

THE THIRD STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF SCOTLAND

GLASGOW



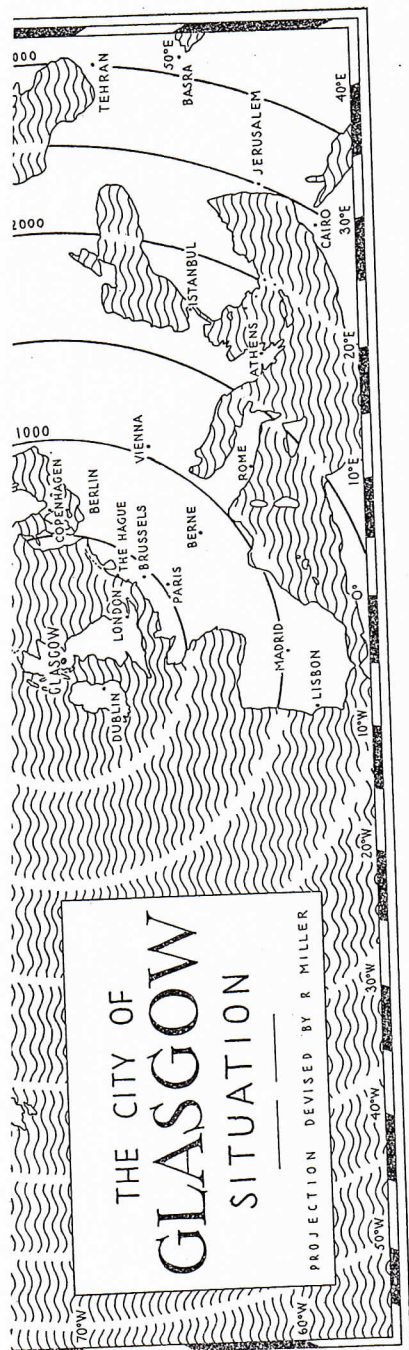
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The new voluntary organisations, such as the Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch of the Scottish Epilepsy Association, are encouraging the handicapped to join so that they can participate directly in the promotion of schemes for their own welfare. The clubs which have been started enable the handicapped to meet regularly with others suffering from similar disabilities for educative, recreational, and occupational activities.

The Glasgow Branch of the British Red Cross Society has also extended its work since the war. Now in addition to the casework service which it has provided for so long for the benefit of disabled ex-service men and women the local branch has started a club for disabled old folk; a therapeutic treatment centre for psycho-neurotic and orthopædic cases and diversional work in hospitals for long-time cases. The Society also has a guide and escort service for those who have to take long journeys by land, sea or air to undergo hospital treatment, and maintains a loan depot of medical equipment.

Children Deprived of a Normal Home

From the time that Hutchesons' Hospital was founded in 1639 it has been recognised in Glasgow that children who have been deprived of a normal home and parental guidance need special care and provision. The early records of the Town Hospital or Poorhouse show considerable expenditure on child welfare during the eighteenth century, including items for boarding out of pauper children. Traditionally the Glasgow public has expressed its sense of responsibility for local children by the provision of municipal services and by voluntary action.

The Poor Law Amendment Act in 1845 placed the responsibility for pauper children on the Parochial Boards, and the problem of their care became one of increasing dimensions as the population of the parishes increased. The creation in 1853 of a Children's Committee by the Parochial Board of the City Parish did not result in any sudden change of policy towards pauper children as it was already customary to board them out. The Committee did however evolve a policy in relation to boarding out, the two main features of which were first that the number of children sent to any one home or community should be limited so that the children could be more easily assimilated and pauperisation minimised: and second that the children should be boarded out in rural areas, as it was believed that "country air would benefit their health, and the thrifty habits of the cottars would help to reform their morals." The records for the year 1875 show that considerable progress had been made in implementing this policy. By that year the majority of the children were boarded out, at the rate of not more than two in any one home. The rural policy was also consistently carried out, so much so, indeed, that their supervision in the remote parts of Scotland became a time-consuming business. By 1875 there was a special inspector for boarded-out children who was instructed to

visit each child four times a year and to be expected to undertake an annual inspection.

