



THOMAS POLE. M.D.

# THE ADULT SCHOOL MOVEMENT

*Its Origin and Development*

BY

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With an Introduction by

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NATIONAL ADULT SCHOOL UNION  
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TO  
MY WIFE  
AND TO THE  
JOSEPH ROWNTREE CHARITABLE TRUST  
BY WHOSE COMBINED GENEROSITY ALONE  
HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE MY SERVICE  
TO THE  
ADULT SCHOOL MOVEMENT.

## INTRODUCTION

THIS book is a valuable contribution to the history of adult education in England. Our Adult Schools are the nearest English parallel to the People's High Schools of Denmark. The analogy, indeed though close, cannot be called exact. The Danish High Schools have in the main met the needs of the rural population—the English Adult Schools have been predominantly urban. The Danish High Schools are short-term boarding schools, residence for a few months in which gives opportunity for an intensive corporate life. The English Adult Schools, although many residential advantages are now offered in connexion with the movement, are day schools meeting for an hour or two in the early morning or in the evening. Because they are boarding schools, the Danish institutions have developed a richer technique of instruction than the English: they provide a fuller and more systematic curriculum. But both the Danish People's High Schools and their English counterparts were cradled in religion. Religious influences colour both. In both, though in different ways, the needs of women are met as well as the needs of men. And in both there is a fruitful atmosphere of goodwill.

Goodwill is the secret of the power of the Adult Schools. No one can take part in an Adult School meeting, still less in a convention of members from

many schools, without feeling that goodwill is a distinctive mark of the movement of which Mr. Currie Martin has written this careful and comprehensive history. The Adult School, which is full of goodwill, breaks down the inhibition of shyness and gives happy comradeship.

The magic of goodwill works wonders in education. It encourages the diffident, reconciles the estranged, transforms self-interest into fellow-service, teaches the teacher, and helps the learner to learn. It makes weak things strong, small things great, ugly things beautiful. It breathes life into routine and gives dignity to what is humble. It lifts common things above the commonplace.

Mr. Currie Martin's book gives a true picture of the Adult Schools. It reminds the reader that in education spiritual forces are of fundamental importance. It reflects the cordiality and mutual helpfulness which are characteristic of these schools. It shows how much they owe to unselfish and persevering comradeship, how great is their debt to the quiet influence and personal example of many members of the Society of Friends.

The book will be welcome to that rapidly increasing body of students in Britain and Overseas who perceive the significance and many-sided interest of English educational developments since the Industrial Revolution. It will become the standard history of our Adult Schools. It discloses the debt which the Adult School Movement, and the social life of England, owe to the quiet perseverance of hundreds of devoted workers and to the outstanding services of Joseph Sturge, William White, George Cadbury, William Charles Braithwaite, Sir George Newman and Arnold S. Rowntree.

But the book has an interest even beyond this. It is a study of one of those group movements which are characteristic of English education. In spite of his independence, the ordinary Englishman is far from being a thorough-going individualist. He finds something especially congenial and tonic in group life. In the educational history of no nation has the group played a more important part. At the very time when, in a considerable part of Western Europe, political theory and practice combined to weaken the group as a factor in social evolution and to substitute for the semi-autonomy of the group the multitude of individual citizens standing *vis-à-vis* to the State, Englishmen found in the group not only a safeguard for that moral independence of the individual which is indispensable to a training in responsibility but also a rallying-point for those like-minded men and women who wish to create and preserve the atmosphere in which liberty flowers into fellow-service.

MICHAEL E. SADLER.

Oxford,

. June 1st, 1924.

## PREFACE

THE idea of this History was conceived about twelve years ago. At that time the late William Charles Braithwaite had collected an amount of material, but his many engagements prevented his beginning the task of preparation for the press. The present writer was then invited to co-operate with him and to undertake the earlier section of the History. This was in a fairly advanced state at the outbreak of the war. By mutual agreement the work was abandoned for the time being. When the opportunity for renewing it arose, William Charles Braithwaite felt that it would be better for the History to be the work of one writer, and, as he could not undertake it, the whole task devolved upon me. This entailed much more investigation than the original scheme demanded, as my personal knowledge of the movement was very recent, and I was forced to give a long time to research among documents and printed material, and to secure as many interviews as possible with those who knew the work of the schools at first hand. Though this has delayed the book, it has very greatly increased its scope and, I trust, its interest and accuracy. The whole period of preparation has been in itself a reward. I anticipated that I should have the assistance of my friend, William Charles Braithwaite, in revision, suggestion, and correction, but his sudden removal from our midst deprived the book of that great advantage, and no one knows better than I do, how much it lacks in consequence.

Other friends have, however, given me most generous help. To F. J. Gillman, I am specially indebted for valuable assistance in the material of Chapters V and X; other sections of the book he also read in manuscript, and gave me many useful suggestions. Edwin Gilbert rendered me a similar service in other sections of the book and contributed some interesting pages on the extension in Leicestershire.

A very special debt of gratitude I owe to Sir George Newman, K.C.B., who read the whole work in MS., and again in proof. His suggestions, corrections and additions have been most generous and valuable. My friend, George Peverett, has been of the utmost assistance in all technical problems, and has unsparingly aided me at every turn. The many friends, all over the country, who have given me ungrudging assistance in many ways, are too numerous to mention, but they have all co-operated in giving the book whatever value it may possess, and I am deeply grateful for their help. One, however, must be named—Charles Simpson, who, for William Charles Braithwaite, collected so much valuable material. I have found his work admirable, though I have in all cases verified those references that I have used.

To those who have lent photographs, and to some who have had them specially prepared for the purpose of illustration, I beg to convey my heartiest thanks.

All readers of the volume will share in my personal gratitude to Sir Michael Sadler, K.C.S.I., C.B., for his admirable Introduction. He took the trouble to read the MS., and, in spite of his numerous engagements, willingly and readily



undertook the task, and so laid us all under a deep debt of obligation.

It is to be hoped that the publication of this volume will arouse many Adult School people to investigate their local history, and it is my desire that a large number of suggestions and additions may be sent to me, which will enrich a future edition, should the demand arise. My work has been, to a large extent, that of the pioneer, and I am perfectly conscious of the limitations involved in such an undertaking.\*

The work has been planned, not chiefly as a record of past attainment, but as a stimulus and encouragement for the future. Its story should be not like a light in the stern of a ship, illuminating the wake she has made upon the water, but like a searchlight at the bow, marking out a path upon uncharted seas. "Let us not lightly cast aside anything that belongs to the Past," says Anatole France, "for only with the past can we rear the fabric of the future." The youth of the movement is its hope, and I desire no better reward than to arouse in the hearts of the young men and women who may read these pages, a desire to emulate and surpass the achievements of their fore-runners. If the story succeeds in conveying to its readers, in any degree, the vision which its author has seen, it will reveal unique opportunities of meeting the needs of the world to-day, and constitute a clear call to a Crusade to which it is well worth while dedicating our lives.

G. CURRIE MARTIN.

London.

October, 1924.

\* See appendix p. 422.

## CONTENTS

CHAP.		PAGE
	INTRODUCTION - - - -	vii
	PREFACE - - - -	xi
	LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS - -	xvii
I	THE SOIL FROM WHICH THE MOVEMENT SPRANG - - - -	I
II	THE EARLY SCHOOLS—PIONEER WORK	18
III	SPREAD OF THE MOVEMENT - -	47
IV	REVIVAL, RENEWAL AND REFORMA- TION - - - -	67
V	NEW DEVELOPMENTS - - -	101
VI	THE LIFE OF THE WIDER MOVEMENT	165
VII	THE WAR YEARS - - - -	182
VIII	THE FORWARD MOVEMENT - -	201
IX	WOMEN'S WORK - - - -	227
X	THE NATIONAL COUNCIL - -	249
XI	GUEST HOUSES, CO-OPERATIVE HOLIDAYS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS	282
XII	ADULT SCHOOL LITERATURE - -	297
XIII	INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES - -	319
XIV	THE ADULT SCHOOLS AND KINDRED ASSOCIATIONS - - - -	342
XV	WHITHER? - - - -	372
	A FEW IMPORTANT DATES - -	399
	LIST OF OFFICERS - - - -	400
	APPENDICES - - - -	401
	BIBLIOGRAPHY - - - -	424
	INDEX - - - -	429

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	FACING PAGE
THOMAS POLE, M.D.           -   -   -   -   -	<i>Title-page</i>
SAMUEL FOX               -   -   -   -   -	10
WILLIAM SMITH           -   -   -   -   -	26
FACSIMILE OF FREEMAN'S CARD -   -	42
J. F. WINKS             -   -   -   -   -	58
JOSEPH STURGE          -   -   -   -   -	74
WILLIAM WHITE          -   -   -   -   -	90
FACSIMILE OF TITLE-PAGE OF "PHONOTYPE INSTRUCTOR"           -   -   -   -   -	106
FACSIMILE OF HANDBILL ANNOUNCING THE OPENING OF A SCHOOL -   -	122
WILLIAM CHARLES BRAITHWAITE   -   -	154
INTERIOR OF WEST END SCHOOL, LEICESTER	170
JOSHUA ROWNTREE       -   -   -   -   -	186
ADULT SCHOOL PREMISES, SUTTON, SURREY	202
NATIONAL COUNCIL AT HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP CENTRE, CONWAY       -   -   -   -	250
FIRCROFT COLLEGE, BOURNVILLE   -   -	266
JOHN WILHELM ROWNTREE       -   -   -	282
FACSIMILE OF AN AUTOGRAPH COPY OF TWO VERSES OF A HYMN BY WILLIAM CHARLES BRAITHWAITE         -   -   -   -   -	298
COBER HILL GUEST HOUSE       -   -   -	314
ADULT SCHOOL PARTY AT ROUEN   -   -	330
LEMINGTON-ON-TYNE ADULT SCHOOL SETTLEMENT           -   -   -   -   -	346

