

# ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEARS

1931 - 1932



ENTRANCE—JUVENILE COURT

ERST STUDIO

OF THE

## CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT

CLEVELAND, OHIO

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT  
FOR THE YEARS 1931 and 1932**

The two years which have passed since the publication of the last report of the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court have been years of increasing economic depression. The conditions attending this depression have affected our whole social fabric and have been reflected in the work of the juvenile court. While the depression has not materially altered the total volume of cases brought before the court, it has largely changed the problems that have been presented and, in many respects, rendered their solution more difficult.

These difficulties, which are the direct results of economic conditions, have measurably increased the actual work of the court and of its staff. Decisions have been more difficult to reach because of the restriction, or almost absolute closing, of many avenues ordinarily open to the court. The resources of the community, both public and private, have necessarily been concentrated on relief, with the result that character building agencies have been greatly curtailed. Such agencies, which include schools, settlements and recreational activities, have, in ordinary times, been of great help to the court in effecting the social readjustment of delinquents. Fortunately, for reasons that will hereafter be discussed, the volume of delinquency has been less during these years so that the court has been able to maintain its effective service in this direction through the loyal support of the members of its staff and their willingness to assume the heavier burden of work entailed.

Problems of relief have directly affected the court in the increased number of dependency cases which have been brought before it. Individuals and agencies who had heretofore supported dependent children found themselves, by reason of decreased resources, compelled to seek relief, through the court, in transferring the burden they could not longer carry to public relief agencies. Careful investigation was required to assure adequate relief to the deserving without permitting the imposition on public relief by shiftless and unscrupulous persons. The administration of Mothers' Pensions has required painstaking care and discrimination for the same reason.

Salary cuts have been cheerfully accepted by the staff, but certain operating cuts have been extremely difficult to adjust. In the face of these difficulties the court has successfully and adequately carried on its service to the community under the conditions imposed by the times.

TABLE I

**Total volume of complaints, official and unofficial, filed in  
Juvenile Court in the past three years**

Type of Complaints	Complaints Filed Each Year		
	1930	1931	1932
Total Official and Unofficial Complaints.....	7986	8132	7086
Official Complaints—Total.....	3744	3649	3338
Delinquency—Total.....	2562	2560	2232
Boys.....	2024	1961	1690
Girls.....	538	599	542
Dependency.....	484	456	518
Neglect.....	657	602	584
Consents to Marry.....	37	31	44
Tending to cause delinquency.....	7	0	6
Unofficial Complaints—Total.....	4242	4483	3748
Delinquency—Total.....	3078	3259	2708
Boys.....	2503	2560	2109
Girls.....	575	699	599
Dependency.....	212	297	211
Neglect.....	952	927	829

**Volume of Work** The volume of cases, exclusive of Mothers' Pensions, which have come before the court are set forth in Table I, in which the corresponding figures for 1930, the year of the last published report, are included for the purposes of comparison. While the total number of cases, official and unofficial increased in 1931 by 146 cases over the previous year, the number in 1932 was exactly 900 less than in 1930, of which about 400 was in official and 500 in unofficial cases.

**Official Cases** The year 1930 presented the highest number of official cases in the decade from 1922 to 1932. The year 1931 ranked third and 1932 fell to seventh place. The lowest in the decade was 1924 which was only 75 cases less than 1932.

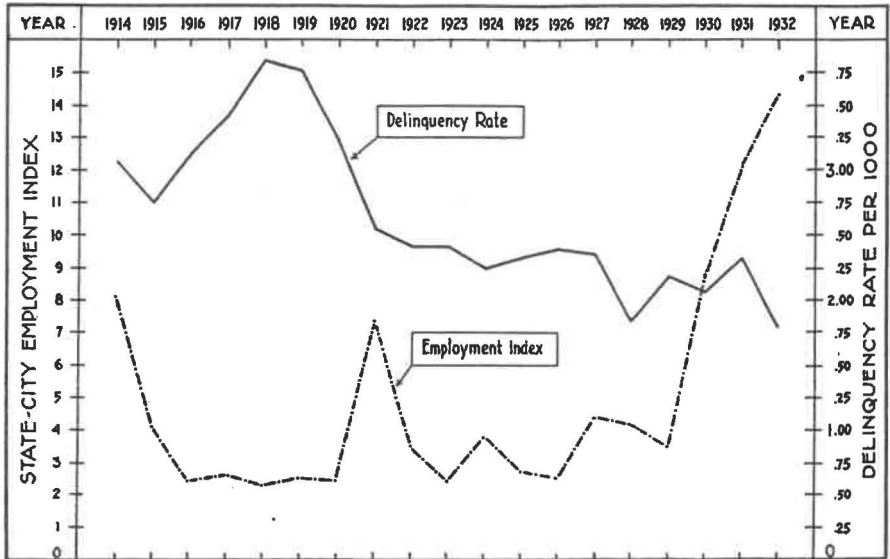
**Delinquency** During the same decade, delinquency (boys and girls combined), was greatest in 1927. The past three years rank in the following order, 1930, fourth; 1931, fifth; and 1932, ninth.

Boys' delinquency cases in 1932 were less than they have been in the past decade, 64 cases below the previous low of 1928. Cases for 1931 rank sixth for the ten year period.

Girls' delinquency cases during the same period were highest in 1925. The year 1931 ranks second but 1932 has fallen to the seventh place.

**Decreases in Delinquency** The decreases in delinquency are contrary to the expectation of the general public, which had anticipated an increase in juvenile offenses in proportion as the depression became worse. That it has measurably decreased will come as a surprise to many, but not to those who are familiar with such trends over long periods. As a general thing prosperity is accompanied by high delinquency rates, and depression by the reverse.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT - CLEVELAND - OHIO.  
**• DELINQUENCY AND THE EMPLOYMENT INDEX •**



Delinquency Rates per 1000 population contrasted with the yearly Employment Index of the Federal-State-City Employment Bureau. M.S. LAIRD

**GRAPH I**

Graph I illustrates this tendency since 1914. The lower line represents the average employment index for each year furnished by the Federal-State-City Employment Bureau. It is based on the average number of times an applicant must apply before receiving some form of employment, hence the line falls when work is plentiful and rises when it becomes scarce. The upper line represents the annual delinquency rate per 1,000 general population. The two lines are drawn on different scales; that for the employment index is on the left and the delinquency rate is on the right.

It will be observed that from 1916 to 1920 employment conditions were good, and during that period delinquency reached a high peak. It would appear that continued good times made for an increasing delinquency rate. In 1921, with work scarce, delinquency decreased considerably, and its fluctuations since have varied inversely with employment index until the two lines cross in 1930 and each proceed to an opposite extreme. There is an apparent lag in the delinquency rate of about 8 months, otherwise the two lines would approximate more closely. This period is about that in which the average family would deplete its reserves and exhaust its credit.

These decreases are not merely local, but are found in the reports of other large Juvenile Courts, and are supported by the findings of the Federal Children's Bureau.

The following quotation is from the Bureau's publication, "Facts about Juvenile Delinquency" issued in 1932, and based on a study of courts in 19 large cities, "Comparison of the average rates for boys shows that, from 1927 to 1930, the trend of rates (per 1,000 of juvenile court age) was upward, but each year of this period the percentage increase was less. In 1931 the rate was 8% lower than in 1930. . . . In delinquency rates for girls the same general trend was apparent."

It has been assumed that the continued reduction of delinquency complaints during the present depression was, in a large part, due to a more lenient attitude on the part of law enforcing authorities. This is not sustained by the statistics which show that the percentage of complaints from police and similar sources has remained substantially the same as in previous years.