In spite of the declared policy of the City Council to prevent the concentration of pauper children in Glasgow, it did in fact take place as a result of social and economic difficulties. The number of children in care. In 1950 it had to report that in one northern Glasgow school in the local school were Glasgow children.

By the end of the Second World War, with other local authorities, had been taken over by the Department, the city already had a reputation of fitting its children into homes. Nevertheless there have been changes in policy established.

Since 1948 there has been a marked increase in the number of children boarded out. It is now the policy of the Children's Committee to place in areas in which employment can be found, which educational and other facilities are available. A slow process since homes given up by others in more suitable areas are being found. The importance now attaching to a large family together adds to the problem.

When the boarded-out children return to Glasgow and fresh accommodation is found in the city. Comparatively few are placed in hostels even under the supervision of the Children's Committee has its own hostel for children.

For children who are not suited to boarding out has opened several homes since it is difficult to accommodate smaller groups of children. Although some still have over 40 children of either sex and two large families coming into care need to be accommodated in local authority homes formerly of the homes run by voluntary organisations each year but regular reduction in the number of children boarded out is considered policy.

In the annual reports of the Children's Committee that the number of children coming into care tended to do immediately after the war to preventive work as it is realised that the child's own home where the standard of living is low.

¹ The number of cases in care and under supervision in 1950 to 2,545 in 1955. See Appendix.

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In spite of the declared policy of the Children's Committee to pre-
 vent the concentration of pauper children in any area, such concentra-
 tion did in fact take place as the rapid growth of Glasgow and the
 social and economic difficulties of the twentieth century increased the
 number of children in care. In 1939 the Director of Public Assistance
 had to report that in one northern parish 50 per cent of the 67 children
 in the local school were Glasgow children.

By the end of the Second World War when Glasgow, in common
 with other local authorities, had to set up an independent Children's
 Department, the city already had a long tradition of child care and the
 reputation of fitting its children to take their rightful place in society.
 Nevertheless there have been changes since the new department was
 established.

Since 1948 there has been a gradual but steady reduction in the
 number of children boarded out in the remoter parts of Scotland as it
 is now the policy of the Children's Committee to board out children in
 areas in which employment can be expected to be available and in
 which educational and other facilities are adequate. This inevitably is
 a slow process since homes given up in distant places have to be replaced
 by others in more suitable areas and good foster homes are not easy
 to find. The importance now attached to boarding out all members of a
 large family together adds to the difficulty of the problem.

When the boarded-out children reach working age many of them
 return to Glasgow and fresh accommodation has to be found for them
 in the city. Comparatively few are ready to live independently in lodg-
 ings even under the supervision of the Children's Officer. Some are
 placed in hostels run by voluntary organisations and the Children's
 Committee has its own hostel for boys.

For children who are not suitable for boarding out the Committee
 has opened several homes since its inception. On the whole these homes
 accommodate smaller groups of children than did the older homes,
 though some still have over 40 children. Most of the new homes take
 children of either sex and two take children of all ages so that the
 large family coming into care need not be broken up. As the number of
 vacancies in local authority homes is increased less use is made than
 formerly of the homes run by voluntary organisations, and the small
 but regular reduction in the number of children placed in the care of
 voluntary organisations each year suggests that this is a matter of
 considered policy.

In the annual reports of the Children's Department it is recorded
 that the number of children coming into care is no longer increasing as
 it tended to do immediately after 1948.¹ More time is now being given
 to preventive work as it is realised that the child who can stay in his
 own home where the standard of child care has been improved has a

¹ The number of cases in care and under supervision has fallen steadily from 3,202
 in 1950 to 2,545 in 1955. See Appendix, Table 159.

better chance of full development than has the child who has had to be separated from his parents because of their incompetence. This policy of prevention does inevitably require generous staffing since very close supervision may have to be maintained over a long period, but it must be remembered that the annual salary of an additional qualified officer who can give home supervision to more than four children per annum is less than the cost of taking four children into care for a year.

Apart from the special work of the Children's Department, the Health and Welfare Department through its maternity and child welfare visitors is in touch with every home in which there are young children. Much of the health visitor's time is devoted to the less efficient mothers. The Education Department through its school welfare officers and school attendance officers is in touch with many of the emotionally and spiritually poorer homes in which breakdown is liable to take place.