“ The religion of Jesus is precisely this spirit of comradeship raised to its highest power, the spirit which perceives itself to be not alone, but lovingly befriended and supported, extending its intuitions to the heart of the world, to the core of reality, and finding there the fellowship, the loyalty, the powerful response, the *love*, of which the finest fellowships and loyalties of earth are the shadows and the foretaste. In its essence the Gospel is a call to make the same experiment, the experiment of comradeship, the experiment of fellowship, the experiment of trusting the heart of things, throwing its self-care to the winds, in the sure and certain faith that you will not be deserted, forsaken, nor betrayed, and that your ultimate interests are perfectly secure in the hands of the Great Companion.”—L. P. JACKS, *Religious Perplexities*.

## A FEW IMPORTANT DATES

- 1798 Adult School began at Nottingham by Wm. Singleton.
- 1812 Adult Schools begun at Bristol by Wm. Smith.
- 1845 Severn Street Adult School begun in Birmingham by Joseph Sturge.
- 1847 F.F.D.S.A. founded.
- 1869 *Monthly Record* started.
- 1891 *One and All* started.
- 1899 National Council of Adult Schools formed.
- 1900 *One and All* becomes organ of National Council.
- 1902 Edwin Gilbert appointed first whole-time Secretary.
- 1907 First National Conference held in Bristol.
- 1910 First organised international visit.
- 1913 Removal of Headquarters to London.
- 1914 Name altered to National Adult School Union.
- 1917 First President chosen.
- 1919 Forward Movement inaugurated.

## LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL ADULT SCHOOL COUNCIL

### CHAIRMEN OF COUNCIL.

- 1899-1900 William White.  
1900-1922 Wm. Charles Braithwaite, B.A.,  
LL.B.  
1922- Arnold S. Rowntree.

### HON. SECRETARIES.

- 1898-1905 George Newman, M.D.  
1905-1919 Arnold S. Rowntree.  
1919-1924 F. J. Gillman.  
1924- Ernest Dodgshun, B.A.

### HON. TREASURERS.

- 1899-1907 J. B. Braithwaite.  
1907-1922 Barrow Cadbury.  
1922- Thomas Wall.

### PRESIDENTS.

- 1917-1918 William Charles Braithwaite, B.A.,  
LL.B.  
1918-1919 W. Arnold Viccars.  
1919-1920 Mrs. M. L. Whiting.  
1920-1921 Charles Pine.  
1921-1922 Miss M. C. Albright.  
1922-1923 Edwin Gilbert.  
1923-1924 Alfred E. Wykes.  
1924-1925 Wilfred Southall.

## APPENDIX A.

Extracts from Dr. Pole's *History of Adult Schools* (1814) relating to Constitution, Rules, etc., for Adult Schools, Conductor and Teachers. (Pages 89-98—Appendix.)

RULES PROPOSED FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF ADULT SCHOOL SOCIETIES, WHICH MAY BE HEREAFTER ESTABLISHED IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY; AND FOR THE REGULATION OF THE SCHOOLS THEMSELVES, TAKEN FROM THOSE OF THE ORIGINAL SOCIETY IN BRISTOL; IN WHICH SOME ALTERATIONS ARE MADE, AND A FEW REGULATIONS ADDED, RESULTING FROM EXPERIENCE SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE FORMATION OF THAT SOCIETY.

1.—That the great object of this Society be to teach persons to read the Holy Scriptures; and that all poor persons, of both sexes, and of any religious persuasion, of sixteen years of age or upwards, be considered eligible for admission into the schools as learners; and shall be admitted by the conductors according to their discretion, and be dismissed by them as they may think proper.

2.—That this Society shall consist of Subscribers, Conductors, and Teachers.

3.—That a Committee\* be chosen out of the Subscribers; one of whom shall fill the office of President, another that of Treasurer, and two† that of Secretaries. That the Committee shall meet once every month,‡ with full powers to adopt any regulations that may appear to them beneficial to the Society; that —§ shall form a quorum; and that all Clergymen and Dissenting Ministers, being Subscribers, be considered members of the Committee *ex officio*.

4.—That any three members of the Committee shall, with the concurrence of the President, Treasurer and Secretaries for the time being, be empowered at any time to call a meeting of the Committee, or of the Society.

\* The number of Committee-men according to the extent of the Society.

† One or two, as circumstances may require.

‡ The times of meeting to be fixed by the Society.

§ The number forming a quorum to be determined by the extent of the Society.

5.—That all annual Subscribers of five shillings or upwards shall be considered members of this Society during one year from each time of paying such subscription ;—and Donors of five pounds and upwards, be members for life.

6.—That proper places be obtained in this ——\*, and within —† miles of the same, for the establishment of schools ; and that suitable Conductors and Teachers be provided by the Secretaries, with the assistance of other members of the Society.

7.—That each School shall have at least one Conductor, and a proper number of Teachers ; that each Teacher shall have a class, consisting of not more than six learners ; and that both Conductors and Teachers shall be punctual in their attendance at the time and place appointed for holding the Schools.

8.—That the Schools shall be opened on the first day of the week (Sunday), at two o'clock, and closed at four, unless otherwise fixed by the Conductors, with the approbation of the Committee ; and that the learners be admonished to be at their Schools ten minutes before the time appointed, to allow for the variation of clocks, that the Teachers may not be kept waiting after the time for commencing the business of the Schools.

9.—That personal cleanliness, in the learners, be particularly attended to, as far as their circumstances in life will enable them.

10.—That no learner be permitted to remove from one of the Schools to another, without first obtaining approbation, in writing, from the Conductor of the School he belonged to ; which notice of approbation shall be presented to the Conductor of the School such learner wishes to enter into ; subject to the acceptance or rejection of the last-mentioned Conductor.

11.—That a portion of the Scriptures shall be read, at the commencement and close of the School, by the Conductor or Visitor ; and that silence be strictly kept, not only during the reading, but also for a short time before and after the Scriptures are read.

12.—That to encourage the Conductors and Teachers, as well as to stimulate the learners to diligence in their attendance, and attention to the discharge of their duties, two or more suitable persons shall be selected by the Secretaries, every six months, as Visitors ; whose office it shall be to visit the Schools every fortnight, and endeavour to find out proper subjects for instruction, and call on absentees when necessary.

\* City, Town, &c.

† Fix the number of miles.



13.—That the learners be considered as having obtained the object of this Society, when they can read distinctly and readily in the Bible ; and shall then be dismissed.

14.—That there be a meeting of the Conductors and Teachers on the —\* day in every month ; and a general meeting of the Society on the —† day in every year,‡ of which due notice shall be given ; at which meeting the Secretaries shall produce and read a written report of the progress of the Institution, the number of Schools opened since the last general meeting, the total number under the Society's jurisdiction, the number of learners in each School, the average attendance of the learners, the number of Conductors and Teachers ; likewise a statement of the finances of the Society, with any other information they may judge expedient and satisfactory to the Subscribers. Which meeting shall be open to the attendance of strangers of both sexes, who may feel interested in this undertaking, and who shall be at liberty to offer such observations as they may judge likely to promote the object of the Society, or encouraging to those already engaged in this labour of love to our indigent fellow-creatures. At every such yearly-meeting, the names of suitable persons for filling the several offices of President, Treasurer, Secretary, Committee-men, and Collector, shall be brought forward to be ballotted for, who shall undertake the management of the affairs of the Society for the ensuing year ; and those who have served in these offices to the satisfaction of the Society, shall be eligible for re-election.

15.—That the Collector shall call upon the several Subscribers for their annual subscriptions, who shall pay the same into the hands of the Treasurer, who is to report the amount thereof to the Committee.

16.—That the several offices of this Institution be held, and their duties fulfilled, without any pecuniary reward whatever.§

17.—That in order to prevent any prejudice or jealousy, on account of little differences in religious opinions, and to favour the uniting of well-disposed persons of all Christian Societies in this laudable work of Christian charity, no controversy on doctrinal subjects, or religious points of any description, shall be allowed in any of the meetings of the Society, or the Schools belonging thereto ; but all parties are recommended to cultivate a spirit of reciprocal love and harmony.

\* Time of meeting to be settled by the Committee.

† The week-day of the week, and month, to be fixed by the Society, or Committee

‡ May be yearly, or half-yearly.

§ A Collector may not in all cases be obtained without pay ; Societies must, therefore, act according to circumstances in this case.

