

# PALAMA Settlement, a Factor in Child Life



KALIMI DISPENSARY

DISPENSARY AT KAKA'AOKO

THE SETTLEMENT KINDERGARTEN

INTERIOR, PALAMA GYMNASIUM

PA OLA DAY CAMP

DISTRICT NURSE AND HER PATIENTS

## GERMANY NOT DISPOSED TO TAKE 'NAVAL HOLIDAY' SERIOUSLY

Whiston Churchill, lord of the admiralty of Great Britain, recently proposed a universal naval holiday for one year, an offer directly aimed at Germany but flatly rejected by public opinion in that country.

The United States house of representatives has endorsed Churchill's plans as indicated by recent Associated Press cables. It will therefore be interesting to give a resume of German opinion on the same subject.

The German press claims that Lord Churchill provided certain limitations when making his humanitarian offer. The naval holiday should not apply to ships building for the British colonies nor for ships which Great Britain might consider necessary to build for use in the Mediterranean, should certain developments there require it. Germans think that a country like Germany which is so directly threatened by British naval power should not enter into an agreement containing such reservations. The British press accuses Germany of "playing dog in the manger," of wilfully misconstruing an exceedingly fair and liberal British offer and of forcing the whole world into further naval armaments and further boundless naval expenses.

The German Daily Press in discussing the naval holiday proposal says: "Great Britain will blind herself not to build warships during one year for use in the German sea but for colonial use and for the Mediterranean she intends to reserve the right of building ships which when completed could be transferred if necessary. We on the other hand are agreed not to build anything at all. Is Great Britain really serious? It can not be, the proposal is a practical joke."

Other papers say: "Great Britain's naval power is so paramount that she can well afford to cease building for twelve months provided that every one else does the same. British supremacy diminishes relatively the more other nations build. It would be to her decided advantage therefore if every one ceased building warships forever."

German service papers after reviewing the repeated offers in this direction made by Great Britain in the past, which they consider were partly made with a view of discrediting

Germany in the eyes of the world, came to about the following conclusions:

"Ships alone are not a navy. There are a hundred and one things which go to make up a well organized, ready-to-strike fleet. Great Britain is over-building herself. She has more ships coming into commission within the next few years than she can comfortably officer and man. The building of naval bases, dry docks, etc., etc., takes time and large sums of money. The striking force of the British navy would not be diminished but enhanced by a 12 months' cessation of building operations. The time and money gained Great Britain could well use to improve and complete her organization. We can not seriously impair the organization of our navy, without injuring our shipbuilding trade and without breaking our naval law which provides for vessels to be laid down annually for the next six or seven years. Great Britain builds a dreadnought in 24 months or less; we take 32 or 34 months to complete a capital ship. Great Britain should cease building for a year and still more than regain her loss during the following 24 months. And to which class of ships is the holiday to apply? To dreadnoughts only or to all other classes? Are supply ships, oil-tankers and minelaying ships to be included? Might existing ships be rebuilt, repaired or altered?"

"The closer we examine this beautiful offer, made, as we must presume, with the most honest intention, the more convinced we become that it was born by a Utopian dream. Its high source seems to preclude any intention but that which it expresses on the face of it. Still we find it difficult to believe in its seriousness."

### POKER LOSSES RATED AS AN INFIRMITY

A New York capitalist raises the question whether his poker losses of \$1100 a year are to be deducted from his income as listed for taxation. If poker is his regular business, Secretary McAdoo might decide the \$1100 is exempt. But with a man who loses \$1100 a year, poker is not an accomplishment or a profession. It is an infirmity, not to say a sin.

By HOWARD D. CASE.

DR. JOHN ROBERT BOYD PRATT, president of the territorial Board of Health, when asked recently to give his opinion concerning the work which the health department of the Palama Settlement is carrying on among the children of that district, but among the children of the entire city at Honolulu, said: "The Board of Health for many years has kept constantly in touch with the work of the district nurse at the settlement, and has found it to be a factor of vital importance in the child life of the community. My personal investigation has found that it to be excellent from every standpoint; the nurses are constantly working with this department and the recent noticeable decrease in the death rate, principally among babies and very small children, is, I believe, due largely to their efforts."

A factor of vital importance in the child life of the community, then, would be a fitting answer to the question, "What is the Palama Settlement?" and, although its work deals with people of every nationality and creed in all walks of life, its principle aim is bent to reach the children—to care for their welfare both physically and morally. Then, beside keeping them well and preventing the spread of contagious diseases, the settlement provides for their education and recreation during their early years; it establishes a spirit of sociability through club work and classes and tends to fit them into a place in the world.

Naturally, the most important phase of the settlement's work along this line is looking out for the health of the children. This has been done by establishing modern, well-equipped dispensaries in the larger public schools of Honolulu; namely, Kalia, Waialeale, Mānoa, Kalaheo, Kaula, Kaula, Royal, Pōhukāhāne, Liliuokalani, St. Mary's, Kakaia, Normal and Central Grammar. A district nurse is assigned to each school, where she goes each morning to handle such cases as need treatment. The majority of the cases, of course, consist of minor ailments and the cuts and bruises which the average child of today receives in play, but in instances too numerous to mention here, contagious diseases have been found lurking and the nurses have sent the patients either to hospitals or doctors barely in time to prevent an epidemic. A Palama nurse never diagnoses a case, but always works under the direction of a competent physician. One of the most interesting sights to be seen in Honolulu is to visit one of the public schools in the morning and watch the hundreds of children as they patiently await their session with the nurse.

