

CHILD WELFARE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A STUDY OF
AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS FOR THE CARE
OF DEPENDENT AND DELINQUENT CHILDREN

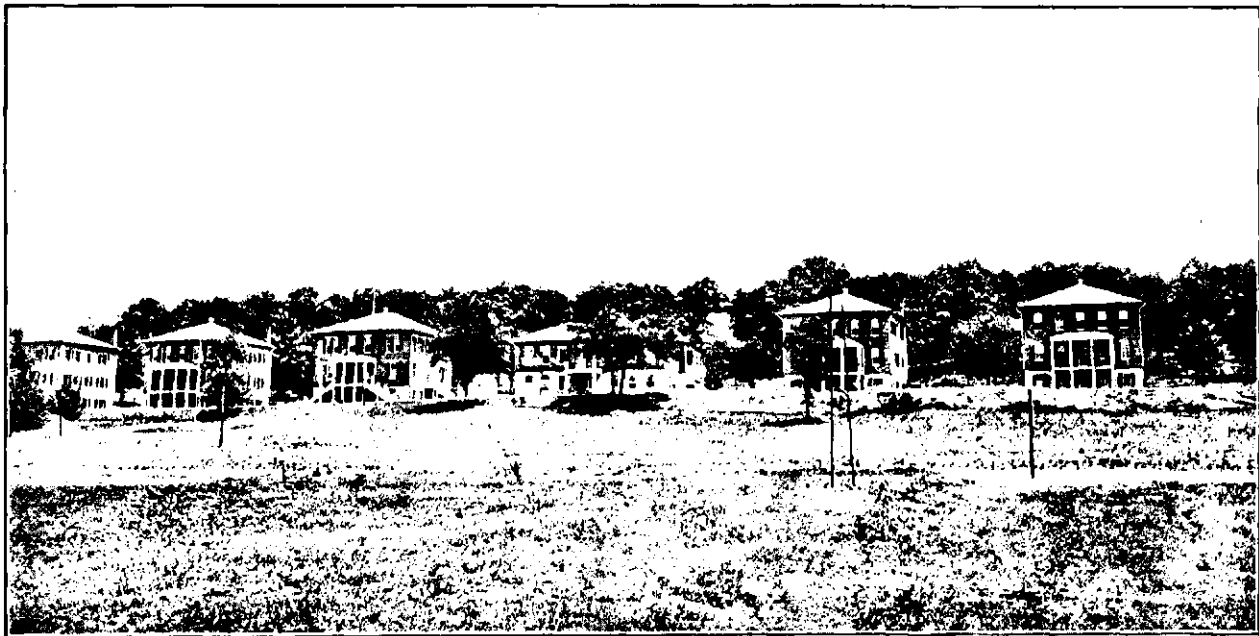
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INDUSTRIAL HOME SCHOOL FOR COLORED CHILDREN
A well-ordered modern cottage institution.

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PREFACE

IN 1918 the Monday Evening Club of Washington, through its committee on dependent and neglected children, requested the Department of Child-Helping of the Russell Sage Foundation to make an intensive study of child welfare work in the District of Columbia. The request had special reference to the dependent and delinquent children who require care in foster homes or in institutions, and the investigation was desired in order to furnish a basis of fact upon which action might be taken to improve the condition of such children in the national capital.

This invitation was accepted partly because of the service which might be rendered in the immediate situation, and partly because of the influence which such a study in the national capital might have on child welfare work throughout the country. Mr. C. Spencer Richardson, who was then Assistant Director of the Department of Child-Helping, was assigned to conduct the inquiry. During six months in 1918 and 1919 Mr. Richardson, with the assistance of Miss L. Josephine Webster, visited and investigated all the organizations in Washington which were concerned with the care of dependent and delinquent children, examining their equipment, their methods of work, the character and adequacy of their support, and their relation to other organizations engaged in the field.

The results of Mr. Richardson's investigation, together with the recommendations of the Department of Child-Helping for immediate action, were placed before the Monday Evening Club shortly after the report was completed, and the findings respecting the various institutions visited were furnished to their directors. Since that time the Department of Child-Helping has maintained close touch with the situation in Washington. Further study has been made of the diverse phases of the work of the District for its dependent and delinquent children and the Director of the Department has been in frequent conference with those responsible for the direction of the work.

PREFACE

In 1922, nearly four years after the first inquiry was undertaken, the entire field was re-examined and most of the institutions were revisited by members of the staff of the Department.

This study, while it is based on the original report of Mr. Richardson, utilizes the findings of the entire investigation. The descriptions of institutions, unless otherwise specified, refer to recent conditions; and the recommendations made are offered in the light of these conditions. It has been necessary to use statistics of different years for different institutions because in some instances it was not possible to get as accurate figures for the later years as could be obtained for earlier ones.

December, 1923.