**RULES TO BE FAIRLY WRITTEN, PASTED ON A BOARD, AND HUNG IN A CONSPICUOUS PART OF THE SCHOOL-ROOM, WHICH SHOULD BE AUDIBLY READ TO THE SCHOOL ONCE IN EVERY MONTH.**

1.—That the time of meeting be ten minutes before two o'clock, every first-day (Sunday) afternoon; and that precisely at two, the business of the school shall commence.

2.—That a portion of the Holy Scriptures shall be read, at the commencement and close of the school, by a Conductor;\* and that silence be strictly kept, not only during the reading, but for a short space of time before and after they are read.

3.—That any orderly poor person,† above sixteen years of age, may be received into the school, or dismissed from it, by the Conductor, or Conductors\*; and that personal cleanliness be particularly attended to, as far as their circumstances in life will allow them.

4.—That no learner belonging to any other school be admitted into this; unless it be certified, in writing, by the Conductor,\* that it is with his approbation such learner makes application for admission into this.

**PRIVATE RULES FOR THE REGULATION OF THE TEACHERS; EACH OF WHOM SHOULD HAVE A COPY IN HIS POSSESSION.**

1.—Each teacher to be furnished with a class-paper, to keep an account of the attendance of each learner; which is to be filled up, and laid on the conductor's table before three o'clock.‡

2.—As soon as a teacher finds a learner in his class is fit to be advanced to a higher one, he is to inform the Conductor who officiates for the day.§

3.—The teachers are requested to be punctual to the time of meeting; that they endeavour to preserve stillness in their classes during the school-hours; and that they particularly observe the mode of instruction adopted in the school, in respect to reading and writing; when the bell rings to remove the lessons, to see that each learner cleans his own slate, waiting for the second ringing of the bell to remove them.||

\* Conductress, if a female school.

† In a female school, we may say—an orderly female.

‡ Supposing the School to begin at two o'clock.

§ In some instances, several conductors officiate alternately.

|| In a particular school for the government of which these rules were framed writing is taught; which, I believe, is the only instance in Bristol and its vicinity. For the Reader to understand the latter part of this rule, it may be necessary to say, that one-half of the number of Scholars (of those who learn writing) are employed in that department, the other half in reading, during the first hour; at the expiration of which, the conductor rings a small bell, as a signal for changing their employments when those who have been writing are to go to reading, and those who have been

4.—A reading teacher to attend to one class only; and a writing teacher to two classes.\*

5.—At the close of the school the bell is rung; then the class next the door is to move out first, led by the teacher to the door; the other classes following in the same manner, according to the order of their seats, until all the learners are dismissed.† After the room is cleared of the learners, the teachers are to put away the slates, pencils, lessons, &c., in the proper places appointed for them.

6.—When a teacher cannot conveniently attend, he is to apply to the alternate teachers‡ of the same class to supply his place for that day; if unsuccessful in such application, he is to supply the deficiency from the list of supernumeraries§; and should no supernumerary be at liberty, he is to inform the conductor, the day before that on which the school is to be held, that a person may be procured to supply his place.

7.—In case a teacher wishes to resign his office, he is requested to mention it to the conductor at least one month previously to his leaving the school.

N.B.—The list of supernumerary teachers to be added to each copy of these rules.

#### RULES FOR THE CONDUCTORS OF EACH SCHOOL.

1.—That there be four conductors chosen annually, whose office it shall be to regulate the school, and make rules for its internal government: two to attend the school alternately,

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reading, to writing. On the bell's first ringing, the writers clean their slates; when about one minute has elapsed, the bell is rung a second time, as a signal for moving the slates to the other end of the desk, for the use of those who had been reading; and the reading lessons are moved to those who had been writing.

\* One class will require the constant attention of a teacher, whilst learning to spell or read from a lesson before them; because the eyes of the teacher and learners are all to be fixed on a certain letter or word, upon which the pointer is placed; but the case is not the same with writers—a whole class may be permitted to write a line each, from a copy given them, whilst the teacher is instructing another class at the next desk; by the time that line is written, the teacher will be at liberty to turn from the other class, and point out any errors he may observe, or give any instructions that may be necessary; thus he is alternately employed between the two classes; for a short absence from each, is not attended with any loss to the learners.

† This desirable regularity and order cannot well be observed, excepting in a room furnished with desks and forms, arranged as they commonly are in proper school-houses. But most of the Adult Schools are held in private houses, and not supplied with desks, as writing is not taught.

‡ In some of the schools, two teachers undertake the instruction of one class and attend the school alternately, not being able to attend every week.

§ A list of teachers is kept, under the title of Supernumeraries, over and above the number employed in the school at one time; who have given in their names to supply the places of such who may occasionally be prevented attending their classes.

who shall examine all applicants, and admit such as may be considered eligible persons; but shall not dismiss any whose names have been entered in the books, without the concurrence of all the conductors.\*

2.—That the business of the school be divided between the conductors who act for the day; and that a book be kept, in which shall be entered the age, name, residence, and time of admission of the learners; also, an account of the number present of both teachers and learners, and a class-paper provided for each class, headed with the teacher's name.

3.—Should either of the conductors wish to resign his office (before the usual time of electing new ones), he is requested to send notice thereof, in writing, to the other conductors, one month previously to such resignation, who are to provide a properly qualified person to fill the vacancy.

4.—Should either of the conductors be prevented attending in his turn, he is to engage one of the others to act in his place.

5.—That no tracts or publications be introduced into the school, without being previously examined and approved by all the conductors.†

6.—That the conductors shall appoint the learners to their respective classes, and remove them to higher classes as they advance in learning; and also appoint what teachers they may think requisite, and properly qualified.

7.—That a school-secretary be appointed, whose business it shall be to keep a fair book of the minutes belonging to the school; to write all notices, if required; to attend, and enter the transactions of the quarterly-meeting in a book for that purpose; and, with the conductors, to prepare a report, to be read at the general annual meeting of the Society.

8.—That a quarterly meeting of the conductors and teachers be held on the — day, —†; in every year; and that at the meeting next preceding the annual meeting, a report be drawn up, to be laid before the said annual meeting, mentioning the number of learners admitted since the commencement of the school, the number admitted in the present year, and the number now in the school, with the average attendance of the scholars; also the number and names of the conductors

\* It is desirable to have more than one conductor, that they may occasionally relieve each other, or supply each other's places, in case of illness or absence from home. Most of the schools in Bristol have but one conductor or conductress.

† It might be proper for the Committee to appoint a Sub-Committee, to examine all tracts; to prevent the bias which particular opinions might have upon the minds of the learners.

‡ Enter here the particular day of a particular week, in four certain months of the year, so as to have the meeting last preceding the annual meeting of the Society a week or more before it is to take place, that the Secretaries to the Society may have time to make out their general report before such meeting shall occur.

and teachers, as well as a general account of the conduct and progress of the learners, with such other information as they may think necessary, in order to enable the Secretaries of the Society to make up their general annual report, to be printed and laid before the public.

Dr. Pole also gives the following :

**RULES OF THE FEMALE ADULT SCHOOL AT IPSWICH, IN SUFFOLK.**

1.—That three of the Committee be appointed, in rotation, to attend during school-hours ; who will be requested to take a general superintendence of the school, and give their attention *particularly* to the higher classes.\*

2.—That if one of the superintendents be prevented attending, she shall signify the same in writing (addressed to the school), in the *forenoon* of the same day ; otherwise request one of the Committee, or someone already *approved by them*, to attend in her place.†

3.—That each of the Committee *in attendance* shall be allowed, after one month, to introduce one visitor each evening to the school.‡

4.—That the Committee continue in office one year, expiring the last day of October, when a new Committee shall be formed ; but that any of the former Committee may be eligible to be re-elected.

5.—That a Secretary be appointed, who shall also be annually chosen.

6.—That as it is of great importance the Committee should be punctual in their attendance, a book shall be kept, in which those who attend shall be requested to insert their names, with the *precise time* of their entering the school.

7.—That a meeting of the Committee shall at any time be convened, at the request of three of its members, delivered in writing to the Secretary.

8.—That the Committee be requested to attend in the following order.§

\* The reason of this is that they have Monitors to attend the lower classes.

† The Superintendents here mentioned are those who attend the Evening-School, which is a distinct establishment ; so that notice sent to the Day-School, gives the mistress time to procure another person to supply the place of the absentee at the Evening-school.

‡ One month after the commencement of the School, to give time for it to be properly organised and regulated, before any visitors be admitted ; and by this rule the number of visitors are limited.

§ To this rule is subjoined a list of eighteen persons, composing the Committee ; these are formed into six divisions, each containing three persons, connected by a circumflex, opposite to which is written the day and month on which they are severally expected to attend the schools.

For comparison is here added a set of rules for the government of a later school.

COLCHESTER FRIENDS' FIRST-DAY ADULT SCHOOL,  
1868.

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE WORKING MEN'S SUNDAY  
SCHOOL.

I.—All scholars are to be admitted to the School by the Superintendent, on Sunday Mornings.

II.—No scholar is to be admitted to the School under eighteen years of age.

III.—Any scholar absent from Sunday Morning School more than five times in the quarter, without sufficient reason, will be considered to have left the School, and his name will be omitted in the list for the next quarter, at the discretion of the Committee.

IV.—Each class or division is to appoint one Committee Man from their number, to assist the teachers in managing the School. The appointment is to be made quarterly.