Many have felt that, because of unemployment, parents have given better supervision to their children and thus prevented delinquency. This may be true in some instances, but it is probably offset by those others in which the family morale has been lowered by the stresses caused by the depression. It is interesting to note that there have been decided decreases in delinquency from families of the middle class, amounting to 11% since 1930. Another 10% decrease is noted among families of the marginal group, but among the lowest group, the dependent families, the increase in delinquencies has been 19% in relation to the total delinquency. These changes between the marginal and the dependent groups are probably due to the fact that a very large number of families formerly in the marginal group have fallen, due to the depression, into the dependent group. This assumption is further warranted by the fact that these changes almost balance each other. The delinquency spot map for 1931 shows practically the same general pattern as in previous years. But the 1932 map shows a considerable thinning out of the two main delinquency areas of other years and a greater general dispersion reaching into areas formerly but lightly affected by delinquency.

**TABLE II**  
**Official Delinquency Cases by Sex and Type of Complaint—1931-1932**

Complaints	1931			1932		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Total all complaints.....	1961	599	2560	1690	542	2232
Against the Person—Total.....	151	1	152	122	1	123
Robberies and attempts.....	93	0	93	93	0	93
Simple assaults.....	47	1	48	13	0	13
Felonious assaults.....	7	0	7	6	1	7
Rape and attempts.....	5	0	5	3	0	3
Homicides.....	3	0	3	3	0	3
Other complaints.....	0	0	0	4	0	4
Against Property—Total.....	1122	46	1168	916	69	985
Breaking and entering.....	526	0	526	446	1	447
Other stealing.....	230	45	275	273	62	335
Auto theft.....	242	1	243	116	0	116
Other complaints.....	124	0	124	81	6	87
Sex Complaints.....	36	128	164	20	110	130
Malicious Mischief—Total.....	293	148	441	248	147	395
Incorrigible.....	203	128	331	168	142	310
Violation Auto Ordinance.....	51	0	51	36	1	37
Other complaints.....	39	20	59	44	4	48
Runaways—Total.....	200	130	330	203	129	332
Local children.....	94	83	177	66	84	150
Out of town children.....	106	47	153	137	45	182
Truancy.....	159	146	305	181	86	267

**Types of Delinquency** Complaints about stealing or other property damage are those most frequently brought to court. Among boys, burglary and larceny and other forms of breaking and entering make up about half of this type of complaint. These charges were higher in 1931 than in any previous year in the past seven, but were materially less in 1932. Auto stealing



Wetzler Studio

The Juvenile Court Room

had reached a peak in 1930 of 340 complaints. It has declined to less than one-third of that figure in 1932. This may be influenced by the fact that there have been fewer autos registered during this period, and also because locking devices are more effective and more frequently used. Other forms of stealing, which used to be third most frequent against boys, has displaced auto stealing, and now ranks second, and has been increasing in frequency during the past two years, and this increase is even more noticeable among girls than boys. Other forms of property damage show a noticeable decline.

Miscellaneous misbehavior, grouped under malicious mischief, includes all violations of city ordinances and the liquor laws, incorrigibility, late hours and similar minor offenses. This group, which formed 45% of all boys' cases in 1925, had gradually decreased to 33% in 1930, and has been slightly increased in the past two years. Among girls, this classification is gradually increasing. Only 55% in 1925, it reached 70% of all complaints in 1931 and has only slightly declined in 1932. Incorrigibility forms the bulk of this classification in both boys' and girls' cases, and while it has declined somewhat among boys it seems to be becoming more frequent among girls. There is a noticeable decrease of traffic law violations among boys from 1931 to 1932.

Complaints of violence against the person have been much more frequent during the past three years among boys. It is a negligible complaint among girls. Robberies, of which there were 78 in 1928, increased to over 90 in each of the past three years. Cases of assault have been particularly high in 1930 and 1931, but the number for 1932 is back to the average level.

Boys who were runaways from Cleveland homes numbered 59 in 1929, the first year they were separated from the total runaways. This number was considerably increased in 1931 when 94 boys' cases were recorded. The 66 cases in 1932 are possibly a return toward the yearly average of normal times. The number of local girl runaways, which previously averaged about 50 per year, is over 50% greater for the past two years. This increase is felt to be closely connected with conditions caused by the depression, and an effort to escape unpleasant home conditions.

Large cities seem to act as magnets to adventurous boys who leave home and many of them are detained in Cleveland, each year, until they can be returned to their own communities. An average of 125 are helped by the Juvenile Court each year in ordinary times so that the 106 dealt with in 1931 was somewhat low and the 137 in 1932 was not greatly in excess of the yearly average. But during the past two years the Court has experienced great difficulty in securing transportation from parents or relatives. Some have been assisted by local agencies but 21 were released because there was no other alternative practicable. Out of town runaway girls have been about twice as numerous as in ordinary years.

The number of truancy cases filed have been on the decline since 1927, but the decreases have been mainly among boys. Fewer cases were filed in 1932 than in any previous year.

**TABLE III**  
**Dispositions in Delinquency Cases—1931-1932**

	1931		1932	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
<b>A—Disposition of Juveniles</b>				
Total delinquency cases filed.....	1961	599	1690	542
Paroled to Parents, Relatives, Individuals.....	405	14	341	12
Paroled to agencies for supervision.....	113	135	108	105
Court Supervision by Probation Officer.....	771	193	636	206
Committed or returned to Institutions—Total.....	468	162	348	136
Ohio State Reformatory.....	30	0	17	0
Boys Industrial School.....	265	0	177	0
Girls Industrial School.....	0	36	0	33
Hudson Boys Farm.....	165	0	153	0
Blossom Hill Girls Farm.....	0	61	0	58
Convent of the Good Shepherd.....	0	65	0	44
Bureau of Juvenile Research.....	3	0	1	1
Returned Institutions for Feeble Minded.....	5	0	0	0
Dismissed.....	52	6	65	10
Not apprehended.....	17	12	23	5
Returned to other Jurisdictions.....	91	50	119	49
Continued and other dispositions.....	44	27	50	19
<b>B—Dispositions of Adult Contributors</b>				
Total adult contributors.....	41	130	30	119
Dismissed.....	5	11	2	13
Not apprehended.....	0	9	1	4
Committed to W. H. or other Inst.....	2	18	3	22
Commitment Susp.—Pd. fine, costs, or both.....	18	52	9	40
Assessed fine, costs or both.....	10	25	5	24
Continued conditionally.....	5	12	8	9
Other dispositions.....	1	3	2	7

**Dispositions of Delinquents** The dispositions of delinquency cases are set forth in Table III. While there have been fewer delinquent children brought to court in the past two years than in 1930, the difficulties in working out a satisfactory disposition, in many cases, have been increased by prevailing economic conditions. Living standards have been forced down; there is insecurity, even of shelter, and many families are forced to live in environments unfavorable to health, self respect and morals. Relatives and others, who could have been of assistance in better times, are overburdened with their own problems. The situation has called for the most thorough preliminary investigations and most careful weighing of the correctional possibilities available. Once a plan of social treatment is decided upon, it has required close and careful checking and

frequent revamping to make it at all successful. So that, while the volume of cases has been less, the actual burden on the court and its probation staff has been considerably increased.

**Probation** Because of the intensive work required to achieve satisfactory results in probation supervision, the number of cases paroled to probation officers has decreased, both numerically and in proportion to the total cases among boys. In 1930, 43.5% of all boys' cases were paroled to the probation officer, while in 1931 the percentage was 40%, in 1932, 37.5%. Among girls the proportion remained about the same, 33% in 1931, as in the preceding year, and increased to 38% in 1932. Hence, in 1932, the total decrease over 1930 was only 4.75%.

The above decreases in court supervision are partially offset by increases in the number of cases paroled to school authorities, settlement workers and to child care and family agencies already working with the child or his family, which amounted to 2.5%. The percentage of children paroled to their parents, relatives or other interested individuals has also somewhat increased.

**Commitments** In the year 1931 there were more commitments of boys to reform institutions than in any year since 1927. This was due to the large number charged with breaking and entering or highway robbery during that year. The number of girls committed was only slightly higher than the average year. The year 1932 brought the fewest commitments since 1927 of both boys and girls. The percentage of both new commitments and returns, boys and girls included, was 21.6% of all cases as against 24.5% in 1931. This does not include commitments to the Bureau of Juvenile Research, which is a diagnostic, not a reform institution, nor returns to the Institution for the Feeble Minded.

