

### A New and Valuable Book

Within a few days there will appear a 135-page book, "Boys' Clubs," by Dr. Charles S. Bernheimer, superintendent of the Hebrew Educational Society of Brooklyn, and Mr. Jacob M. Cohen, club director, Recreation Center 20 of New York. The Baker and Taylor Company of New York will act as trade-selling agents (\$1.00). Since the appearance of the "Handbook of Settlements," prepared for the Russell Sage Foundation by Robert A. Woods and Albert J. Kennedy, in 1911, where for the first time settlement workers had the opportunity of learning the vast extent of social efforts along these lines, and where in 413 settlements in the various cities in the country, boys' and girls' clubs are conducted, some on a large, some on a small scale, probably running into the many thousands, it was found logical and obvious that sooner or later a handbook on the philosophy of club work should be prepared. Sporadic attempts have been made by a few social workers to fill this apparent need, but none of these seem to have coordinated this important branch of settlement work in as systematic a manner as does this book under consideration.

The book will be welcomed as a text, reference and guide book for both the thousands of club leaders (most of them volunteers and without much experience in social work), as well as the few hundred thousand boys and girls who are members of clubs throughout the settlements of the country, recruited often from the street gang, and through the club prepared for democratic citizenship. The book is divided into twelve chapters and contains valuable discussion on such points as: The boy and the gang; the club as a miniature government; the qualifications of a club leader; the problems of the internal management of a club; the gymnasium and the playground as auxiliaries to the club; the social and the literary features of a club; a parliamentary guide; such club aids as topics for discussion, literary hints, declamations and plays, also club miscellanea, containing sample of constitutions, methods of preparing minutes, a classified list of clubs, suggesting names, how to keep reports and accounts, and various club cheers. The chapter on the club world gives the *raison*

*d'etre* of a club and the extent of boys' clubdom in the United States. Although this book is devoted to boys' clubs, the authors felt that it would not be amiss to devote at least one chapter to the question of girls' clubs, as, according to their opinion, reasoning it out quite logically, there are, without question, quite a number of features in a girl's club that have much in common with those of a boys' club.

PHILIP L. SEMAN.

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**M**EMBERS of the National Conference of Jewish Charities and subscribers to JEWISH CHARITIES are requested to save the copies of JEWISH CHARITIES sent them monthly, as the proceedings of the meeting at Memphis will be published in JEWISH CHARITIES, and will not be issued separately in book-form. An index will be printed with each volume of JEWISH CHARITIES, and those who will bind their volumes of this magazine will have the proceedings and other interesting matter in permanent form. It will not be possible for the office to supply extra copies, except in a case here or there; and we therefore ask you to

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# JEWISH CHARITIES

## FEDERATING FEDERATIONS

Mr. Fromenson's article on the "Federation of Federations" will be read with interest, for it carries the organization of charity work further than has ever been suggested before, and it undertakes to set out in some detail the practical advantage of such enlarged unification of charity management. For some of the difficulties of federation, which he mentions, further federation will be no cure. If in the larger federation there happen to be men of narrow views, they would do much more harm than they could on the boards of local organizations. And there is no guarantee that the national board will be free from this kind of impediment. On the other hand, we believe that too much is made of this point. As a rule, the directors of federations have performed their duties with a view to the general good. Their mistakes have been mainly slips of judgment, from which no man or set of men can hope to be free.

That some national authority is needed to prevent the accumulation of "national" institutions, cannot be disputed. We believe that two national hospitals are now being projected—one in the Middle West and another on the Pacific Coast. Of the former, it is reported that it began with a single case, and that a local case; but as the town happens to be a health resort, the "national" idea was taken up in the hope that general support could be obtained. A well-known Jewish journal has already published a statement to the effect that this "worthy charity" is under way, though doubt may be expressed whether it has any trustworthy information of the movement.

Whether a body like the National Conference of Jewish Charities can assume such a function without impairing its usefulness in other directions, is a matter for discussion. In appointing a Palestinian Committee, and publishing a report on the charities of Palestine, the Conference has taken a step in that line without unfavor-

able results; but to perform the same service for this country might mean something quite different. The question needs careful consideration.

When, however, it comes to gathering funds for national organizations, Mr. Fromenson scores. He does a valuable service in pointing out the waste involved in sending to the same cities, and to the same people, a whole series of collectors, each one soliciting for his own organization. One solicitor could do the work of all; he would save salaries and traveling expenses, and would be more welcome than a half dozen bent on the same mission. A central board could pass upon the distribution of the collections, and make a proper adjustment of income to work. Such an organization would make it difficult for a new national venture to get the support of the public without its endorsement.

Further federation than this could, we believe, hardly obtain a hearing at present. New York would be unrepresented in the greater federation, and to leave it out of a country-wide association of charity organizations would be to limit the power and authority of the enlarged federation and to defeat its real purpose. An approach to what Mr. Fromenson has in mind might be made by way of a central collecting board for national organizations now employing canvassers; and if this were successful, it might develop into something similar to what he argues for in his article on the "Federation of Federations."

Meanwhile the federation of local charities continues, and the federation idea is receiving further support and endorsement. This will pave the way for further concentration should closer co-operation be deemed wise and feasible. When that step is taken, however, it will be to attain definite, ascertained and desired ends, which have not yet appeared.