V.—No scholar is to be eligible for the post of Committee Man who has been absent more than four times from the Sunday Morning School, without sufficient cause, during the previous quarter.

VI.—The General Quarterly Meetings of the School are to be held on the first Wednesdays in the months of January, April, July, and October of each year, to receive an account of the state of the School during the past quarter, to appoint the Committee Men for the ensuing quarter, and to transact any further business that may require attention.

VII.—If any difficulty or difference occurs in the School, the matter is to be brought before the Committee by the Superintendent. The decision of the Committee is to be binding on all persons concerned.

## APPENDIX B.

### CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL.

1899.

1.—That the name shall be "THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADULT SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS."

2.—That the objects of the Council shall be to federate together the existing Adult School Associations, and any similar Associations which shall be hereafter formed, in order to advance the Adult School Movement as a whole, and to form a united executive body for the purpose of dealing with questions affecting the whole movement. The Council is not empowered to exercise any constitutional control whatever over the Associations affiliated under it.

3.—That Associations or Unions having 5,000 or more members on the books shall be entitled to send four (4) delegates; that Associations having a membership of 2,500 or more, but less than 5,000, shall be represented by two (2) delegates; and that Associations with a membership of under 2,500 shall be entitled to one (1) delegate. That Associations affiliated to the National Council shall be entitled to send one of their Secretaries to the meetings of the Council as an *ex officio* member, in addition to the quota of delegates provided under this Rule.

4.—That the Council shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, and, in addition, delegates and *ex officio* members as provided in Rule 3. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected annually by the Council, who shall have full power for that purpose to go outside the ranks of the appointed delegates.

5.—That the Council shall not be responsible for the payment of the expenses of its delegates.

6.—That the only condition limiting proposals to be discussed at the meetings of the Council be that the matter is introduced through one of the officially appointed delegates, or by minute from each, or any, of the affiliated Unions. Notice of proposals to be dealt with should reach the Hon. Secretary fourteen clear days before the meetings of the Council.

7.—That the Council shall meet at least twice in the year, and at more frequent periods if necessary. At least one meeting

in the year shall be held in London. The Council year shall end on the 31st of December in each year.

8.—That delegates shall be appointed annually, and in the event of their inability to attend the Council, the Association whom they represent, or its Secretary, shall appoint a substitute. This liberty shall not apply to *ex officio* members.

9.—That these Rules shall not be rescinded or altered except at a general meeting of the Council or a special general meeting called for the purpose. Notice of any proposed alteration should come from one of the federated Associations, and be made to the Secretary of the Council not later than one month prior to the Meeting of the Council.

By Order of the National Council, December 9th, 1899.

### CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL.

REVISED AT BRISTOL, 1907.

1.—The name shall be "THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADULT SCHOOL UNIONS."

2.—The objects of the Council shall be to federate Adult School Unions in order to advance the Adult School Movement as a whole and to form a united executive body for the purpose of dealing with questions affecting the whole movement. The Council is not empowered to exercise any constitutional control over the Unions affiliated with it.

3.—Any Union seeking affiliation with the Council shall make a written application and this must be accompanied by a written statement by the Secretary of the National Council. It is to be understood that Schools comprising such Union shall maintain our fundamental principles: (a) the reverent study of the Bible to be the central feature; (b) the School to be worked on unsectarian, non-partisan and democratic lines.

4.—The Council shall consist of delegates from Unions as hereinafter provided. A Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Treasurer, and Hon. Secretary shall be elected at the first meeting in each year. These officers shall be nominated by a Committee specially appointed at the previous meeting of the Council, and such Committee shall have power to nominate persons who are not delegates.

The Adult School Trustees of the Fellowship Hymn Book shall be eligible to nominate one of their number to represent the Trust on the National Council: such nomination to be subject to confirmation by the Council.

5.—Unions shall be entitled to send one delegate for every 2,500 members or part of 2,500 on the books on January 1st. (See note A.)



In the event of any delegate being unable to attend, the Union represented may provide for the appointment of a substitute, whose name should be sent to the Secretary of the National Council. The Council may invite others to be present at any of its meetings.

6.—The Council shall not be responsible for the payment of the expenses of its delegates.

7.—Questions for discussion must be introduced by a member of the Council, or by a minute from an affiliated Union. Written notice of such questions should reach the Secretary twenty-one clear days before the meeting of the Council.

8.—The Council shall meet at least twice in the year, and oftener if necessary. The Council year shall end on the 31st of December.

9.—No alteration in these rules shall be made by the Council until it has been reported on by a Committee appointed for that purpose, but upon such report being made the Council may adopt the alteration with or without amendment.

*Note A.*—Delegates should be appointed for at least one year's service, ending December 31st, and it is strongly recommended that the Secretary should, where possible, be appointed.

#### NATIONAL ADULT SCHOOL UNION.

CONSTITUTION AS REVISED JANUARY, 1914, IN LONDON.

1.—The name shall be "THE NATIONAL ADULT SCHOOL UNION."

2.—The objects of the Union shall be to federate Adult School Unions in order to advance the Adult School Movement as a whole and to form through its Council a united executive body for the purpose of dealing with questions affecting the whole Movement. The National Union is not empowered to exercise any constitutional control over the Federated Unions.

3.—Any Union seeking federation with the National Union shall do so by means of a written application, which must be accompanied by a written statement by the Secretary of the National Union on presentation to the Council. It is to be understood that Schools comprising the Unions shall maintain as fundamental principles: (a) The reverent study of the Bible; (b) Unsectarian, non-partisan and democratic methods of working.

4.—The business and affairs of the National Union shall be managed by a Council consisting of (a) delegates from the Federated Unions as hereinafter provided; (b) A Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and other Officers; and (c) one of the Adult School Trustees of the Fellowship Hymn Book.

5.—(a) Federated Unions shall be entitled to send one delegate or every 2,500 members or part of 2,500 on the books on January 1st in each year. (See Note A.) In the event of any delegate being unable to attend, the Union represented may provide for the appointment of a substitute, whose name must be sent to the Secretary of the Council. (b) The Officers of the Council shall be elected at the first meeting of the Council in each year; they shall be nominated by a committee specially appointed at a previous meeting of the Council, and such committee shall have power to nominate persons who are not delegates. (c) The representative Trustee of the Adult School Trustees of the Fellowship Hymn Book shall be nominated by the Trustees; such nomination to be subject to confirmation by the Council. (d) The Council may invite persons who are not members of the Council to be present at any of its meetings.

6.—The National Union shall not be responsible for the payment of the expenses of its delegates or members.

7.—Questions for discussion must be introduced by a member of the Council, or by a minute from a Federated Union. Written notice of such question should reach the Secretary twenty-one clear days before the meeting of the Council.

8.—The Council shall meet at least twice in the year, and oftener if necessary.

9.—The National Union year shall end on the 31st of December.

10.—No alteration in these rules shall be made by the Council until it has been reported on by a Committee appointed for that purpose, but upon such report being made the Council may adopt the alteration with or without amendment.

*Note A.*—Delegates should be appointed for at least one year's service, ending December 31st, and it is strongly recommended that the Secretary should, where possible, be appointed.

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### NATIONAL ADULT SCHOOL UNION.

CONSTITUTION AS REVISED MARCH, 1918, IN LONDON.

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#### NAME AND OBJECTS.

1.—The name shall be "THE NATIONAL ADULT SCHOOL UNION."

2.—The objects of the Union shall be to federate Adult School Unions in order to advance the Adult School Movement as a whole and to form through its Council a united executive body for the purpose of dealing with questions affecting the whole Movement. The National Adult School Union is not empowered to exercise any constitutional control over the Federated Unions.

## CONSTITUTION.

3.—Any Union seeking federation with the National Adult School Union shall do so by means of a written application, which must be accompanied by a written statement by the Secretary of the National Union on presentation to the Council. It is to be understood that Schools comprising the Unions shall maintain as fundamental principles: (a) the reverent study of the Bible, (b) unsectarian, non-partisan and democratic methods of working.

4.—There shall be a President and President-elect of the Union, nominated in the same way as the officers of the Council, or, if the Council should so desire, by the Executive Committee of the Council. The President shall hold office from one Annual Meeting to the next, and shall not be eligible for re-election two years in succession. During his or her year of office, and during the year in which the President is President-elect, and during the year succeeding his or her year of office, the President shall be ex-officio a member of the Council and of the Executive Committee.

## THE COUNCIL OF THE UNION.

5.—The business and affairs of the National Adult School Union shall be managed by a Council consisting of (a) the President, President-elect and Past-President; (b) a Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and other officers; (c) one of the Adult School Trustees of the Fellowship Hymn Book; and (d) delegates from the Federated Unions as herein-after provided. Further, in order to maintain the historic connection of the Friends' First-Day School Association with the Adult School Movement, that body shall be invited to continue to send two representatives to the Council.

6.—(a) Federated Unions shall be entitled to send to the Council one man and one woman delegate for the first 1,000 members or part of 1,000 on the books on September 30th in each year. Unions consisting of more than 1,000 members may elect one additional delegate for each additional 1,000 members or part of 1,000. Delegates shall be appointed for one year's service from the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in each year. (See Note A.) In the event of any delegate being unable to attend, the Union represented may provide for the appointment of a substitute, whose name must be sent to the Secretary of the National Adult School Union.