**Adult Contributors to Delinquency** The number of adults charged with contributing to the delinquency of minors has also been less during the past two years. Among boys, well over half are for permitting minors to operate motor vehicles under age. The next largest group is for encouraging stealing, either directly or by buying stolen goods. A few are parents who countenance or encourage their children to truant.

Among girls, over 60% of the adult contributors are in sex cases and range in age from young fellows just over eighteen to men as old as sixty, and women who encourage juveniles in immoral practices. The next largest group, which is often closely akin to the first, are those who encourage incorrigibility and temporary absences from home. During 1932, eight contributors were parents, of whom six were charged with encouraging shoplifting. Six men and five women harbored or abetted runaway girls.

**Reparation** As part of the probation treatment, delinquents are sometimes required to make restitution for the damage they have caused. The money is paid in installments, determined by the earning ability of the delinquent, to a Deputy Clerk who acts as cashier, and under the supervision of the probation officer. In 1931 the sum of \$3012.27 was so collected and turned over to the persons suffering damage from delinquents, but in 1932 only \$1599.32 was collected, slightly more than half the amount collected in the previous year. Both these years were far below the \$5009.09 collected in 1930 and again reflects the general depression.

**Support at City Farm School** Parents of delinquents, committed to the city operated Boys' Farm at Hudson and the Girls' Farm at Blossom Hill, are required, at the discretion of the court, to contribute to the support of their children while in these institutions. Amounts received for the Hudson Boys' Farm were \$1511.93 in 1931 and \$1876.70 in 1932. For Blossom



Hill the amounts were \$1233.00 in 1931 and \$1272.85 in 1932. These sums have each year exceeded the amounts collected for these institutions in 1930.

**Dependency** The number of dependency cases filed in 1932 was the largest ever brought before the court. There were 518 cases, 18 more than the previous high of 1928. The year 1931 ranked fifth with 455 cases. While increases in dependency are to be expected in any large center of industrial population, the economic depression of the past three years has made the situation acute.

During both years approximately 72% of the cases filed concerned children who lacked proper parental care, either because of death, desertion, incapacity or financial inability on the part of the parents. In only about one-fifth of all cases was the dependency due to negligence or abuse. In about 8% of the cases filed the court was asked to determine who should have custody of children. In only 21% of cases each year were adults charged with contributing to dependency.

Cases of desertion were nearly 13% in 1931 and not quite 9% in 1932. These have been figured into the 72% first mentioned above, although they might properly have been counted into the 20% due to negligence or abuse. This was done because the cases were brought primarily to have the child legally committed to child caring agencies or for adoption, and a desire to include them in that group which became a charge upon the community, either through the County Child Welfare Board or some private child caring organization. The private child caring agencies have, as their resources dwindled, found themselves unable to support or contribute to the support of children confined to their care, and have turned to the court to pass this financial burden on to the County Child Welfare Board.

The Humane Society filed 105 complaints in 1931 and 145 in 1932. During the latter year 63 cases were filed in the month of August. A very large part of these cases were children placed in boarding homes by the Humane Society and for whose support widowed parents or other relatives had been contributing. The lack of employment prevented the parents or relatives from continuing this support and the Society was unable to assume the full financial burden.

The County Child Welfare Board received, by commitment from the court, 175 new children in 1931 and 398 in 1932. Included in the 1932 group are 47 for orthopedic care. At the close of 1931 the Child Welfare Board had 1460 children on commitment from the court and at the close of 1932 this number had increased to 2216. These figures do not include the children discharged from commitment during these years.

There were 845 dependent children in 1931 and 932 in 1932. Their ages range from a few months to seventeen years with the medium age of 8 years. About 30% are below the age of 5 years and 46% are between the ages of 6 and 12 inclusive. In 1931 there were 52 children of unmarried mothers, but in 1932 this number was almost doubled, being 102, which increase can be attributed to the growing inability of these mothers to support their offspring.

**Adult Contributors in Dependency** There were 141 adult contributors in 115 cases in 1931 and 146 adults in 117 cases in 1932. In about 90% of the cases the contributors were one or both parents, with the mother by far the most frequent defendant, there being 64 mothers in 1931 and 73 in 1932, (exclusive of cases of both parents). In 23% of these cases the contributory act was immorality, usually on the part of the mother, while extreme alcoholism was the complaint in 18%, charged against the mother about twice as often as against the father.

Adult contributors committed to the Correction Farm, Convent of the Good Shepherd, and other institutions numbered 49 in 1931 and 50 in 1932. There were 19 men and 30 women committed in 1931 and 17 men and 33 women in 1932. There were 33 adults placed on probation under the Court's supervision in 1931 and 43 in 1932.



Detention Home Public Parlor

Wetzler Studio

**Neglect Cases** Neglect cases (non-support of minor children) began a marked rise in 1929 which showed an increase of 100 cases over the previous year. In 1930 this increase reached a peak, for the decade, of 657 cases. The years 1931 and 1932 rank third and fourth respectively, with 603 cases in the former and 584 in the latter year.

The decline in the complaints filed during the past two years does not necessarily indicate any real improvement in the neglect situation, but on the contrary emphasizes how desperate industrial conditions have become. A parent cannot be charged with neglect when he is unable to secure employment and earn sufficient to discharge his obligation to his children, for the law specifically states he must fail or neglect to supply proper clothing, food and shelter "*he being able so to do.*" Thus the decline in the past two years can be accounted for by the scarcity of employment opportunities and gives no ground for the assumption that, were industrial conditions normal, the figures would be still lower. Rather, it may reasonably be predicted that the number of cases will rise very perceptibly once the industrial upturn is well under way.

It has been a practice of the court, for many years, to investigate all neglect complaints before a case is made official. An unofficial hearing is had in about 90% of all cases and the parent, against whom the complaint is made, is given an opportunity to demonstrate his willingness, within his means, to live up to his parental duty. Only the parent who fails to respond to a notification of such a hearing, or who is a deserter, or who is known to the Probation department to be unreliable and unresponsive, is summarily filed against. The other 90% have already had their opportunity to do their duty as far as their means will allow. During the past two years the Probation Department has been even more painstaking in this direction and every allowance has been made for involuntary failure to provide, due to unemployment.

**Broken Homes** In an analysis of the 584 cases filed in 1932, it was found that in only 14.9% were the parents and children living together. It is apparent that the bulk of neglect cases come from broken homes. Unwed mothers (5.48%); death of mother (4.79%) and hospitalization (1.37%), accounted for 11.64%. The largest single group was made up of parental separations, 33.9%, with divorces, 32.02%, a close second, while desertion had occurred in only 7.53%.

It will be noted that separation and divorces constitute nearly two-thirds of the entire group. Here very frequently the children are the victims of the animosity of the parents against each other. The father neglects his children to spite their mother by increasing her burden and not infrequently the mother demands unreasonable support as a means of venting her spite on her erstwhile mate. Less than 1% of either the fathers or mothers are remarried.

**Contributors in Neglect** The complaint of neglect is nearly always made against the father. In only 1.71% was the mother named as contributor and in only one-half of one per cent were both parents included. These cases were mostly where children had been placed in the custody of relatives or agencies and then neglected by the parents.

**Adult Dispositions** There were 587 adult contributors in the 584 cases in 1932. Of these 13 were dismissed, 59 were not apprehended and 92 were continued indefinitely to allow them to demonstrate their willingness to provide support; and 75 were continued on the defendants' agreement to pay stated sums through the court. Eighty-five men and five women were committed to the Correction Farm and one woman to the Convent of the Good Shepherd. Suspended sentences were given to 60 on condition they support their children properly and 200 suspensions were conditioned on the payment of stated sums through the court.

