ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Neighborhood Cottage,

1911-1912

EAST GREENWICH, R. I.

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OFFICERS 1912-1913.

HONORARY PRESIDENT:

REV. WM. WORTHINGTON.

PRESIDENT:

MRS. WM. L. HODGMAN.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

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SECRETARY AND TREASURER:

MRS. CHARLES E. SHEDD.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

MISS KATHARINE SHEDD.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

MRS. WM. L. HODGMAN,
MRS. JOB KENYON,
MRS. CHARLES E. SHEDD,
MRS. A. B. LISLE,
MRS. WM. A. BROWNING.

HOUSE COMMITTEE:

MRS. JOB KENYON,
MRS. SOLOMON KENYON,
MRS. WM. A. BROWNING,
MRS. R. S. MACDOUGALL.

HEAD WORKER:

MISS MARY E. EVANS.

VOLUNTEER WORKERS:

REV. WM. WORTHINGTON,
REV. T. C. GLEASON,
REV. WM. H. DUNNACK,
REV. SAMUEL IRWIN,
DR. F. G. TAGGART,
DR. H. F. POWERS,
DR. W. A. CREASE,
MISS FITZ PATRICK,
MISS EVA TILLEY,
MISS HOPE HODGMAN,
MISS MARY C. GALLAGHER,
MISS KATHARINE SHEDD,

MANAGERS:

MRS. WM. L. HODGMAN,
MRS. JOB KENYON,
MRS. C. E. SHEDD,
MRS. A. B. LISLE,
MISS BESSIE REED,
MRS. E. G. CARPENTER,
MRS. RUTH BURLINGAME,
MISS HARRIET RICHMOND,
MRS. R. S. MACDOUGALL,
MRS. TIMOTHY ANDREWS,
MRS. SOLOMON KENYON,
MISS G M. BRIGGS,
MRS. WM. A. BROWNING,
MRS. WM. WORTHINGTON,
MISS MAGDELAINE KNIGHT.



NEIGHBORHOOD COTTAGE.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The work of Neighborhood Cottage during the past year has followed along the lines of previous years, although this autumn the coming of a new Worker, who now lives at the Cottage, makes it seem wise for us to change our methods somewhat. Mrs. Fernandis remained with us until June, when her engagement expired, and a temporary Worker was engaged for the vacation period and took charge of the playground, which was well attended during several hours each day.

It was thought advisable to place a white woman in charge of the work, and in September Miss Mary E. Evans, of Brookline, Mass., a woman of much experience and ability, accepted the position of Head Worker, and under her enthusiastic leadership the

classes this autumn have started with a large attendance and promised well for the winter's work.

The kindergarten, as usual, is one of the most interesting classes, but there are also classes in sewing and cooking for the older girls, Sloyd and gymnastics for



KINDERGARTEN CLASS.

the boys, a sewing class for the older women, a club for the men, a clinic on Saturday mornings, and afternoon and evening meetings on Sunday.

The classes have been so full it has been necessary to limit the membership to those who live east of the

railroad track, as the work was originally started for those on, or near, the shore.

Neighborhood Cottage seems more truly a settlement work this year, as the Worker lives at the larger house, instead of the small cottage "over the way,"



TWO OF THE COTTAGE CHILDREN.

where the work was first started, and where the former Worker lived. Two of the children from the shore live with her and attend the public school.

Two of our older girls, who have been sent away to school through the generosity of several friends,

are making good progress, and we cannot but be hopeful for their future. The older girl is at the Manassas Industrial School, Virginia, and worked through the summer months, thus enabling her to buy much of her clothing for this year at school. The other girl is at Hampton, Virginia, living with a family where she has unusually good surroundings, and is studying at the Whittier school in preparation for Hampton University. We were able to give her this great opportunity through the influence of the late Bishop McVickar.

Two of our boys, who were most serious problems, have gone into the Navy.

Every Saturday morning a clinic is held for members of the Cottage, and those who are able to pay a small fee are asked to do so, in payment for medicine, etc. Dr. Taggart and Dr. Powers have given their services at this clinic, and through the courtesy of the East Greenwich District Nurse Association, Miss Fitzpatrick has been in attendance, and has been most helpful. Rev. Mr. Worthington, Rev. Mr. Gleason and Rev. Mr. Dunnack, as well as several young men from the Academy, have most kindly assisted in the Sunday School work. Miss Palmer gave a very enjoyable concert, assisted by several young people, and we are anticipating another this year. Miss Eva Tilley, in the kindergarten work, and Miss Laughlin, in teaching folk dances, were most helpful, and their efforts greatly appreciated.

Although statistics are usually passed by as dull affairs, we venture to give a few, thinking someone may be interested to know the number of persons reached:

Kindergarten (ages 4 to 6)	14
Boys' Club (ages 8 to 14)	18
Girls' Cooking Class (ages 8 to 15)	10
Girls' Sewing Class (ages 6 to 10)	12
Women's Sewing Club	6
Men's Club	10
Sunday services	40
Occasional visitors	15

Making a total of about 100.