(b) The Officers of the Council, other than Vice-Chairmen, shall be elected at the first meeting of the Council in each year, and shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council: they shall be nominated by a Committee specially appointed at a previous meeting of the Council, and such Committee shall have power to nominate persons who are not delegates.

(c) The Vice-Chairmen of the Council for the ensuing year shall be elected by ballot, following nomination in open Council, at the meeting preceding the Annual Meeting. The number of Vice-Chairmen shall be limited to six.

(d) The representative Trustee if the Adult School Trustees of the Fellowship Hymn Book shall be nominated by the Trustees: such nomination to be subject to confirmation by the Council.

#### MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

7.—The Council shall meet twice in each year, once in Spring, to be considered the Annual Meeting, and once in Autumn. A Special Meeting of the Council may be convened by the Executive at any time.

8.—Federated Unions shall be invited by the Executive to contribute items to National Council Agendas. The Agendas shall be prepared at least one month before the meeting of the National Council, and shall be circulated among the Federated Unions so that the subjects may be considered by them before being debated in National Council.

9.—Questions for discussion must be introduced by a member of the Council, or by a minute from a Federated Union. Written notice of such question should reach the Secretary twenty-one clear days before the meeting of the Council.

10.—If any delegate has failed to attend two consecutive meetings of the Council, the Union shall be invited to elect another delegate for future meetings.

11.—The Council may invite persons who are not members of the Council to be present at any of its meetings.

12.—Each Federated Union shall be invited to ask the National Adult School Union to delegate some member not belonging to the Federated Union to attend, when possible, meetings of the Federated Union in order to stimulate its interest in the work of the National Adult School Union.

#### DELEGATES EXPENSES.

13.—Federated Unions shall be asked to make arrangements for paying the expenses of their delegates to National Council Meetings, similar to those made by the National Adult School Union for paying the expenses of its Executive. The National Adult School Union is prepared to find balance of expenses for hospitality during its meetings over and above what the Federated Union can provide.

#### ALLIANCE WITH OTHER BODIES.

14.—When a proposal for any alliance with other Bodies which may be regarded as co-workers is submitted to the Council the object of the proposed alliance must be clearly set forth.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

15.—The Executive shall (subject to clause 16) be composed of :—

The President, President-elect and Past-President of the National Adult School Union .. .. .	3
The Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the National Council .. .. .	3
The Conveners of the Standing Committees of the National Council .. .. .	3
Ten women and fifteen men to be elected by the Council from the members of the National Council ..	25
	<hr/>
	34

16.—Each Federated Union may nominate members of the Council for election to the Executive Committee up to the full number of the elective part of the Executive in such proportions of men and women as may, from time to time, be determined, but for the year commencing with the Annual Meeting in 1919 in the proportion as given above.

17.—The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Council in each year, and shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting. Voting shall be by ballot, and the ballot papers shall show names of Federated Unions proposing each nominee. Nominees to be approached by the Secretariat of the Central Office, prior to the meeting of the Council at which the election takes place, as to ability to serve if elected.

18.—The Executive shall have power to make use of the services of others besides its own members on Sub-Committees, etc., as it may find desirable.

## MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

19.—The Executive shall hold four week-end meetings each year, and shall plan a devotional meeting during each week-end session. The meetings shall not be confined to one place.

20.—The Executive may elect an Emergency Sub-Committee from among themselves to deal with urgent matters arising between their meetings. It may also invite visitors for special purposes either to its meetings or to those of the National Council. Visitors thus invited shall not be entitled to vote.

## EXPENSES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

21.—The funds of the National Adult School Union shall bear the cost of travelling expenses of all members when attending purely Executive Committees. A form of application for expenses shall be sent by the Secretariat of the Central Office to each member.

In cases where loss of working time is unavoidable, a further sum of not more than 7s. 6d. may be claimed.

Travelling expenses, etc., of Sub-Committees of the Executive shall be paid on similar lines.

When free hospitality cannot be found it must be paid for by individual members.

#### OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

22.—The Executive shall appoint its own Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

#### FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

23.—The scope of the work of the Executive Committee shall embrace :—

- (a) Supervision of Office Staff : general propaganda.
- (b) Supervision of Lectures, including Study Circle work.
- (c) Supervision of Finance and control of expenditure of all Committees of the Council subject to direction of Council.
- (d) Supervision of Literature and "ONE AND ALL."
- (e) Social Service work to come under the direct supervision of the Executive, who shall deal with all such sections of this work as have been approved by the Council, either direct or by delegation to Sub-Committees.
- (f) The Executive shall deal with all matters referred to it by the Council and suggest new matters to the Council.
- (g) In an emergency the Executive shall have a general authority to deal with any matters within the competency of the Council.
- (h) The Women's Committee, Lesson Sheet Committee, and Junior Work Committee shall continue to be appointed by and to be directly responsible to the Council, though the Executive shall maintain an interest in their work.

24.—The financial year of the Union shall end on the 31st of October.

25.—No alteration in these rules shall be made by the Council until it has been reported on by a Committee appointed for that purpose, but upon such report being made the Council may adopt the alteration with or without amendment.

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*Note A.*—It is strongly recommended that the Secretary of the Federated Unions should, where possible, be appointed as a delegate to the Council.

*Note B.*—The Council has resolved that prior to the Annual Meeting in 1919 men and women members shall meet in separate session and report to the Council their respective proposals for the future organization of men's and women's work.

*Extract from National Council Minutes—London, September, 1918.*

582.—" CONSTITUTION " OF NATIONAL COUNCIL.

The Chairman has submitted a draft of the revised Constitution, embodying the alterations and additions rendered necessary by the re-organisation Scheme adopted by the National Council in March, 1918.

It has been moved and seconded that the revised Constitution be approved and this has been carried.

Constitution as revised March, 1918, in London, proposed for adoption, but to be submitted for re-consideration or confirmation in March, 1922, so far as regards the changes approved in March, 1918.

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NATIONAL ADULT SCHOOL UNION CONSTITUTION.

AS REVISED AT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, HELD IN MARCH, 1922. TO BE SUBMITTED FOR RECONSIDERATION OR CONFIRMATION IN MARCH, 1926.

1.—The name shall be " THE NATIONAL ADULT SCHOOL UNION."

2.—The objects of the Union shall be to federate Adult School Unions in order to advance the Adult School Movement as a whole and to form through its Council a united executive body for the purpose of dealing with questions affecting the whole movement. The National Adult School Union is not empowered to exercise any constitutional control over the Federated Unions.

3.—The business and affairs of the Union shall be managed by a Council consisting of :—

- (a) President, President-Elect, and Past-President of the Union.
- (b) Chairman, not more than six Vice-Chairmen, Treasurer, Honorary Secretary of the Council.
- (c) Conveners of Standing Committees of the Council.
- (d) Delegates from Federated Unions.
- (e) One of the Adult School Trustees of the Fellowship Hymn Book.
- (f) \*Two representatives of the Central Education Committee of the Society of Friends.

The President of the Union shall be President-Elect during one year preceding and Past-President during one year succeeding his or her term of office as President.

\* These two representatives are included in the Council of the Union in order to maintain the historic connection of the Society of Friends with the Adult School Movement, the Friends' First-Day School Association being now amalgamated with the said Central Education Committee.

The before-mentioned officers of the Union and of the Council shall be elected annually by the Council, after nomination either by the Council or by a Committee appointed for that purpose by the Council. The Council or its Committee shall have power to nominate persons who are not delegates of Federated Unions.

Each Federated Union shall be entitled to send to the Council one man and one woman delegate for the first 1,000 members or part of 1,000 on the books on September 30th in each year. A Union consisting of more than 1,000 members may elect one additional delegate for each additional 1,000 or part of 1,000. Delegates shall be appointed for one year's service from the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in each year. In the event of any delegate being unable to attend a meeting of the Council the Union represented may send a substitute.

The Chairman and Honorary Secretary may invite persons who are not members of the Council to be present at any of its meetings.

4.—Any Union seeking federation with the National Union shall do so by means of a written application, which must be accompanied by a written report by the Honorary Secretary of the National Council on presentation to the Council. It is to be understood that Schools comprising the Unions shall maintain as fundamental principles: (a) the free and reverent study of the Bible; (b) unsectarian, non-partisan and democratic methods of working.

The Council may at its discretion admit on application representatives of other associations or bodies whose fundamental principles approximate to this rule.

The Council may make provision for the admission of personal members of the National Union, but such personal members shall have no right to representation on the Council.

5.—The Council shall meet at least twice in each year. A special meeting of the Council may be convened by the Executive and Finance Committee.

6.—The Council shall appoint an Executive and Finance Committee, which shall meet at least twice a year. It shall also appoint such Standing and other Committees as from time to time it may deem desirable.

7.—The Executive and Finance Committee shall consist (a) the President, President-Elect, and Past-President of the Union; (b) the Chairman, Treasurer and Hon. Secretary of the Council; (c) a Convener of each Standing Committee; and (d) fifteen elected by the Council from amongst its members, in such proportion of men and women as may be determined by the Council.