**The Neglect Department** To supervise the neglect defendants paying into court and to investigate parole applications of workhouse prisoners sentenced under this complaint, is the function of the neglect department. During normal times a large part of the work of this department was in securing work, or reinstatement in their former jobs, for paroled adults. During the past two years this has been extremely difficult and at times practically impossible. Once employed, the department supervises to see that the support orders under which they are paroled are complied with. This requires a certain elasticity necessitated by fluctuations in employment, illness and other causes.

TABLE IV

**Money Paid Through the Court in Neglect Cases for the Support of Minor Children**

Year	1930	1931	1932
Official cases.....	\$110,272.94	\$ 81,920.22	\$60,195.09
Unofficial cases.....	48,063.18	39,452.42	25,972.80
Total.....	\$158,336.12	\$121,372.64	\$86,167.89

The widespread unemployment situation has greatly reduced the amount collected during the past two years. Compared with 1930 the moneys collected in 1931 equaled only 74% in official and 82% in unofficial cases, the total being about 76% of that of 1930. During 1932 only little more than half as much was collected in both official and unofficial cases as was paid in in 1930.

The money thus collected is turned over to the parent, agency or institution having custody of the children concerned.

**Workhouse Commitments** In 1931 there were a total of 169 workhouse commitments in neglect cases, 99 of which were new cases and 70 commitments were from parole. The number in 1932 was considerably less, the total 144, of which 90 were new cases and 54 were for violation of parole. These decreases again reflect the scarcity of employment opportunities.

## UNOFFICIAL CASES

Table I shows that total unofficial cases increased by 241 cases in 1931 over 1930, but in 1932 they fell to almost 500 below the 1930 figure. The differences are greater than in the official cases but the same general trends are evident in both classes, and the higher differentials result from the fact that unofficial hearings are, in a large measure, a preliminary and sifting process to keep down the number of cases that might otherwise be sent before the judge. In general, the same conditions that control the nature and volume of official cases operate also in the unofficial and need not be further dealt with here.

Certain items deserve comment. There were 584 complaints against boys for destroying property in 1931. This number was reduced to 321 in 1932. During the same period disorderly conduct complaints dropped from 259 to 133 and stealing from 651 to 603.

The complaint of incorrigibility against boys increased from 320 in 1931 to 418, while girls decreased from 108 to 97. The increase among boys probably does not so much represent an increase in this kind of behavior but rather an increasing awareness of such behavior by parents and others supervising children, and an attempt to secure help in correcting it.

There was a slight decrease in truancy complaints against boys, 34 cases, and a very marked decrease of 96 cases against girls.

**Unofficial Dispositions—Delinquents** The probation department was able to adjust a larger number of delinquency complaints as is shown by the decreasing number which, after unofficial hearing, are made official. In 1930 15.5% of all unofficial cases were filed against officially and taken before the judge. In 1931 the percentage was 10.9 and during 1932 the percentage was reduced to 7.9. This lowered percentage reflects the increasing care of the receiving secretary in assigning cases for unofficial hearing and the more careful consideration given to these hearings by the Chief Probation Officer, his Assistant and the Girls' Referee, which has resulted from an improved organization of these officers' time and duties. It is improbable that this percentage can be much further reduced for the reason that in many cases the child and his parents neglect or refuse to respond to the notice for an unofficial hearing which necessitates making the case official in order to get the parties into court.

Children were dismissed or admonished to the number of 1972 in 1931 and 1593 in 1932. Restitution was made for injuries or damages caused by 379 children in 1931 and by 298 in 1932. Probation Officers made field investigations in 92 cases in 1931 and received 109 children under unofficial supervision, while in 1932 a far larger number of cases, 145, were investigated and 107 were placed under supervision.

**Dependency and Neglect** The volume of unofficial neglect and dependency has been shown in Table I. The disposition of unofficial neglect has been dealt with in connection with official neglect, and the decreases in the number of complaints explained.

Whereas official dependency cases have increased, unofficial complaints have declined. The reason is that there are marked differences in the circumstances surrounding the two types of cases, a large majority of official dependency are of a nature that cannot be handled unofficially for the reason that the solution requires an award of custody which can only be made after certain definite legal steps have been accomplished. On the other hand the great bulk of unofficial dependency consists of conditions where some adjustment needs to be made, or guidance given, within the home without requiring a change of custody. Usually the conditions complained of can be corrected by a warning and an explanation of the legal and ethical rules governing the situation. Consequently 26% of the

cases in 1931 were adjusted in a satisfactory manner at the office interview and 28% in 1932. Cases in which the element of neglect entered, such as where children were placed in homes of relatives and the parent failed to contribute to their support, were adjusted by an agreement to pay stated sums through the Probation Office. This sort of agreement was reached in 20% of the complaints in 1931 and in 27% of those heard in 1932. A considerable number of complaints are brought by family welfare and other social agencies already interested in the family. These frequently have to do with alcoholism or some other situation within the family inimical to the welfare of the children. In such situations the family is usually placed under the supervision of the active agency. This was done in 9% of the complaints in 1931 and 8% of those in 1932. About 7% each year were investigated by Probation Officers and 10% each year were placed under unofficial supervision. Eleven percent of the complaints were made official in 1931 and 9% in 1932.

## PROBATION DEPARTMENT

**Staff** In 1931 the probation field staff was reduced from nineteen to eighteen officers as a measure of economy necessitated by decreased tax collections. This compelled a reorganization of the field and increased the case load and responsibility of each officer. The entire staff cheerfully took up the increased burdens and accepted salary cuts while continuing loyally to meet the increased difficulties of the depression and striving to render more efficient service to the Court and its clients.

**Investigations** The staff investigated 4004 cases in 1931 and 3750 in 1932, making 13,205 individual field calls in the former and 11,360 in the latter year. The decrease in the number of calls during 1932 was not only the result of having fewer cases to investigate, but due to the greater helpfulness of cooperating agencies in making available information in their possession and thus reducing the number of fruitless calls always necessary in the search for facts bearing on a particular case. Sixty-three investigations in 1931 and 58 in 1932 were made at the request of other juvenile courts.

**Probation Supervision** About 36% of delinquent boys and 38% of delinquent girls as well as 12% of dependent and 5% of neglected children, who appear in court officially are placed under supervision of the probation officers each year. This together with those carried forward from the preceding year gives an average case load of 63 for each officer, a number considerably in excess of the 50 generally agreed upon by case work authorities as the maximum number with which an officer can do effective work. This number at times has been much higher especially in the congested districts. The court is hopefully looking to the time when it may be possible to enlarge the staff and to increase its effectiveness by decreasing the case load. The present situation would be less satisfactory if it were not for the generous cooperation of the case working and child protective agencies of the city who have assisted the court by supervising children in families which were clients of these agencies. However, this help has mainly been in dependency cases. Less than 1% of delinquent boys can be supervised in this way at present. In the matter of delinquent girls, the community agencies are able to do a larger piece of work. During the year 1932 about 19% of officially delinquent girls were paroled to community agencies. The Cleveland Board of Education, through its attendance department, took supervision of the largest number, 44, while 35 were paroled to the Girls' Bureau. There is the possibility of character building agencies doing a great deal more in this direction, but the community will have to realize the value of such work and give them the necessary financial and moral support. During the depression of the past few

years, character building agencies have suffered from financial restrictions more than other agencies and there has grown up, in certain quarters, a mistaken and socially dangerous under-appreciation of the value to the community of the work in which they are engaged. If delinquency is to be appreciably decreased it will be through the pre-delinquent character building efforts of our schools, churches and settlements, and any community program which seeks to curtail these services will be found to be short sighted and only penny wise.

**Number of Children Under Supervision** At the beginning of 1931 there were brought forward from the preceding year 1185 cases under supervision, involving 1501 children. During the year there were placed under probationary supervision from court, officially and unofficially, and by parole from the City Farm Schools at Hudson and Brecksville, 1199 cases of 1489 children. This made a total of 2384 cases and 2990 children under supervision during the year. There were 1404 cases of 1758 children closed during the year, leaving 980 cases and 1232 children carried forward to 1932.

