

MAY WE CLAIM A FEW MOMENTS OF YOUR TIME FOR

A "NEWSLETTER" issued by the RETARDED CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

No. 1

March 1956

AS A STARTING POINT, may we tell you that up to a very few years ago in the United States, Canada and Newfoundland, no class in the community was more neglected, more helpless than the mentally retarded children and their parents. Their lot was tragic in many ways. We shall not go into details but we are glad to be able to tell you that right here in St. John's something worth while has been accomplished in the past eighteen months.

SOME OF YOU have learned about what has been done to help retarded children in St. John's through press and radio or perhaps by attendance at our meetings. We hope that others, whom we are meeting for the first time through this Newsletter, will become interested in our work and allow us the happiness of including them in our circle of friends.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS that a beginning has been made in a field which has everywhere been neglected. Statistics indicate that here in Newfoundland there are probably 1,400 mentally retarded children. In all Canada, the number is close to 500,000. Does that show you how immense is the problem which has suddenly and recently come to community attention across the Dominion.

THERE ARE MANY GROUPS like ours in Canada, all dedicated to finding practical solutions to the complex problems involved in helping retarded children. They can be helped. In helping them, many more are assisted because wherever there is a retarded child, the problem involves the entire family.

THE FIRST STEP IN ST. JOHN'S came with the decision of the United Church Conference to allow a training centre, known as the Children's Home Training School, to be set up in the U.C. Orphanage under the auspices of the Orphanage Board. This school was opened in November 1954, with Miss Mollie Dingle as its teacher.

IT WAS SOON REALIZED that this problem had community dimensions. It was decided, therefore, to form the Retarded Children's Aid Society and a second school was established with Mrs. E. Murphy as teacher. The first school has ten pupils, the second nine. These are a small fraction of the number of retarded children in this city.

WHY, YOU MAY ASK, are the classes so small? The reason is that these children need very special attention. In fact, volunteer workers to assist the teachers must go each day to both schools from 9 a.m. to noon. They are making a wonderful contribution to a very meritorious work.

MAY WE CLAIM A FEW MOMENTS OF YOUR TIME FOR

A "NEWSLETTER" issued by the RETARDED CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

No. 1

March 1956

AS A STARTING POINT, may we tell you that up to a very few years ago in the United States, Canada and Newfoundland, no class in the community was more neglected, more helpless than the mentally retarded children and their parents. Their lot was tragic in many ways. We shall not go into details but we are glad to be able to tell you that right here in St. John's something worth while has been accomplished in the past eighteen months.

SOME OF YOU have learned about what has been done to help retarded children in St. John's through press and radio or perhaps by attendance at our meetings. We hope that others, whom we are meeting for the first time through this Newsletter, will become interested in our work and allow us the happiness of including them in our circle of friends.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS that a beginning has been made in a field which has everywhere been neglected. Statistics indicate that here in Newfoundland there are probably 1,400 mentally retarded children. In all Canada, the number is close to 500,000. Does that show you how immense is the problem which has suddenly and recently come to community attention across the Dominion.

THERE ARE MANY GROUPS like ours in Canada, all dedicated to finding practical solutions to the complex problems involved in helping retarded children. They can be helped. In helping them, many more are assisted because wherever there is a retarded child, the problem involves the entire family.

THE FIRST STEP IN ST. JOHN'S came with the decision of the United Church Conference to allow a training centre, known as the Children's Home Training School, to be set up in the U.C. Orphanage under the auspices of the Orphanage Board. This school was opened in November 1954, with Miss Mollie Dingle as its teacher.

IT WAS SOON REALIZED that this problem had community dimensions. It was decided, therefore, to form the Retarded Children's Aid Society and a second school was established with Mrs. E. Murphy as teacher. The first school has ten pupils, the second nine. These are a small fraction of the number of retarded children in this city.

WHY, YOU MAY ASK, are the classes so small? The reason is that these children need very special attention. In fact, volunteer workers to assist the teachers must go each day to both schools from 9 a.m. to noon. They are making a wonderful contribution to a very meritorious work.