Each Federated Union may nominate members of the Council for election to the Executive and Finance Committee up to the full number of the elective part of the Committee.



8.—The Executive and Finance Committee shall appoint an Emergency Sub-Committee to deal with urgent matters.

9.—The President of the Union, and the Chairman, Treasurer, and Honorary Secretary of the Council shall be *ex officio* members of all Committees of the Council.

10.—The financial year of the Union shall end on the 31st October, or at such other date as may from time to time be fixed by the Council.

11.—The following Standing Committees, and such other Standing Committees as may from time to time be decided upon by the Council, shall be appointed:—Lesson Handbook, Women's, Education and Social Service, International Work, and Junior Work. Unless otherwise directed by the Council, each such Committee shall consist of not more than ten elected members of the Council, and not more than five co-opted members, who may be elected by the Committee concerned, in addition to the Convener of the Committee (who may or may not be a member of the Council) and the *ex officio* members. Each Committee shall have power to fill vacancies as they occur.

12.—No alteration in these Rules shall be made by the Council until it has been reported on by a Committee appointed for that purpose, and upon such report being made the Council may adopt the alteration with or without amendment. One month's notice of any proposed alteration shall be given in writing to the Honorary Secretary by a member of the Council or by a Minute of a Federated Union.

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#### STANDING ORDERS.

1.—A draft copy of the preliminary agenda of each Council Meeting shall be sent to each member and to the Secretary of each Federated Union at least twenty-eight days before such meeting.

2.—Questions for discussion must be introduced by a member of the Council, and by a Minute from a Federated Union. Written notice of any such question should reach the Secretary thirty clear days before the meeting of the Council.

3.—It is strongly recommended that the Secretary of a Federated Union should, where possible, be appointed as one of its delegates to the Council.

4.—The functions of the Executive and Finance Committee shall include supervision of all Finance; of the office and staff; and, unless otherwise directed by the Council, of 'ONE AND ALL' and other publications; and of such other matters as are not specifically referred to other Committees.

5.—Each Federated Union shall be requested to furnish to the Office of the Council the names of its delegates to the National Council not later than January 31st in each year. The Council shall set up a Nominating Committee who, from the names so received, shall submit to the Council at its Annual Meeting names for election to the Standing Committees, with the exception of the Lesson Handbook Committee, which shall be elected at the half-yearly meeting of the Council. At an early period of the Annual Meeting of the Council, members of the Council shall be entitled to submit further names from among its members. Unless otherwise determined by the Council, the vote shall be taken by ballot at a later sitting.

6.—Conveners of the Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Council. Each Standing Committee shall be helped in its work by such member or members of the Staff as may be arranged in consultation between the Convener, the Honorary Secretary, and the Staff.

7.—The travelling expenses of members attending Committee Meetings shall be paid on application from National Council Funds. Travelling expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Council cannot be similarly paid. It is understood that an endeavour will be made to secure hospitality for members attending Council or Committee Meetings.

8.—A representative of "Fircroft" shall be invited to attend National Council Meetings as a visitor.

## APPENDIX C.

### SUGGESTED MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR AN ADULT SCHOOL.

**NAME.**—That this School shall be called the .....  
Adult School.

**AIM.**—That the aim and object of the School shall be to encourage the reverent study of the Bible, to carry on educational work, to make life and religion one, and to form a bond of union and friendship between its members.

**MEETINGS.**—That the School shall meet on .....  
..... from ..... to ..... The Bible lesson shall be regarded as the central feature of the School.

**MEMBERSHIP.**—That any man (or woman) if Women's School, above the age of seventeen may become a member of the School by making four attendances within three calendar months. If a member does not attend the meetings of the School for a whole quarter without giving any satisfactory reason, he or she shall cease to be a member.

**GOVERNMENT.**—That the government of the School shall be vested in its members. A meeting of members shall be regularly held to transact the business of the School. It may appoint Committees to attend to the various branches of the work, as the necessity for these arises. Every Committee shall report at least once a year to the School.

**OFFICERS.**—That the business meeting shall appoint annually a President ; one or more Vice-Presidents ; a Treasurer ; one or more Secretaries ; and any such other officers as may be deemed necessary by the meeting.

**FINANCE.**—That the School shall be supported by voluntary contributions of members and their friends ; properly audited statements of all School funds shall be rendered annually to the School.

## APPENDIX D.

THE following particulars of an Adult School in Wigan in 1835 are taken from an article by Mr. W. J. True in the *Wigan Observer* of September 27th, 1924 :—

### THE RULES.

1st. That this Institution be for the religious instruction of Adults ; and that the School open in the morning and close in the evening with prayer.

2nd. That this Institution be under the management of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, two Stewards, a Secretary, and a Committee, any two of whom shall be competent to act.

3rd. That the scholars shall attend every morning at nine, and every evening at six o'clock, or forfeit a penny.

4th. That every teacher shall, for his services and attendance, receive five shillings per quarter, and that non-attendance without leave or being too late he shall forfeit sixpence.

5th. That, with leave of the Rector, there shall be an annual collection after a sermon in the Parish Church, for defraying the expenses of the school.

6th. That every scholar shall have been regular in his attendance six months before he be relieved in case of sickness, and that the relief be one shilling a week while the funds allow such relief.

7th. That any scholar be excluded for gross irregularities, either in or out of school.

8th. That the Committee shall not grant assistance to any scholar, whose sickness is caused by impropriety of conduct.

9th. That every member of the School attend Divine worship, morning and afternoon of the same day.

10th. That the Committee meet in the Free Grammar School of Wigan, every quarter day.

11th. That the Secretary be empowered to convene the Committee, as occasion may require, or at the request of any member.

12th. After any sick member has received relief for three successive months, his pay shall be suspended, and he shall not be entitled to relief until he has again attended the School regularly for six months.

13th. That no sick member receiving relief for shorter periods, can again be entitled to relief until he has attended the School for three months, from the last time he was on the books.

14th. Every member who shall have received relief for three months, or for a shorter period, and shall be so stricken with infirmity as to be unable to attend the School, shall upon the case being satisfactory certified, be allowed to continue a member of the School, and not be chargeable with forfeits for non-attendance.

15th. All members absenting themselves from some place of public worship or from the School, for four successive Sundays (unless by reason of sickness or infirmity) shall cease to belong to the School, and their names shall be struck off the books.

A Sermon will be preached in the Parish Church of Wigan, on Sunday Morning, February 12th, 1837, By the Rev. Joshua Paley, A.M., Incumbent Curate of Pemberton, And a Collection made to increase the Funds.

This School has been established twenty-four years.

The Scholars now amount in numbers to one hundred and eighty-one, of all ages from sixteen to seventy-four, and they continue to meet in the Free Grammar School. The effect of reading the Scriptures, and of the quiet serious way of spending the Sabbath, are visible in the contented appearance of the Scholars; and their brotherly love to each other has induced them to enter into a Voluntary association for the purpose of providing by small subscriptions, for funerals, and of assisting the widows of the members who depart this life, which in every instance has been found a source of consolation and relief in time of great distress and affliction.

The forfeits are applied to the further relief of the sick. The School has hitherto been supported by Church Collections, without any subscription. The last Collection was made at the Parish Church in April, 1835.

(J. Brown, Printer, Standishgate, Wigan.)

According to a broadside preserved at the Library, dated 1813, it is stated:—"More than 25 years ago that the Church Sunday schools of Wigan were instituted. This brings the date of inception back to 1788."\*

\* Though the final note is interesting, it does not prove that the School referred to was an Adult School.

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## INDEX.

- A.B.C. of Progress, Arnold S. Rowntree's, 204.
- Ackworth, 104.
- Adult Education, British Institute of, 369.  
Committee on, 208,  
Hudson's History of, 69.  
Nottingham University College Department of, 208,  
Report of Committee on World Association for, 368.  
Report on, 207, 302, 375.
- Adult School Sunday, 218.  
"Salad," 177.  
Unions, 146, 152.
- Adult School Work*, 205.
- Adult Schools, Aims of, 143, 226, 276, 315.  
Athletics in, 119.  
Badge for, 175.  
Churches and, 25, 28, 30, 36, 54, 60, 71, 81, 104, 120, 122, 146, 195, 343, 388.  
Conferences of, 158, 178, 206.  
Directory of, 250, 315.  
Future of, 110, 221, 380, 389.  
Geographical Distribution of, 158, 300, 320, 383-5.  
Growth of, 112, 113, 158, 164, 180.  
Pole's History of, 28-31, 35-36, 37, 40, 47, 57, 229, 297.  
Rowntree & Binns' History of, 143, 175, 301.  
Winks' History of, 229, 298, 319.  
Hymn Books for, 63, 254, 302-307.  
Lectures in, 179, 193, 199.
- Model Constitution of, 252.  
Model Trust Deed for, 264.  
Personal Membership of, 217.  
Sunday Evening, 213.  
In America, 194, 320.  
In the Colonies, 111, 321, 322, 386.  
In the Mission Field, 320, 339-340, 387.  
On Board Ship, 184, 322.
- Albright, Miss M. C., 246, 304.
- Alden, P., 191, 202, 307.
- Allen, Sam, 167.
- "All-the-Week" Programme, 204.
- Armitage, S. F., 14.
- Ashworth, J., 99.
- Baker, J. A., 154, 173, 198.
- Banbury, *The Windmill* at, 215.
- Barming, Guest House at, 289.
- Barber, J. H., 91.
- Barker, J., 270.
- Barnes, Bishop, quoted, 395.
- Barnett, Canon, 350.
- Bath, Early Schools at, 39.
- Beardsley, J., 131.
- Beechcroft Settlement, 353.
- Beehive*, The New, 167.
- Belgians, Assistance to, 185, 287, 290.
- Belgium, Visit to, 334.
- Bensham Grove Settlement, 360.
- Bentley, D. 338.
- Berlin, Visit to, 329.
- Bewdley, Guest House at, 29.
- Bible, As Text Book, 14, 20-21, 27, 29, 37, 46a, 49, 107, 116, 176, 195.