During 1932 there were 1086 cases of 1355 children placed under supervision making a total under the probation officers' care of 2066 cases and 2587 children during the year. Removals from probation totaled 1083 cases and 1355 children, so that we entered the year 1933 with 984 cases of 1232 children under supervision, a number closely approximating that of the previous year and slightly less than those carried forward at the beginning of 1931.

**Results of Probation** It is impossible to make any accurate estimate of the results of probation when only one or two years are considered. Behavior patterns are of slow growth and delinquency habits are not corrected in a month or even in a year. There is always danger of relapses. Like certain specific diseases, it is not safe to pronounce a case a success or a failure until several years have elapsed after an apparent cure. Nevertheless, a resume of the cases under probationary supervision during any one year offers some indication of how delinquents as a whole react to the immediate social treatment.

An analysis of probation cases during the past two years shows that between 24 and 29 per cent of the boys on probation reappeared in court, either unofficially or officially during the year. For girls the percentage was practically 21% for both years. These reappearances may or may not be of serious import. In addition to unofficial appearances there are recalls to court concerning payments in restitution, and rehearings in relation to carrying out or changing court orders. So that not all are for serious breaches of the conditions of probation. Nineteen per cent of the boys and 10% of the girls reappeared because of the filing of new official complaints. The situation here may be evidence of poor probation response, or it may be because certain environmental conditions have not been corrected, or treatment has not been continued long enough to have a positive deterrent effect. The number who are committed to correctional institutions while on probation, either for failure to observe the conditions of probation or for the commission of further offenses, was found to be from 13 to 8% for boys and uniformly 8% for girls during both years. These were the cases where it was found that a more positive and radical treatment than probation was needed. It would not be fair to say that all these children were probation failures as probation is not a final measure and is often tried out before more radical treatment is resorted to.

**Field Work** Probation Officers made 14,334 field calls on probationers in 1931 and 14,136 in 1932. In addition there were 9,017 office interviews in the former year and 8,019 in the latter. The field calls include visits to probationers in their homes, to schools, places of employment, hospitals, clinics and social agencies and settlements. The purpose of these calls is to secure the better social adjustment of the probationer by improving his health, securing employment, or better school placement and recreational outlets.

## MOTHERS' PENSION DEPARTMENT

**1931** The Mothers' Pension department entered the year with 870 families with 2732 children under the age of 16 on its rolls, an increase of 8.48% over the number carried forward for the preceding year. The budget granted by the County Commissioners was an increase of 10% over the preceding year. There were 787 new applications received, of which grants were made to 329 families with 1064 children, an increase of 28% over the number of grants made in 1930. Pensions discontinued during the year numbered 137, which were 27% less than the previous year. During the year 1199 families with 3800 children received pensions amounting to \$544,586.18 distributed for the entire year. The average number of children benefiting per family was 3.17.

Due to the depression and the burdens thrown on all relief agencies the number of applications were the greatest received in the history of the department. Only about half the number could be granted, as the budget increase was only 10% and only a few grants could be made except to replace vacancies made by discontinuances, nevertheless, by careful administration it was possible to make or continue grants to 13.22% more families with 5% more children than were benefited the previous year.

**1932** The department began the year with 1062 families of 3217 children on its rolls, an increase of 22% over 1931. New applications fell off 11% and fewer new pensions were granted in order to keep within the budget allowed. New grants were 44% less than in 1931 and 29% less than in 1930. A total of 1244 families with 3730 children received pensions during the year. This total of families was 3.75% greater than 1931 but the number of children was 1.85% less. The amount distributed during the year was \$559,623.65. The decrease in commodity prices permitted a decrease in the average pension per family of 10% and permitted making grants to a larger number of families. The number of children per family averaged 3.5 and the average monthly cost to the county, per child, was 4.37% less than it was in 1930.

An analysis of causes leading to the necessity for Pension grants among the 1244 families aided in 1932 reveals that in 74% of the cases the father was dead; in 10% he was physically disabled; had deserted for more than three years in 8%; was in prison in 4.5% and insane in 3.5%.

The department has 17 visitors to handle its field work. In 1931 they made 26,167 contacts investigating and supervising families and in 1932 the number was 22,293. Each visitor has an average of about 60 families under supervision at one time.

**Advisory Board** The investigation of each application is made by the field visitor, is put in typewritten form and presented for review by the Mothers' Pension Advisory Board. This board, which numbers fifteen, is made up of men and women, representative of the various religious and racial groups of the community, who are thoroughly familiar with social and economic conditions. These board members carefully consider each investigation and may further interrogate the investigator and the applicant. The board then makes a recommendation which is attached to the record and forwarded to the judge for his information.

During the two years 1931 and 1932, the Advisory Board considered 1519 applications. They disapproved of 1004 and recommended the granting of pensions to 515 applicants.



Wetzler Studio

Kindergarten in the Dependent Children's Home

## THE DETENTION HOME

### Annual Population

The detention home receives children brought in by the police and other law enforcement officers, those held by the court and those brought in by parents and social agencies and held with the consent of the court. During the past two years it received slightly more than 4000 children each year. It gave these children 44,121 days care in 1931 and 39,451 days care in 1932. The average daily registration for 1931 was 121, which was about 12% less than that of 1930. The daily attendance for 1932 was about 10% lower than for 1931, or 108. The actual number of individual children given care was 2819 in 1931 and 2955 in 1932. The total of 4000 a year is the result of counting each child as many times as he is brought to the Detention Home. About 48% of the boys and 27% of the girls are received twice or more during the year.

### Length of Stay of Delinquent

The average number of days a child remained in the home was 15 in 1931 and 13 in 1932. This average does not give a true picture of the average child's length of stay. Delinquent children, who comprise over two-thirds of those received, are frequently returned to their homes in less than 48 hours, while those who are released at their Court hearing have usually been in the home only three to four days. Children whose cases have been continued or who are awaiting removal to an institution may remain considerably longer. The average length of stay for a delinquent is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  or 7 days.

### Dependents

It is the dependent children who are given longest care and who increase the average length of stay. These children are generally received from child caring agencies. If they have been abandoned or deserted a period of three weeks may elapse before the court can make a decision in the case. This delay is due to the necessity of attempting service at the last known address, and subsequent advertisement for two weeks.

Even after a court order is entered in the case, the child must be sheltered in the home until the agency to whom the child is committed can arrange for its placement. The present practice is to place these children in foster or boarding homes, and the difficulty of finding suitable homes has been greatly increased by the depression of the past few years.



**County Child Welfare Wards** The County Child Welfare Board was caring for 1459 children committed to it by the Juvenile Court at the close of 1931. At the close of 1932 this number has increased to 2022. The Board places these children in boarding homes and pending such placement, or in the event a child has to be removed from a boarding home, the Board has no place to care for them other than the Detention Home. A similar condition exists in reference to the Humane Society and other child placing agencies. This fact accounts for the long average stay in the Detention Home.

It must not be thought that the two groups, dependents and delinquents are mingled in the Detention Home. They have always been kept separated, but in the new Court and Detention Home group they are entirely housed and cared for in separate buildings.

**New Superintendent and Matron** On Oct. 1st, 1932, Miss Dorothy Doan Henry became Superintendent of the Detention Home, and Miss Louise Moyses became Chief Matron, replacing Mr. T. E. Browning and his wife who resigned Sept. 15th.

Miss Henry had previously been Chief Matron of the Girls Industrial School at Delaware, Ohio, and Miss Moyses had been her assistant. Both were well qualified for the position to which they were appointed and in the brief time they have been at the Detention Home have won the confidence of the Court and the public and shown executive capacities which give promise of an efficient economical administration.

## THE COURT CLINIC

**Organization** The Clinic Staff is composed of a Psychiatrist, a Psychologist, a Physician, a Graduate Nurse and a stenographer. Reports of physical and psychometric examinations are forwarded to the Court on every child admitted to the Detention Home and those of the psychiatric examinations, with discussion and recommendations, on selected cases.