The Church of Scotland Social Service Department, The Salvation Army, and the Roman Catholic Church all provide residential care for orphans, deserted children and the children of unmarried mothers who are unable to maintain their offspring. The Lochburn Home, the National Vigilance Home in Renfrew Street and the Women's Help Committee Hostel all take older girls who are unready or unfit by reason of age or personality to live in lodgings on their own. Eastpark Home for Infirm Children makes a very important provision for children who because they are suffering from long-term or chronic disability cannot stay at home.

In Glasgow, as in other cities in Scotland, the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is untiring in its efforts to improve the standard of the less satisfactory homes and to protect children from ill-treatment and neglect. At the time of writing (1955) this Society has just appointed women officers in Glasgow whose work will be with the less competent mothers, whose failure is so frequently due not to the absence of strong affection for their children but to frustration, tiredness or lack of common sense.

When a child is deprived of a normal home he is subjected to emotional tensions with which he may be unable to deal alone and he may require psychological or psychiatric treatment. The Glasgow Education Authority has its own child guidance clinics, which are available for the treatment of children from normal homes as well as of those whose family life has broken down. In addition there is the voluntary child guidance clinic established by the late Sister Marie Hilda of the Order of Notre Dame. The Notre Dame Child Guidance Clinic, in which play therapy was pioneered, is open to children of all denominations and is staffed by psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric social workers, a family case worker, speech and play therapists and a remedial teacher. In this clinic the treatment is based on the assumption that the child is not only "an individual but also a member of a family group and of wider communities at school or in leisure." This approach is of very special value to the deprived child who has

to build up a substitute for around him.

All this effort, statutory : Glasgow, the Children's Of Officer and in addition to workers he arranges periodic departments and voluntary At these meetings matters c discussed. In the final cour framework co-operation of the children and their families. concerned rather than one c considerable freedom of actio mental directives so that by a common policy can be agr of more than one departme

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This was a Mission of the Free George Reith, father of Sir Jol

to build up a substitute for the family group which has disintegrated around him.

All this effort, statutory and voluntary, requires co-ordination. In Glasgow, the Children's Officer has been appointed Co-ordinating Officer and in addition to personal contact between the different workers he arranges periodic meetings for representatives of all the departments and voluntary organisations concerned with child care. At these meetings matters of general importance and of policy are discussed. In the final count however co-ordination depends on the casework co-operation of the workers who are in actual touch with the children and their families. It is a personal matter for the officers concerned rather than one of administrative machinery. It demands considerable freedom of action for the caseworkers rather than departmental directives so that by confidential discussion of individual cases a common policy can be agreed in every case which is on the books of more than one department.

Young People

Youth Work in Glasgow has a long tradition and many of the older organisations have strong links with the Churches or with the Missions. For example the Glasgow Foundry Boys Religions Society was founded in 1865 "to promote the religious, educational and social welfare of lads and girls employed in all descriptions of labour throughout the city." The purpose of this youth work was constructive and the early youth workers, like their successors of the present day, strove by means of the recreational activities which they provided to educate for responsible citizenship and a realisation of spiritual values.

An organisation which exemplifies this attitude towards youth work is the Boys' Brigade, whose founder, William A. Smith, came to live in Glasgow in 1869 and started his Young Men's Society as a Sunday school attached to the North Woodside Road Mission.¹ William Smith was the son of a soldier. He joined the Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers soon after his arrival in Glasgow and he had a profound admiration for considerate discipline.

The Boys of the North Woodside Road area were "tough" and Smith discovered that "much of the time which should have been given to teaching was wasted in efforts to secure order and attention." Smith understood his boys and recognised that they were full of energy for which the Woodside Road district provided insufficient outlets. He therefore set himself to solve the problem of directing this energy "into the right channels" so that "the boys will enjoy themselves far more than when running wild; and instead of becoming hooligans and loafers they will gain manliness; and more than that, they may be led to the service of their Master."

¹ This was a Mission of the Free College Church, whose minister was then the Rev. George Reith, father of Sir John Reith, the first Director-General of the B.B.C.