- Bible Readings, Daily, 257.  
 Bible Society, British and Foreign, 22, 30.  
 Bide-a-wee, 358.  
 Birkenhead, 353.  
 Birmingham, 53, 54, 71, 86, 113, 123, 231, 235.  
 Blackham, J., 122.  
 Blomfield, Principal, 175.  
 Board of Education, Reports of, 246.  
 Bournville, Origin of, 128.  
 Bournemouth, 295.  
 Boyd, D., 198, 261.  
 Bradford, 109, 111.  
 Bradninch, 38.  
 Braithwaite, Miss Dorothy, 242, 272.  
     J. B., 129, 251, 273, 358.  
     W. C., 129, 137, 142, 157, 176, 188, 190, 195, 214, 237, 253, 260, 317, 323, 329, 397.  
 Breakfasts, Adult School, 75, 106, 119.  
 Bridlington, Guest House at, 284.  
 Bristol, Early Schools in, 34-38, 50, 70.  
     Folk House at, 358.  
     Street, School at, 126.  
 British Foreign School Society, 8.  
 Brotherhood Movement, Start of Relations with, 122.  
 Brown, Mrs. E., 238, 313.  
 Bryan, T., 197, 263, 347.  
 Bunhill Fields, School at, 111.  
 Burns, Robert, 5-7.  
 Burritt, B., 34.  
  
 Cadbury, Barrow, 206, 210, 261, 286, 323.  
     George, 88, 124ff, 216, 224, 345.  
     Mrs. G., 242.  
     Richard, 123, 144.  
 Campaign Fund, 205.  
 Canton, W., quoted, 23.  
 Canvassing, 280.  
 Capel, 295.  
  
 Carlisle, 105.  
 Central Library, 368.  
 Chalmers, Miss, 248.  
 Chamberlain, J., 123.  
 Charles, T., 20, 22.  
 China, Adult School in, 340.  
 Cholerton, A. F., 153.  
 "Christian Societies," 143.  
 "Circulating Schools," 21.  
*Clarion* Controversy, 255.  
 Clark, J. F., 17, 101, 198.  
 Cober Hill, Guest House at, 291.  
 "Cocoa Meetings," 102.  
 Coffee Carts, 119.  
 Collumpton, School at, 55.  
 Colonies, Schools in the, 111, 321, 386.  
 Committees of National Council, 266-274.  
 Conferences, National, 262.  
     Women's, 237.  
 Conscientious Objectors, 187.  
 Constitution of National Council, 153, 250, 265, 275.  
 Continent of Europe, Message to, 322.  
     Visits to, 322-336.  
 Cooper, T., 62-63, 303.  
 Co-operation with other organisations, 342-371.  
 Co-operative Holidays, 283-284.  
 C.O.P.E.C. and Adult Schools, 220.  
 Copeman, T. D., 337.  
 Correspondence Courses, 197, 263.  
 Couch, Sir A. Quiller, quoted, 2.  
 Council for the Study of International Relations, 191.  
 Coventry, School at, 56, 112.  
 Cowmeadow, Mrs., 248.  
 Cowper, W., 4.  
 Crabbe, G., 4.  
 Creighton, Bishop, quoted, 395.  
 Crosfield, Mrs., A. J., 237.  
 Croydon, Conference at, 241.  
 Crowley, R., 135.  
     Miss, 237.

- Dale, Dr. R., quoted, 120.  
 Danish People's High Schools, 66.  
 Dartmoor, School at, 184.  
 Decline of Membership, 68, 70, 173, 278.  
 Democratic Methods, 54, 84, 105.  
 "Demonstration" Adult Schools, 256.  
 Denmark, Visit to, 327.  
 Denominational Schools, 256.  
 Derby, Early School in, 50.  
 Dickens, Charles, quoted, 233.  
 Dodgshun, E., 190.  
 Doncaster, J. H., 207.  
 Dorland, J. T., 130, 139.  
 Douglas, R. W., 86.  
 Drama, 178.  
 Dunkirk, School at, 184.
- Easter Schools at Penscot, 196, 289.  
 Ecroyd, Senora, 338.  
 Education, Early Efforts for Popular, 64-66.  
     Problems of, 31, 83, 181, 392-398.  
 Education Acts, Effects of, 64, 102, 138.  
 Educational Settlements' Association, 361.  
 Eighteenth Century, Characteristics of, 2-7.  
 Eliot, G., quoted, 41.  
 Essay Competitions, 247, 254.  
 Evangelism, 85, 131, 392.  
 Exhibitions, Adult School, 98.  
 Experiments, Adult School, 98, 220.  
 Extension, 34, 47, 57, 69, 77, 101, 109, 111, 140, 180, 183, 206, 255, 257, 278, 300, 315, 383-387.
- F.F.D.S.A., 81, 83, 96, 113, 138, 147, 154-158, 238-239, 249, 258.  
 Fairbairn, Dr. A., quoted, 120.
- Fellowship, Ideal of, Hymn Book, 305.  
     Song Book, 198.  
     Meetings,  
     Finance, Methods of, 273-274.  
     Fines, 60, 79, 98.  
     Fininstall, 246.  
     Fircroft, 243, 347.  
     "First Half-Hours," 103, 135, 261.  
     " Folk House," Bristol, 358.  
     Reading, 364.  
 Forward Movement Campaign, 205, 209.  
 Fox, S., 13-17.  
 France, 62, 335.  
 Freeman, J., 40, 59.  
 Friedenthal, 285.  
*Friend, The*, 153.  
 Friends, Society of, see Society of Friends.  
     Young, 266.  
 Fry, J. S., 91, 138, 179.  
 Fullwood, E. J., 166, 262.  
     Mrs., 248.  
 Funds, Provident, 93.
- Gainsborough, School at, 58-61, 62, 229-230, 302.  
 Germany, Intervisitation with, 323-7, 329-334.  
 Gilbert, E., 158, 172, 254, 309, 325, 329, 365.  
 Gillman, F. J., 143, 204, 218, 221, 225, 304-306.  
 Glaisyer, Miss E. M., 242, 271.  
 Goldsmith, Oliver, 4.  
 Goodman, Matt, 169.  
 Gornall Wood, 113.  
 Graham, J. W., 343, 377.  
 Grimsby, 117, 214.  
 Grubb, E., 346.  
 Groups, 218.  
 Grundtvig, Bishop, 66, 306.  
 Guest Houses, 284-294.  
 Guildford, Guest House at, 290.  
 Gurneys of Earlhham, 228.  
 Gypsies, work for, 228.

- Hamburg, Visit to, 328.  
 Handicrafts, Teaching of, 12, 98.  
 Harrison, Miss G., 243, 247, 272.  
 Havre, School at, 184.  
 Hawes, 112.  
 Hess, C., 169.  
 Heyes Farm, 287.  
 Hibernian Society, 61.  
 High Wycombe, Early School at, 7.  
 Hill, Rowland, 49.  
 Hodgson, J., 112.  
 Holiday Fellowship, 369.  
 Holidays, Co-operative, 119.  
 "Homestead" at Bulwell, 353.  
 Wakefield, 357.  
 Horton, Dr. R. F., quoted, 121.  
 Hours of Meeting, 13, 55, 60, 74, 106, 203.  
 Huddersfield, 106.  
 Hudson's *History of Adult Education*, 69, 299.  
 Hull, 109, 111.  
 Hymns, Adult School, 63, 80, 254, 302-307.  
 as Dictation Lessons, 60.
- Independent Methodist Connexion, 212.  
*Independent, The*, 121.  
 "Ingathering Teas," 119.  
 International Committee, 272.  
 Correspondence Bureau, 337.  
 Interest, 118, 196, 217.  
 People's College, 339.  
 Visits, 322-337.  
*International Affairs*, 341n.  
 Internment Camps, School in, 184.  
 Ipswich, Schools at, 48, 227.  
 Ireland, Schools in, 61, 239.  
 Italy, Visit to, 336.
- Jacks, L. P., quoted, 393.  
 John Woolman Settlement, 359.  
 Johnny o' th' Hey, 7.  
 Johnson, Dr. Samuel, quoted, 3.  
 Jones, E., 210.
- Jones, Rufus M., quoted, 149-151.  
 Junior Schools, 118.  
 Junior Work Committee, 272-273.
- Kenyon, Lord, quoted, 11.  
 Kilham, Alexander, 13.  
 King, Mary Ann, 235.
- Lacon, J., 281, 304, 317.  
 Lancaster, J., 7-8.  
 Lantern Lectures, 263.  
 Leadership, 394.  
 Lectures, 79, 95, 102, 179, 190, 214, 262, 349.  
 Leeds, Schools in, 54, 82, 216.  
 Leicester, 153, 170.  
 Early Schools in, 62, 89, 113.  
 Leicestershire, Extension in, 159ff.  
 Leighton Buzzard, 8-10, 163.  
 Lemington-on-Tyne, 355.  
 Leominster, 116.  
 Lesson Handbook, 212, 255, 266-268, 307-8, 346.  
 Lesson Sheets, 256, 263.  
 Letchworth Settlement, 360.  
 Letters from Members, '95-96, 219.  
 Leytonstone, 239.
- Libraries, School, 14, 50, 59, 75, 93, 98, 118, 136, 367.  
 Literature, Adult School, 137, 268, 297-318.  
 Littleboy, William, quoted, 173, 240, 317.  
 Liverpool, 55, 229.  
 London, Early Schools in, 49-50.  
 Longfellow, H. W., 6.  
 Luton, 89.
- Macdonald, George, quoted, 134n, 237n.  
 MacDonald, J. Ramsay, quoted, 201.  
 Maidstone, Sunday Evening School at, 213.