At the time a child is admitted to the institution he is given a bath, furnished with a complete change of clothing, and sent to a receiving unit, of which there are four:—one each for delinquent boys and girls and for dependent boys and girls. Children showing rash or other suspicious infection or contagion at the time of their admission are isolated in individual rooms until examination on the following day.

**Physical Examination** Every child admitted to the Detention Home receives a complete physical examination within twenty-four hours. This includes height and weight determinations; visual tests; routine blood tests and vaginal smears on all girls; blood tests and urethral smears on boys when indicated; urinalysis, blood smears, throat cultures and tuberculin and sputum tests whenever indicated.

Approximately 92% of the children admitted are given physical examinations, the other 8% comprising those who are released in less than 24 hours. There were 2591 examinations made in 1931 and 2768 in 1932.

**Hospitalization** Children found to require immediate or urgent care at the time of admission, or at any time during their stay in the home, are immediately transferred to a hospital. This is especially true of all contagions, infectious venereal, or acute medical or surgical cases. In 1931 a total of 52 cases were sent to hospitals; of which 20 were contagions and 9 were infectious specific diseases. In 1932 the total hospitalized was 56 of which 8 were contagions and 23 specific diseases.

**Ward Cases** The home has separate hospital wards for delinquent and dependent children, together with individual isolation rooms. There were 87 bed patients in 1931 given 261 days care, and in 1932 bed patients numbered 190 and received 449 days care. Dispensary treatments for minor ills numbered 2899 in 1931 and 2641 in 1932.

**Follow Up** The defects noted in the examinations are stated, with recommendations, on the medical report made to the court, and the correction of these conditions are referred to the parents and the Probation Officer. In occasional cases where there is direct evidence of neglect on the part of the parents to correct major physical defects, recommendation in that regard is submitted to the Court, and the examining physician endeavors to see that the parents approve such corrective measures, and arranges clinic attendance or hospitalization as needed.

**Protective Facilities** The arrangement of the new Detention Home provides excellent protection from the spread of contagion. In addition to the isolation of suspected cases on reception and to the thorough physical examinations before children are passed from the receiving units, the children are divided into eight or more separate units. These units are so organized that the development of contagion would only necessitate the quarantine of the unit affected. Mixing in school, dining room, play ground or gymnasium is absolutely curtailed, so that if contagion should appear in one group it is not necessary to quarantine the entire institution. This arrangement is one of the unique and outstanding features of the new Detention Home.

**Psychological Tests** Psychometric tests (I. Q's.) were made of 992 children in 1931 and 910 children in 1932. Test results obtained from outside sources, or already in the files from previous tests brought the total of those reported to the court to 2301 for 1931 and 2202 for 1932. About 18% of the children received missed examination by reason of rapid turnover and too short stay in 1931 and 25% in 1932.

**Psychiatric** The reports and recommendations of the Psychiatrist, although covering only selected cases, is of great assistance to the Court in reaching constructive decisions in the cases in which they are submitted and also to the probation officer or correctional institution in subsequent care. The psychiatrist not only studies juveniles but also parents and other adults where indicated. Causes of mal-adjustment and mental conflict influencing conduct toward delinquency are discovered by the psychiatrist that would escape the observation of the field investigator, and methods of correcting these conditions are indicated. Attitudes resulting from over protection, family antagonisms, parental rejection, inferiority feelings, defective social inhibitions, lack of parental understanding and poor school placement are among the causes discovered.

**Volume** There were 487 new cases studied in 1931 and 410 in 1932. The decline in the latter year is probably due to a better selection of cases recommended for study as the field officers became more familiar with the type of cases deserving such study. On the other hand the number of reinterviews for the purpose of treatment rose from 225 in 1931 to 311 in 1932. This would tend to confirm the conviction of better selection. The number of conferences with parents, court officers and others regarding the carrying out of treatment suggestions was 203 in 1931 and 121 in 1932.

The services of the psychiatrist are available to the Mothers' Pension as well as to the Probation Department. In 1932 psychiatric treatment was extended to include children brought in unofficially in an effort to forestall the development of more serious delinquencies.

## THE NEW JUVENILE CENTER BUILDING

**Opening.** The new building group, which houses the Juvenile Court with its Probation, Neglect and Mothers' Pension Departments, the Detention Home for Delinquents, known as Central Hall; the Offices of the County Child Welfare Board and the Home for Dependent Children known as Cedar Hall; was formally opened for public inspection on Dec. 16th, 1932. Despite the fact that one of the worst blizzards of the winter was raging, over 1500 citizens inspected the group.

The buildings were authorized by a bond issue approved at the general election in November, 1930. Their occupancy removed the Court from the dingy and inadequate quarters long occupied in the Old Court House, and the Detention Home from the three old residences on Franklin Avenue; and united them with the County Child Welfare Board, formerly housed in rented quarters in the Brotherhood of Engineers Building. The bringing together of these three related units of County child care not only provides them with adequate space and facilities with which to work, but increases their efficiency.

**Comments** The buildings are unique in their planning and equipment and have drawn praise and favorable comment, not only from local sources but also from authorities in child work throughout the country.

**Plain Dealer** Under the heading, "A Community That Cares," the Cleveland Plain Dealer, in an editorial of Dec. 18th says, in part: "In the elaborate Juvenile Court group of buildings opened for public reception Friday, Cuyahoga has gone as far as practicable to take the court out of the court house. The entire project is designed to impress delinquent youth and others that may come within the jurisdiction of the court that the Community is their friend rather than their avenger. It will not be one of the chief sights of the city; indeed it is rather hidden away from general view; but the Juvenile Center is, nevertheless, one of the most magnificent of all monuments of Cleveland's progress."

**The News** In an article in the issue of Dec. 16th, the News makes this comment: "Careful planning to obtain the most efficient use of the buildings is apparent even to the person unfamiliar with juvenile problems. Quarters of delinquent children are separate from those of dependent children and others whose problems may call for individualized treatment. Office facilities for the staff are not only adequate but are laid out with a view of gaining the maximum of efficiency."

**Women's City Club Bulletin** From the weekly Bulletin of the Women's City Club, under date of Jan. 7th, 1933: "Your reporter was one of the large and exceedingly miscellaneous crowd of citizens who went through the new building on the day it was opened to the public. The impressions brought away from that visit are of sunlight and airiness, in which warped little lives may grow straight and strong like healthy plants; and of a kind of serenity that comes from efficiency blended with a pervading thoughtfulness for the children who will occupy the place."

**Individual Comments** Many citizens and other visitors, after inspecting the buildings, have expressed their commendation in letters to the Court. The following excerpts express the tenor of their letters.

E. J. Henry, Superintendent of Beech Brook, the Cleveland Protestant Orphan Asylum wrote: "I have been through a number of detention homes and courts and institutions, but the Juvenile Court and Detention Home is head and shoulders above all of them."



Wetzler Studio

A Dormitory in the Detention Home for Delinquents

The Rev. Father C. H. LeBlond, Director of Charities of the Diocese of Cleveland, wrote: "I watched the building grow and inspected it a couple of times, but never appreciated how beautiful and at the same time how practical it was until the formal opening."

Frank M. Aldridge, Asst. General Manager, The Roach-Reid Company, wrote as follows: "The City of Cleveland and the County of Cuyahoga certainly should appreciate the real effort and thoroughness in the designing and building of the new Juvenile Court and Detention Home. For this morning I went through the new building and was greatly impressed by it. The atmosphere is more like that of a school, which is as it should be. The care that has been taken to prevent the spreading of contagious diseases was certainly well thought out. Unlike many municipal buildings, there appears to be no waste space. Instead of large pretentious lobbies and halls, this building is apparently designed for maximum utility. It is a place that every citizen of Cuyahoga County should see, for they would quickly appreciate its genuine service to this community."

John A. Eisenhauer, Supt., The Cleveland Boys' Farm at Hudson, says in his letter: "I have seen all sorts of Juvenile Court buildings and Detention Homes and it is a very pleasant experience to find that Cleveland now has the most efficient lay-out along this line in the country, at least as far as my knowledge extends. Economy of space, convenience of offices and practical and economical furnishing satisfactorily meet even a critical eye. I was particularly pleased to note the care shown to allow proper privacy to juveniles in their approach to the court room. It is a real genuine Children's Court and home, and as a citizen of Cleveland I am proud of it."

