoters.¹ The first officers were: Mr. Edward Russell, President; Mr. N. Kuhnen and Mr. S. P. Bryant, Vice Presidents; Mr. Jens Lorenzen, Treasurer; and Dr. C. H. Preston, Secretary.

The motto of the association was, "Not Alms but a Friend." Its object was to secure the harmonious coöperation of the different charities of the city to the ends that begging and imposture might be diminished, that children might be prevented from growing up as paupers, that adequate relief might be promptly secured in worthy cases, and that industry, thrift, and self-dependence might be encouraged through friendly intercourse, advice, and sympathy.

From the beginning, the society maintained a corps of "friendly visitors." For several years Capt. Bryson allowed the society to send tramps to his woodyard for work, thus

¹ N. Kuhnen, Dr. Jennie McCowen, Rev. M. L. Williston, the late Mrs. E. H. McCollough, Miss Phoebe W. Sudlow, Dr. C. H. Preston, Jens Lorenzen, E. P. Lynch, S. P. Bryant, J. E. Lindsay, F. H. Griggs, J. E. Freeman, Rev. D. C. Garrett, J. H. and Charles E. Harrison, Rev. J. G. Ellis, Major G. P. McClelland, and Edward Russell.

furnishing a labor test and giving to those willing to work a meal and lodging.

Up to January 1, 1891, 703 applications had been received, representing 1,350 persons. Industrial relief was made a special feature of the society's activity, and much work has been procured of both a permanent and temporary character. The society has also secured the adoption of needy children in good homes.

In July, 1897, a "Loan Department" was created to benefit the worthy poor. The "Penny Savings Agency" to encourage small savings among the poor was organized in April, 1888, and proved very helpful. The expense of carrying on the work of the society in 1890 was \$557.

The Ladies Industrial Relief Society, an organization which had been in existence several years, was reorganized and incorporated on February 28, 1891. By the year 1900 the Associated Charities had turned over its work to this organization which is managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of ten persons elected for a term of three years. The object of the organization is stated in Article I of the Articles of Incorporation which reads as follows:—

The business and objects of the corporation shall be to relieve the necessities of the deserving poor, and to train their children in methods of self-support. To these ends the corporation shall labor to maintain a relief department in coöperation with other benevolent agencies of the city; establish and maintain a home where girls shall be taught sewing, cooking, and other household industries and economies; where women shall be given an opportunity to help themselves by their own labor, and where may be established a *creche* and a kindergarten for the care and training of young children—all of

which must be conditional on the support given to the corporation by friends of these several enterprises.

In the administration of benefactions in this Society no distinction shall be made as to nationality, color, or religious belief. All its affairs shall be conducted on the broad principles of humanity, charity, and good-will to all, and its government kept free from sectarian control.

In Article V of the by-laws a "Bureau of Relief" is provided for in the following manner:—

A Bureau of Relief, composed of a Relief Committee of three, and a Board of Ward Managers, consisting of one Ward Manager and one or more assistants, for each ward of the city, shall be chosen annually by the Society.

The Agent of out-door relief employed by the Society shall also be *ex-officio* a member of this Bureau.

The Relief Committee shall have in charge all relief supplies of food, fuel, clothing, etc.—obtained by gift or purchase—and hold the same subject to the call of the Ward Managers and the Agent; and shall keep account of all receipts and disbursements, specifying from whom received and to whom given out; and make monthly and annual report to the Society.

The Bureau of Relief shall coöperate with the county officials and with other benevolent agencies in the relief work of the city. The Chairman of the Relief Committee is authorized to draw from the treasury five dollars monthly for emergency relief.

In Article VI the duties of the Ward Managers and Agent are given as follows:—

SECTION 1. To the Ward Managers is entrusted the distribution of relief supplies.

That no suffering be caused by delay, all persons reported as needing assistance may be helped at once, but no one whose circumstances are not well known shall continue to receive aid from the

Society until investigation has been made by the Agent and such person or family visited by the Ward Manager.

The Ward Manager shall be expected to sustain to those under her care the relation of a "friendly visitor," a sympathetic and trusted counselor, one more helpful than a mere giver of alms.

Each Ward Manager is authorized to draw from the treasury five dollars monthly, and for the months of December, January, and February, an additional five dollars; and all cash expenses incurred by the Ward Manager must be paid from this fund, unless specially authorized by the Society.

SEC. 2. To better accomplish the aims of the Bureau of Relief, the Agent shall work in harmony with the Relief Committee and Ward Managers:

(1) To promote the harmonious action of the different charities of Davenport, that indiscriminate and duplicate giving may be avoided, reducing vagrancy and preventing pauperism;

(2) To secure reliable information regarding every needy person in the city — so far as it can be done — and register the same for the benefit of coöperating charitable agencies and individuals;

(3) To make investigation as thorough as possible, and to see that all deserving cases of destitution are promptly relieved: By obtaining employment if possible; if not, by securing aid from public authorities, charitable societies, and individuals;

(4) To diffuse knowledge on subjects connected with the relief of the poor, especially regarding the charity organizations of the city.

SEC. 3. The Agent shall leave in charge of the Bureau of Relief all needy persons not otherwise provided for, and report monthly the disposition of every application for aid.

She shall observe the office hours provided for, and during the same welcome and assist in all legitimate ways all persons calling in the interest of any benevolent work.

From the above it is seen that the Bureau of Relief, administered by the Relief Committee, Board of Ward Man-

agers, and the Agent is in reality the associated charities of Davenport at the present time.

In addition to the relief work done by the organization, a laundry which has been successfully conducted has given employment to forty-six persons during the year 1903-04, paying \$1,435.05 in wages to these people. Besides the relief given in this way the laundry affords a practical training to unskilled women. A nursery has also been very successfully conducted in connection with the organization, caring for forty-five different children during the year ending May 1, 1904.

The Agent's annual report for 1904 shows 293 applicants for aid; 216 applicants for work; the number of pieces of second-hand clothing received, 2,894; and the number of new pieces of clothing received, 45. There were 259 baskets of provisions given out during the months of January, February, and March. The Relief Committee has expended about \$100 in money during the year ending May 1, 1904.

SOME OTHER EFFORTS

The work of the Charity Organization Society of Dubuque is very unsatisfactory at the present time owing to the fact that the different charitable organizations of the city have been working along separate lines. The Humane Society is at present, perhaps, doing the most charity work outside of the two Catholic societies, which have been noted above.¹ There is, however, a movement on foot at the present time looking toward a closer organization of the different societies which are doing charity work.

¹ See page 92.

There is also an attempt being made at Waterloo at the present time to coördinate the different churches and other charitable organizations of the city in order to secure investigation and more discrimination in the administration of charity.

The people of Cedar Falls have a rather unique method of taking care of their poor. In the fall they organize and then appoint an Overseer for each ward, who together with the other officers of the Associated Charities constitute the Executive Committee. In this way the work is carried on during the winter months. In the spring the organization is disbanded.

Nor would an article on organized charity in Iowa be complete without mention of the work at Fort Dodge, Grinnell, Oskaloosa, Clinton, Iowa Falls, and Mount Pleasant.

Thus, it is seen that only a few of the larger cities of the State have made any attempt to organize the different charities of the city in order to avoid the overlapping of work. Without a systematic organization of the different societies and without coöperation in their work, it is impossible to do justice not only to those who contribute to the cause of charity, but (more important) to that large number of persons who are every year being made permanent paupers by indiscriminate giving.

CLARENCE W. WASSAM

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY