

PROGRESS IN CIVILIZATION ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE HAS FOUND A NEW AND AGGRESSIVE CHAMPION.

THE PROVIDENT LOAN OFFICE AT THE UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT.



ROBERT HUNTER, THE NEW HEAD WORKER AT THE UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT.

victims of every sort of oppression. The tale of a day's activity here would be the record of innumerable petty differences between employer and employe, between husband and wife, between pedler and police.

Then, there is the Provident Loan, where valuables are taken and proper value secured for them. A model pawnshop is perhaps the most important aid to the poor in such a district, where extortion and every sort of trickery is practised. Curiously enough, this answers also the purpose of a safe deposit. On holidays long lines of well dressed men and women can be seen waiting to get their jewels which have been deposited for safekeeping. Overcoats and winter clothes are also deposited in the same manner.

The Settlement building is already overtaxed. The baths have been doubled in capacity, and in summer fail to meet the requirements. The gymnasium is hopelessly inadequate. The dozen clubrooms are overcrowded. The Japanese room, the social common room of the young men and women, is insufficient for the many uses it is needed for. The boys' room, on the fifth floor, represents a recent invasion into the resident part of the building. This was furnished largely by the clubs themselves, and in the daytime is a place of quiet study, while at night it is a scene of social activity.

In addition to the members of the guild, there are also the residents. Each year half a dozen college men, graduates of various universities, come here to study conditions of the tenement districts and embody the results of their study in the annual year book published by the Settlement.

Another feature of the Settlement work is the labor union. Possessing one of the finest assembly halls in the city, the Central Federated Union long ago began to meet here on Sundays. The presence of this body, while not directly influencing the Settlement, furnishes an additional field of activity and service.

Through all its years the Settlement has grown in influence as well as dimensions. Up in Harlem there is a branch of the guild, made up of old members who have moved uptown but still meet to keep alive the influence and memory of the Settlement days. Down on Jefferson-st. there is a little Settlement founded by young men, graduates of the guild, who have become exponents of the lessons they have learned. In the Italian district, at No. 38 King-st., there is a West Side branch of the University Settlement, organized for its first year, directed by a woman who was thoroughly familiar with the University Settlement ideas and whose influence is still the most potent factor in it.

Four years of progress in its new building have brought no small measure of prosperity, and now the Settlement passes under the management of a man who has already proved his ability in a similar field in Chicago. In tenement work, in parks and in all the serious problems confronting the Settlement worker, Mr. Hunter has already served his time, and it is expected that a fuller measure of success is waiting for him in this new and wider field.

TRIALS IN HIGH PLACES.

From The Philadelphia Record.
Even the judge's life is full of trials.

nasium exercise and the bath so necessary to develop the bodies and inculcate the lessons of cleanliness. For all these privileges the children pay a penny a meeting for each member, for the lesson of self-respect and independence is a part of the teaching of the Settlement.

The last stage in the Settlement life is the grown up age, when the older members, who have passed through the various branches of work, become members of the guild. This is a body which legislates for the entire house. The rules of conduct and order are framed and the infringement of these laws punished by it. Of this guild the head worker is the presiding officer; theoretically he has the power of veto on all its actions, but Mr. Reynolds has never been called upon to exercise it.

There are other important sides to Settlement life also. There is the legal aid bureau, where for 10 cents any one can state his grievance, secure competent advice and legal assistance if the matter justifies being taken to court. Daily this room is crowded with the hundreds of ignorant and abused immigrants, who are

THE SETTLEMENT WORK.

ROBERT HUNTER SUCCEEDS JAMES B. REYNOLDS IN CHARGE OF THIS EAST SIDE INSTITUTION.

With the resignation of James B. Reynolds as the head worker of the University Settlement in this city, and the election of Robert Hunter, of Hull House, Chicago, to succeed him, a period of eight years under the guidance of one man is closed at the Settlement. In these eight years the growth of the work has been remarkable. When Mr. Reynolds assumed charge, succeeding the founder of the institution, Dr. Stanton Coit, in May, 1893, the Settlement occupied a small and dilapidated four story building in Delancey-st. This little building, the scene of all the earlier struggles of the Settlement idea, is still loved by all who were associated with it. But it was not until January 1, 1899, when the present Settlement building at Rivington and Eldridge sts. was opened, that the University Settlement assumed the importance it now possesses as the largest in this country.

With the opening came new baths, a provident loan office, a legal aid bureau and a gymnasium, each a contributory influence in the work of the institution. But above all these details, the great benefit that came with the new building was the provision of a number of pleasant and spacious rooms as a gathering place of the district.

The Settlement work begins with the tiny children that come twice a week to deposit money in the Penny Provident Bank. As the long lines of tiny children, their grimy hands clutching dirty pennies, file into the hall, the dark eyes of these Ghetto waifs are fixed wondering on the broad, clean walls, tastefully decorated, and to them it is a first glimpse of something that seems almost a fairyland of beauty.

After this stage comes the time of classes and clubs—debating clubs for the boys, sewing classes for the girls—both ending in the gym-



CHILDREN MAKING DEPOSITS IN THE PENNY PROVIDENT BANK AT THE UNIVERSITY SETTLEMENT.