Miss Sabina Marshall, Executive Secretary of the Girls' Bureau of Cleveland, expressed herself as follows: "The arrangement and equipment are excellent and I believe the unit system will make possible individual modern treatment in institutional life. Heretofore I have never seen a public building both from the point of art and efficiency which so justifies the amount of money put into it."

Miss Hannah Protzman of the Ohio Institute, Columbus, and Secretary of the Ohio Probation Association, wrote: "I believe that the opening of your new headquarters marks a new era in juvenile court administration. The buildings are more than brick and mortar. They have caught the spirit of childhood, and made

it the dominating note in every nook and corner of the place. I am proud that Cuyahoga is my home county."

**Removal** The removal of records, files and equipment from the Old Court House was accomplished over the week end following the opening and on Monday, Dec. 19th, the Court began to function in its new quarters. The children from the Detention Home were moved in on Dec. 18th. The County Child Welfare Board occupied its quarters in the last week of the month. The convenience and cheerful surroundings, after the depressing and restricted quarters previously occupied, have had an inspiring influence, not only on the staff, but on the citizens who have business with the court and the children who are its wards. Better cooperation and greater efficiency have resulted and made it possible for the staff to render better service to the community despite the restricted budgets and lack of increased personnel with which to meet the increased problems caused by these depression years.

**Other Visitors** Since its opening the building group has been the Mecca of a large and varied number of visitors. Practically all the social agencies in the city have visited it in groups. The Cleveland Engineering Society visited the buildings both during the course of construction and after occupancy and members expressed very favorable comments. Various Women's Clubs, Mothers' Clubs and church organizations, as well as student groups from local colleges and from those located in other points of North Eastern Ohio, Inter-county Juvenile Court and Probation groups from various parts of the state have visited it and studied its operation. Officials and persons interested in similar developments from as far off as Wisconsin and California have made inspection visits. The group has given Cuyahoga County a nation wide reputation for its forward looking and progressive planning, in which its citizens may feel justly proud.

Due credit should be given to the Building Commission, Joseph E. Gorman, Walter E. Cook, Thos. Coughlin, Wm. F. Eirick, Herman Kregelius, John J. Mahony and their Chairman, Mr. John H. Harris, and to Mrs. Blanche D. Matzen and Malcolm B. Vilas of the Citizens Advisory Committee for their enthusiastic and untiring efforts toward an economical and practical execution of the architect's plans.

## VISITORS

The visitors' register for the past two years contains the names of nearly a hundred persons who have inspected the court and studied its operation. Visitors from other juvenile courts predominate and represent almost the breadth of the land, from Los Angeles on the west to Cambridge, Mass., on the east and as far south as Dallas, Texas. Persons prominent in both public and private forms of social work form a goodly proportion, along with educators and specialists in sociological endeavor. Judge Cecil B. Wiener, elected to newly created Children's Court of Buffalo, New York, was an interested visitor, as well as Fred K. Hoehler, Director of Public Welfare of Cincinnati.

Foreign visitors included Dr. C. H. Oliver, Director of Welfare, Johannesburg, South Africa; Walter L. Rutnam, Probation Director, Colombo, Ceylon; Lauro R. Paixao, Commander of Sea Scouts, Niteroi, Brazil; Dr. William F. K. Guderjahn, Elbing, West Prussia, Germany; Dr. Friederich Sigmund Schultz, Berlin, Germany; and Miss Hsu Ai-chu and Miss Hu Tun-Wu of the Union Medical College, Pieping, China.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

**Delinquency Prevention** The Court, by its legal constitution, can officially deal only with those children who are charged with delinquency. Unofficially it has long dealt with those who are perilously close to the borderline. The field from which these two classes are drawn, the pre-delinquents to use a current term, are a cause of serious concern to both the court and the community. Because of its constitutional limitations, the Court cannot directly deal with this group, and it is well that it should not for that responsibility belongs to the educational and character building agencies of the community. But the Court is actively concerned with the pre-delinquent and with helping and encouraging those agencies which strive to prevent the development of delinquent attitudes and behavior.

The Court, through its observation and experience, and through its accumulation of case records and data, is in a position to present facts and to call attention to conditions which affect, favorably or unfavorably, the pre-delinquent, and it has acted on the conviction that it was its duty to make this information known to the public and to the special agencies best adapted to benefit by it. Research, analysis, publicity and recommendation are then part of its service to the community as well as agitation for, and support of, such measures and activities as will tend to reduce future delinquency.

The Court has carried out this policy by means of addresses given by the Judge and members of the staff before interested groups in churches, schools, clubs and other organizations. Representatives of the court have attended conferences or sat on committees of a large number of bodies variously interested in these or kindred problems. During the past three years, through the Statistical Department, a large mass of material has been accumulated, organized and made available to school and college classes studying the general subject of delinquency, and also data on particular groups and areas for the benefit of settlements, churches and other organizations working in neighborhoods or any special groups. The following paragraphs are a rapid resume of a few of the services the Court has rendered in the past two years, and will serve as an indication of how it is prepared and ready to cooperate with all community efforts to improve the environment and condition of children in any ways that may contribute to the reduction of delinquency.

**Addresses** Judge Eastman has addressed numerous groups on subjects dealing with the work and methods of the juvenile court. He read a paper on "Social Work and the Juvenile Court" before the Women's City Club on Dec. 16th, 1931, and discussed "Juvenile Delinquency—Can more be done about it?" before the Rotary Club, Jan. 14th, 1932. A paper, "The Self-expression of Modern Youth" was presented before the Strongsville Parent Teacher Association, Sept. 16th, 1931. He also addressed a number of smaller groups. He participated in the Governor's Conference on Child Health and Protection at Columbus in January, 1932, as did Miss Bialosky, Case Supervisor, and Miss Collopy, Director of Mothers' Pensions.

**The Delinquency Conference** Judge Eastman was a member of the Program Committee of the Delinquency Conference conducted in 1931 and 1932 by the Adult Education Association and Cleveland College. The Statistical Department furnished considerable amount of basic data for the series of discussions in which a large group of the staff participated. While this conference was limited mainly to character building agencies and settlements, it is generally felt that considerable was accomplished in the way of better understanding and cooperation.

**City Council Housing Committee** Representatives of the Court attended practically all of the meetings of the Council Committee on Housing and Blighted Areas, took part in the discussions and submitted material from the Statistical Department. Better living conditions for the lower income groups, who comprise 25% of the city's population, but furnished 80% of the annual totals of juvenile delinquency, is of basic importance in decreasing delinquency rates.

**Boys' Club Survey** The court cooperated in the survey made in 1931 by the Boys' Clubs of America, Inc., on the invitation of Judge George B. Harris. A large part of the work was done by the survey workers in the Statistical Department from information already on file.

**Local Groups** The Probation Officers are always ready to assist local groups within their districts. A number have spoken before school and mothers' clubs. Miss Hite found she was amply repaid for her contributions to a local Court and School Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Herman E. Matzen in the Miles Avenue district by the help which the Committee gave her and its success in correcting conditions favoring delinquency in its neighborhood. The Court would encourage similar committees in other parts of the City. Mr. Hughes has taken an active interest in the Lower Woodland Avenue Association.

**Western Reserve University** The Court has continued its relation with the School of Applied Social Sciences. Miss Bialosky, Miss Myrick and Miss Neary have been on University Staff as lecturers in Social Administration. Statistical material has been furnished the school and exhibits of charts and maps loaned for class room lectures. Groups of students have visited the Court and been addressed by Judge Eastman, Miss Bialosky and Mr. Laird. The files of the statistical department have been made available to undergraduate students working on projects dealing with delinquency.

