

TUESDAY LUNCHEON MEETING

JUNE 4, 1929

The meeting convened at 2:00 P. M., in the Breakers Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J., Dr. Samuel C. Kohs of Brooklyn presiding.

CHAIRMAN KOHS: In view of the fact that there is another meeting scheduled shortly after this, we are anxious to expedite the business of this session as much as possible.

I presume that no conference is in the true sense a conference unless all those who are in attendance have an opportunity to participate and make their contribution. I was struck particularly by that truism, if it may be called such, yesterday afternoon when Dr. Rubinow, in conducting his meeting, called attention to the fact that perhaps we ought to hear from our clients with regard to the medical social service which is being done for them.

I presume that the time will come when the National Conference for Jewish Social Service will in some fashion make it possible for the attendance at the conference of those people whom we are supposed to benefit. How that can be done I don't know. Dr. Lowenstein recommends that we invite them for lunch. That is one way.

The purpose of this luncheon is to make possible a participation and a contribution that hasn't come to us in previous years: one reason being the fact that we had no Training School of Jewish Social Service; another, that perhaps we did not think about it. We did not think that possibly the younger element in the field of social work had some contribution to make.

Those of us who have been developing the program this year had a feeling that in view of the age of the Training School, in view of the number of graduates already in the field, and in view of the fact that the Training School has already sunk its foundations to such a degree that it has been able to gaze about and acquire some perspective, that undoubtedly its graduates and the students even now in training might have some point of view or conception of the field that we who have been in the work day in and day out, year in and year out, may perhaps not visualize.

It was with that idea in mind that we approached the Training School and brought this matter to the attention of the director and suggested the possibility of such a contribution at this conference. It was thought that we might secure two contributions, one from an alumnus who has already been in the field, and one from a student now in training.

We secured the person in the field who would make his contribution, and as far as those who are now in training are concerned, we arranged for a competitive test and a number of very fine papers were presented. A committee of three selected the best paper for presentation today. Regarding the submission of those papers I wish to say that every one of them was extremely valuable and there was great difficulty in making selection of one of the papers; in fact, if the committee had had its way all the four or five papers that were presented for selection would have been presented

here, but realizing that the time available would be short and that after all we are making a modest beginning, we were forced to limit ourselves to one paper, and, as I indicated, it was extremely difficult to select one out of the four or five because all of those were so splendid in their general handling of the material that was involved.

One feature that undoubtedly will come to us from this presentation this noon will be a questioning of many things which we perhaps take for granted. Questioning in the field of scientific endeavor is certainly a wholesome and a profitable mental attitude. I presume if Jewish social work has possibilities for the future, any questioning that may be done either by the older members or by the younger members, either by professionals or by the laity, will be extremely valuable in forcing us to check our fundamentals, to test our principles, to re-evaluate our values and to reorient ourselves with regard to our objectives. So if this questioning seems a little disturbing this noon I hope it will be taken in true scientific spirit.

I wish to express at this time regret that one of those who has been listed as a member of the group to discuss the papers will not be here. Mr. Morris Waldman was compelled to leave because of an infection in his eye. He was very anxious to be here. He didn't leave us any memorandum, but those who are left to discuss the papers will, I am sure, fill the vacuum that unfortunately Mr. Waldman has left.

It gives me, therefore, great pleasure to introduce first Mr. Charles Schottland, now a student in training at the Training School for Jewish Social Service, who will speak on "Social Work as Seen by a Student."

JEWISH SOCIAL WORK AS IT APPEARS TO A STUDENT

CHARLES IRWIN SCHOTTLAND

In discussing Jewish Social Work from the standpoint of a student, I want to make clear at the outset that I am not attempting to set forth what students in general think of social work but only how one particular student was impressed by it. For it is obvious that the term "student" covers a number of diverse and different personalities and therefore a variety of reactions to this particular subject. I should like to say also that from among the variety of approaches to the subject of this paper which suggested themselves to me, I chose the questioning approach. It seemed to me that if I could make any contribution at all, it would be in giving you some idea of the questions which a student of social work is confronted with. I could not hope to interest you by telling you what social work is or should be. That is not a task for a novice. But it did seem to me that you, as established social workers, should be interested in the thought processes and problems of a student. I