**Important Phase in Work**

One of the most important phases in the work of the settlement among the poor people is the pure milk depot and the care of babies. In 1896 it was discovered that in the Palama neighborhood, countless babies were suffering from malnutrition. Steps were immediately taken to relieve this condition and in 1907 a pure milk depot was started at the settlement. Milk was dispensed by the gallon and mothers began looking toward the settlement to supply this necessity. Since its establishment, the work has developed until today it is an important feature and, since the district nurses took hold of the problem, the death rate among babies has been materially lowered. During 1912 the nurses had 65 babies under their care and 2745 quarts of milk were dispensed.

The White Plague has entered the child life of the settlement and the city to no small extent, and the organization's establishment of the Pa Ola day camp has come to be of noticeable importance in the fight against this disease. During the past year the district nurses have found a number of cases of tuberculosis among children and the day camp, with its sunny lanai and fresh air,

its modern equipment and large playground, has helped in no small way to solve the problem of the anti-tuberculosis crusade in Honolulu. One of the nurses makes her headquarters at the day camp and it has been through her work, and that of the city and county physician, that many a boy and girl, regardless of race or color, has been released from the clutches of the dread malady.

When James A. Rath came to Honolulu in 1906 to take the position of headworker of the settlement, his first undertaking was to make a survey of the neighborhood and to reorganize a boys' club, which then had a membership of 12. The old chapel building was renovated and fitted up as a club house, where the boys met to play games and hold their conferences. As the work progressed along this line, a swimming tank was built in October, 1908, and in September, 1909, the gymnasium was constructed and athletic apparatus installed. Today there are 241 boys and 160 girls representing the membership of the various clubs, and a few months ago, Wilfred Humphries came from the coast to Honolulu to take complete charge of the settlement's work among the boys. Through his efforts the clubs are flourishing and a new departure toward securing additional members is to be undertaken shortly after the first of the year.

**Boys Govern Themselves**

The boys' clubs of the settlement are divided into three classes; the Middlets, or boys weighing under 80 pounds, and Juniors, those weighing from 80 to 95 pounds. All boys weighing more than 95 pounds are members of several self-governing clubs. There are seven of these latter clubs, all working for the interests of every member. They have their own constitutions and by-laws and the members elect their own officers and hold their own meetings, generally under the supervision of one of the members of the employed force of the settlement. There are regular classes in the gymnasium each week, and the boys indulge in such outdoor games as baseball, football, soccer and track athletics. In addition to this, the settlement recently carried on a campaign among the boys of the Kaulani School, taking the members of each class and instructing them how to swim.

The new building completed some time ago at the settlement contains three club rooms fitted with several kinds of indoor games, musical instruments and magazines. The settle-

ment gymnasium is given over to two moving picture shows each month, to which are invited not only the children but their parents and friends. These shows are free, admission being by tickets obtained from any members of the settlement staff. James A. Rath recently took a number of boys down the country for a week's camping trip, and the event proved so successful that it was immediately established as an annual feature of the settlement's work among the boys. A similar outing is given the girls each year.

**Largest City Playground**

Like the boys, the girls of the neighborhood are gathered into clubs, each club having gymnasium classes, its club rooms and special entertainments. The girls are divided into two classes, one being the seniors and the other the juniors, and the gymnasium work consists of folk dancing, callisthenics and indoor games, and occasionally a basketball game. The junior girls have a sewing class, while the seniors have organized themselves into a society called the L. P. club. Each month a dance is given at the settlement house, which is participated in by the members of both the boys' and the girls' clubs.

During the summer months, educational classes for both boys and girls are in vogue at the settlement, instruction being given in English, typewriting, bookkeeping, stenography, sewing, domestic science, manual training and clay modeling, the last named being for the smaller children. Last, but not least, in the Palama

settlement's work for the children of the city, is the recent establishment of the largest playground in the city which, when equipped, will be a model of its kind. The site of the playground, which is owned by the Oahu Railroad & Land Company, was until recently occupied by tenements which the railroad tore down, turning the land over to the settlement for temporary use. The site was leveled and fenced and is now a beautiful lawn with a large shade tree in one end, and its establishment is a fitting climax to the work which the settlement has carried on during the past year. It is soon to be equipped with up-to-date apparatus and will undoubtedly prove to be a live center of activity.

The work among the children is but a brevity in the part which the Palama Settlement plays in the life of the community. The organization's work for humanity has been carried on entirely void of wasted efforts. The health campaign which it carries on among the children has been recognized as a valuable asset to the work of the board of health and it is, as Doctor Pratt said, a factor of vital importance in the child life of the community.

"I'm awfully put out. Here in this magazine is a poem precisely like one I was about to write," said the poor poet.

"That's nothing," said his wife, "I saw a woman this morning with her winter hat trimmed exactly as I was going to trim mine."