As the treasurer's report shows, the salary of the Worker is met by private subscription, as well as the rent and furnishing of Neighborhood Cottage, and most of the expenses of the girls away at school. The proceeds of the yearly Thanksgiving Sale is principally used for the monthly running expenses, and we are most grateful to all who help to make these sales so successful. In this year's report the proceeds of sale given is for 1911, but this year we are very happy to hand in to our treasurer a much larger sum, as it is $789.85, a most gratifying amount, thanks not only to those who so generously patronize the sale, but also to those who send us checks and gifts of money to help us carry on our work. Neighborhood Cottage is an established work, and the various classes and meetings are of definite help to the community, but the shore still remains the problem: how those living in the wretched shacks can be helped into better ways of living, and those who are ready for better homes can be shown how to have them. As a self-respecting community we can no longer evade the responsibility that confronts us. How shall we face it?

HEAD WORKER'S REPORT.

Scalloptown to a stranger is surely a revelation. That such unsightly huts and ignorance could exist in a Christian community, where many churches and the highest civilization is evident is almost inconceivable.

Here the negro revels in as near the primitive conditions in the South as he can.

His natural characteristics, indolence, untidiness and unreliability have been permitted to run rife, except for the ten years of sturdy endeavor and courageous opposition of brave little Neighborhood Cottage. But in the few months I have been with you I can see the good results and feel that much greater proofs are yet to come.

In my calling I have found the people have love and respect for the Cottage. One of the oldest of them apologized for the condition of his home, but said he had built it himself and had lived there for thirty years. He was so proud to tell me he was one of the first to belong to the Cottage, and said he wished his family would live better lives. This to me was a wonderful testimony. Some of the women would seem ashamed of their unkempt appearance, and only a few would close their doors, unwilling to have me view the inside of their homes.

While there have been many discouragements in the work, there has also been many encouragements. The love of music and the inborn religious instinct of the negro are great assets, and the people have responded

much more generously than I at first was led to believe they would. It has been my purpose to create in them a love for the Cottage, to make it so attractive that they could not stay away. Also a desire for better conditions of living, which would induce industry, neatness, and cleaner morals. To do this one must stretch a hand down to meet them, and slowly but surely draw them up to the higher plane of life.

There has been a spirit of unrest during the last few weeks among the people, and many have moved away, but on the whole conditions are growing better. A good proportion of the people have attended the clubs, classes, or Saturday and Sunday gatherings at the Cottage. They seem to really want to come. One of the families whom I visited when I first came, and at that time felt I would not be able to reach, has shown considerable interest, and two of the children now come to the classes.

One of the important features of the work is the caring for the children at the Cottage who are neglected, and often not only are actually hungry, but are in a most unholy atmosphere. The demonstration to these poor unfortunates of clean living, enough to eat and wear, reverence for God and right living is a promise for great good all its own.

While the few months I have been here have been spent in systematizing and organizing, there has been in my mind a broader vision of the work and its possibilities, and I shall do my best in the performance of this most interesting work.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY E. EVANS.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

$720.00 is given by private subscriptions for the salary of the Settlement Worker.

Cr.

Balance on hand Nov. 1, 1911	$49 12
Received Thanksgiving Sale	631 45
Received individuals	254 99
Received St. Luke's Church	21 90
Contingent certificate, Union Trust Co.	24 23
Cora Robinson's board at Manassas School	50 00
Cora Robinson's clothing, etc	69 91
Dora Robinson's board at Hampton, Va.	127 00
Dora Robinson's clothing	13 20
Christmas	35 00
Clothing Bureau, etc	19 82
Interest	1 92
	$1,298 54

Dr.

Assistant	$215 55
House expenses	157 95
Coal	94 29
Cesspool	14 75
Printing annual reports	34 50
Traveling expenses	27 15
Amount carried forward	$544 19

Amount brought forward	$544 19
Stoves	15 25
Basket-reed	3 80
Sewing materials	3 81
Conference expenses	11 90
Labor	4 75
Repairs	83 49
Rent	72 00
Water	22 50
Furnishings	41 39
Electric lights	6 30
Barge	8 00
Music	67 35
Tuning piano	2 50
Ice cream	8 32
Clinic	19 82
Milk	4 64
Christmas	39 51
Sloyd	37 49
Cora Robinson's Board at Manassas School	65 00
Cora Robinson's clothing, etc	54 91
Dora Robinson's Board at Hampton, Va.	121 00
Dora Robinson's clothing	8 43
Flowers for funerals	5 13
	$1,251 48
Balance on hand	47 06
	$1,298 54

NEIGHBORHOOD COTTAGE DAILY PROGRAM.

1912-1913.

Sunday P. M., Sunday School, 3 to 4; Neighborhood meeting, 8 to 9.

Every school day, A. M., 9 to 11.30 kindergarten.

Monday P. M., Boys' Club, 3.30 to 5; social evening, 8 to 10.

Tuesday P. M., Head Worker's vacation.

Wednesday P. M., 4 to 5.30, Girls' Sewing Class; 8 to 10, Reading and Study Room.

Thursday P. M., Girls' Home-Makers' Club (Domestic training); 8 to 10, Singing Class.

Friday P. M., 2.30 to 4.30, Women's Sewing Class and Clothing Bureau.

Saturday A. M., 9.30 to 11.30, Girls' Sewing Class; 10.30, Clinic. P. M., 3 to 5, Kindergarten play and story hour; 8 to 10, Social Entertainment.

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