**Theses** A thesis, "Juvenile Delinquency in the Neighborhood of Friendly Inn Settlement" was written by Sidney B. Markey, and another by Harry N. Serotkin on "A Study of an Area of St. Laurence Parish." Charlotte J. Flood prepared a "Study of Delinquency in the Tremont School District in Relation to Probable Learning Rates." The Court has encouraged these studies by making Statistical material available to students on the written request of their professors, in the belief that such studies benefit both the student, the court and the general field of social workers.

**Other Studies** Other studies in the field of delinquency, in which the Court has cooperated, are under way. Notably one by Prof. C. E. Gehlke of Western Reserve School of Applied Social Sciences and another by Prof. Henry Sheldon of the University of Wisconsin.

**Other Schools and Colleges** Students in sociology courses in a number of High Schools within the county have visited the Court in groups. Small Groups or individuals from Baldwin Wallace, Oberlin, Kent Normal and Dennison University have made use of the statistical department and reference library.

**National Studies** Articles have been prepared and questionnaires filled out at the request of the White House Conference on Children, the National Association for Prison Reform and the New York State Association of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Others include requests from Columbia University, New York; Duke University, Durham, N. C., and Professor F. W. Gunderjahn, University of Koenigsberg, Prussia, who spent two weeks visiting the Court in the summer of 1931.

## DELINQUENCY DISTRIBUTION AND RATES

### Between Cities and County

The bulk of delinquents reside in the city of Cleveland, 85% of the boys and 82% of the girls. The cities of Lakewood, East Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights and Garfield Heights, taken together furnished 4.8% of boys and 3.5% of girls cases.

In the other corporate villages and towns of the county there are a higher percentage as well as a greater number of girls than boys, 2.95% of the former to .71% of the latter. The rural parts of the county furnished .77% of the boys and 1.11% of the girls. Delinquents whose homes were outside of the county, mainly runaways, made up 8.9% of all boys cases and 10.2% of all girls.

### DELINQUENT RATES IN CITIES—1932

**Cleveland** The ratio of total delinquency to total population in the city of Cleveland is 2.6 delinquents per thousand population, based on the Federal census of 1930.

**Other Cities** Shaker Heights has the next highest rate, 1.69, followed by Parma with a rate of .86, Lakewood .8, and Bedford .735. Next in order are Garfield Heights .64 and Euclid .55. Berea has a rate of .357, East Cleveland .35 and Cleveland Heights .31. The Rocky River rate is .178 and that of Maple Heights .169.

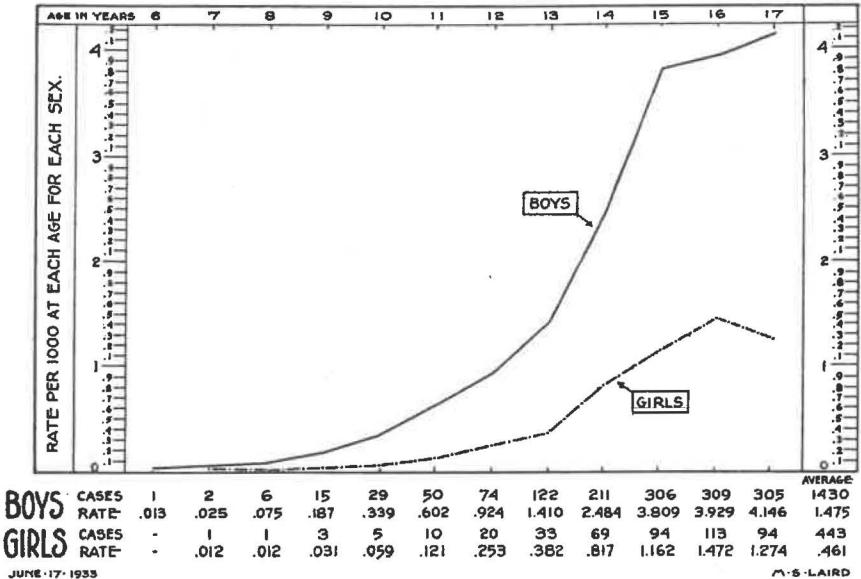
In Lakewood 43 or 75.4% of the 57 delinquents reside in a small section bounded by the New York Central Railroad and Lewis, Madison and Magee Avenues.

### AGE RATES IN THE CITY OF CLEVELAND

CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT - CLEVELAND - OHIO ·

### DELINQUENCY RATES FOR THE CITY OF CLEVELAND ·

Per 1000 of the child population at each age - 1932 - Computed on the School Census-1932



(Graph II)

The above graph shows the frequency of delinquency per 1000 at each year of age as computed on the school census taken by the Board of Education in 1932.



The rate for boys from six to ten years old totals .637, but in the next, the eleventh year, it almost equals the preceding five. At twelve years it increases 35% over the preceding year and makes a regular increase thereafter up to the seventeenth year.

Girls under eleven total only .114 and in the eleventh year exceed the preceding four. From then they steadily increase to sixteen years, falling off in the seventeenth.

The delinquencies of younger children are mainly incorrigibility, petty stealing and truancy, in the order given. Property offenses and forms of personal violence increase with each age group for boys, while truancy, stealing and sex offenses, in the order given, increase with girls. Incorrigibility and runaway from home show an increase at each year for both boys and girls.

#### STATISTICAL INFORMATION

*Much more information has been compiled by the Court than it is possible to present in this brief report. This information is on file in the office of the Statistician, Room 15, Juvenile Court Building. Social workers, teachers and any citizen interested in the subject of child care and protection are invited to visit this office where a courteous effort will be made to answer their inquiries and to supply such information as is on hand.*

**PERSONNEL**  
**CUYAHOGA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**

HARRY L. EASTMAN, *Judge*  
L. G. SPENCER, *Chief Clerk*  
T. L. LEWIS, *Chief Probation Officer*  
J. B. SELLER, *Assistant to the Court*  
ELEANOR R. WEMBRIDGE, *Girls' Referee*  
ALMA M. LUCHT, *Receiving Secretary*  
M. E. BUEHRLE, *Supervisor, Neglect Department*  
RICHARD D. WACHTELL, *Complaint Clerk*  
M. S. LAIRD, *Statistician*  
A. E. PATTON and EDWARD DI LEONE, *Bailiffs*

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**PROBATION OFFICERS**

LOTTIE BIALOSKY, *Supervisor*

MAUD ADELSTEIN	FLOY RUSSELL
MARIE G. BIGHOUSE	DOROTHY E. SPARROW
FLORENCE A. DELANEY	LEOTA STEEVER
INEZ E. FAIRFAX	JOHN S. BECKA
ESTHER M. GREENE	FRED W. BOEKE
HAZEL K. HITE	R. A. DAMBACH
ANNA M. MARRER	W. T. HUGHES
L. PEARL MITCHELL	BENJ. G. KAHN
MARY A. NEARY	HARRY WEINBERG

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**MOTHERS' PENSION DEPARTMENT**

NELL F. COLLOPY, *Director*  
MRS. M. KELLEY, *Receiving Secretary*  
DOROTHY G. KIMMEL, *Domestic Economist*

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**VISITORS**

MYRA L. MYRICK, *Supervisor*

VIRGINIA BOURNS	ANN L. KELLEY
ELEANOR CHOPARD	MARY MACK
ANN FAY	HELEN A. SILVER
FRANCES FERAN	MABEL SHEPHERD
HAZEL GEISLER	CHRISTINE SMITH
CECELIA HARTMAN	DORA SMITH
CLEMENTINE KENT	TAMARA TROFIMOV
CATHERINE HORNUNG	KAYE WEISS
ALICE ZWICKI	

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**DETENTION HOME**

DOROTHY DOAN HENRY, *Superintendent*  
LOUISE MOYSE, *Asst. Superintendent*  
DR. C. J. CASSIDY, *Physician*  
DR. DONALD LINARD, *Psychiatrist (Died Mar. 12, 1933)*  
DR. M. E. KIRKPATRICK, *Psychiatrist (Appt. May 1, 1933)*  
EDITH DOMBEY, *Psychologist*