- Manchester, 54, 66, 99, 112.  
 Mansbridge, Dr. Albert, 367-368.  
 Martin, T., 27-28.  
 Martineau, Miss H., quoted, 232.  
 Marvin, F. S., quoted, 378.  
 McKenzie, Mrs. Barbara, 202, 240, 241, 243, 271, 309.  
 Mechanics' Institutes, 10, 55, 65, 105.  
 Merttens, F., 217, 272, 323, 329, 337.  
 Message on Outbreak of War, 188.  
 Messer, A., 355.  
 Metcalfe, F. W., 271.  
 Methodism, Influence of, 12.  
 Methodist, New Connexion, 13.  
 Missions, Interest in, 321.  
 Mollatt, W., 106, 216.  
 Montgomery, J., 33n, 51, 302.  
*Monthly Record*, 101, 114, 309.  
*Moonlight Schools*, 45.  
 More, Miss Hannah, 3, 11, 12.  
 Morgans, B., 20.  
 Moscrip, Miss J., 237.  
 Moseley Road Institute, 123.
- Naish, A., 102.  
 National Adult School Union,  
   Name of, 263.  
   Offices of, 179, 206, 274.  
 National Council, 153, 165, 249-281.  
 Newman, Sir George, 129, 133, 152, 153, 174, 175, 206, 215, 257, 309, 318.  
*Nonconformist, The*, 121.  
 Non-Friends' Schools, 146.  
 Norwich, 120.  
 Nottingham, Early Schools in, 12, 14, 16, 17, 53, 116, 237.  
   University College, Adult Education Department in, 208.  
 Numbers, Rapid Growth of, see Extension.
- Occupations of Members, 90, 107, 108, 131, 320.  
 Oldham, 117.  
*One and All*, 130, 153, 163, 172, 174, 199, 206, 215, 217, 218, 239, 240, 241, 244, 254, 309.  
 Optimism, 58.  
 Ostende, Visit to, 335.  
 Oxford Sunday School Union, 57.  
*Painted Windows*, quoted, 379.  
 Parker, Mrs. C., 242, 272.  
 Patrons of Early Schools, 49.  
 Peers, R., 208, 225.  
 Penney, N., 112.  
*Penny Encyclopædia*, quoted, 53.  
 Penscot, 196, 288.  
 People's College, 10.  
 Periodicals, 309ff.  
 Personal Membership, 217.  
 Peru, Adult School in, 194.  
 Peverett, G., 19, 188, 191, 254, 309, 313, 334, 339, 348.  
 Phonotype, Use of, 111.  
 "Pilgrimages," 180, 277.  
 Pine, C., 162, 290.  
 Pleasant Sunday Afternoons, 122.  
 Plymouth, 38, 365.  
 Pole, Dr. Thomas, 23, 28, 49, 57, 297.  
 Potato, Parable of the, 178.  
 Presidents of N.A.S.U., 195.  
 Price, S., 145.  
 Priestman, H. B., 109, W., 253.  
 "Priory" Women's School, 236.  
 Prison, Schools in, 34, 53.  
 Prisoners, Work in aid of, 170.  
 Prust, S., 26, 319.  
 P.S.A. Movement, 122.  
 Public Houses, Transformed, 128, 166.  
 Raikes, Robert, 7.  
 Raistrick, O. S., 269.  
 Reigate, 106.

- Resolutions in National Council, 251.  
 Rest Home for Mothers, 241.  
 Revised Version of Bibles, 262.  
 Richard, T., Experience of, 205.  
 Rouen, Visits to,  
 Rowntree, Arnold S., 174, 180, 188, 191, 199, 204, 208, 257, 265, 345-346.  
 Miss S. E., 257.  
 F., 198.  
 J. S., 82, 228.  
 Joseph, 83, 117, 141, 176, 194.  
 J. W., 85, 133, 171, 256, 259, 344.  
 Joshua, 90, 283, 343.  
 Ruhleben, School at, 183.  
 Ryle, Miss Effie, 200, 244, 247.
- St. Mary's Settlement, 352.  
 Salisbury, Early Schools at, 39.  
 Saturday Evening Discussion Classes, 102.  
 Entertainments, 169.  
 Savings Banks, 14, 16, 75, 79, 92.  
 Scalby, 259-261, 285.  
 Scarborough, 90.  
 Scotland, 180, 384.  
 Selly Oak, 127.  
 "Service to the Movement"  
 Committee, 219.  
 Settlements, Growth of, 351ff.  
 Severn Street Christian Society, 86, 145, 389.  
 School, 73, 76, 79, 92, 128.  
 Sewing Schools, 230-6.  
 Sheffield, 50, 52, 82, 91, 109, 117.  
 Singleton, W., 12, 14.  
 Smith, E., 131, 194, 323.  
 W., 26, 39.  
*Snowdrop Bands*, 238.  
 Social Service, 269-271.  
 Society of Friends, 32, 48, 71, 139-143, 221, 224, 329.  
 Song at Scalby, 260.  
*Southwark Society for the Education of Adults*, 49.
- Spain, Adult School in, 338.  
 Start, W., 15.  
 Staley, Mrs., 248.  
 Stanyon, S., 171.  
 Stead, F. H., 121, 348.  
 Stock, T., 7.  
 Study Circles, 171.  
 Sturge, Joseph, 72ff.  
 Summer Schools, 266, 294-296, 333, 336, 344.  
 Sunday, Adult School, 218,  
 Evening Schools on, 213.  
*Sunday Society*, 10.  
 Sunderland, 117.  
 Supplements to *One and All*, 251, 310-314.  
 Sutton, Adult School at, 210, 311.  
 Swanwick, Conferences at, 180, 206.  
 Swarthmore Settlement, 351.  
 Swedish, Study of, 117.
- Tangye, Messrs., 88, 131.  
 Taylor, Frederic, 139, 252, 263.  
 Teaching in Adult Schools, 13, 50, 99, 105, 256.  
 Temperance Work, 94, 251.  
 Tolerance, 37.  
 Tookey, E., 170.  
 Toynbee Hall, 350.
- Uffculme, 286.  
 Unity History Schools, 347.  
 University Committee, 193.  
 U.S.A., Adult Schools in, 62, 319.
- Venture, The*, 361.  
 Viccars, W. A., 221, 308.  
 Vienna, Adult School in,  
 Vince, Charles, 81.  
 Visitation, 56, 109.
- W.A.A.C., Adult School in, 184.  
 Wales, Adult Schools in, 20.  
 Wall, T., 210.  
 Walpole, Sir Spencer, 3.  
 Walthamstow Settlement, 359.

## INDEX

435

- Var, Adult Schools during, 182-200.  
 Varrilow, H., 205.  
 Watson, Mrs. A., 238.  
 Week-end Schools, 171.  
 Vesley, J., 11.  
 Vethered, E. H. C., 195, 196, 261, 264, 289, 318.  
 White, William, 76, 84, 88, 90, 95, 114, 123, 124, 153, 154, 162, 172, 250, 252, 283.  
 Whitling, Mrs., 245.  
 Wilberforce, 3, 11.  
 Vinks, J. F., 63, 298.  
 Winter Schools, 244.  
 Women's Conference, 241.  
 Women's Work, 25, 27, 32, 52, 61, 71, 75, 89, 97, 183, 227-248, 258, 319, 354, 382.  
 Woodbrooke, 343-347.  
 Woods, Miss L. M., 16-17.  
 Working Men's College, 10.  
 W.E.A., 366.  
 Worsdell, E., 135, 178, 343.  
 Writing, Teaching of, 12, 13, 32, 48, 50, 52, 54, 74, 79, 90, 99, 104, 110, 114, 232, 237.  
 Wykes, A., 161, 218.  
  
 Yarmouth, Early School at, 48.  
 Y.M.C.A., 365.  
 Yeaxlee, B. A., 361.  
 York, Schools at, 82, 116, 134.  
 Young Men's Fellowships, 212.  
 Young People's Committee, 219.  
     Work, 218, 382.



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