

"APPLIED CHRISTIANITY" USED AS WEAPON IN WARFARE ON VICE



THE BOYS BRIGADE



LEISURE HOURS IN GAMES AND PLAY



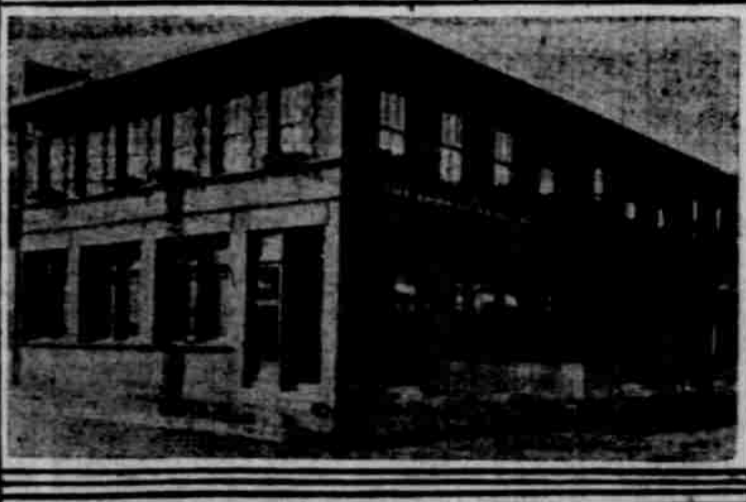
MEN'S READING ROOM



THE VESTED CHOIR SINGS EVERY SUNDAY



THE GIRLS GYMNASIUM CLASS



MEN'S RESORT AND PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE

THE institutional methods of church activity in the down-town districts of all large cities are receiving the unqualified approval of the public all over the country, and the work of the institutional department of the First Presbyterian Church of Portland, known as the Men's Resort and People's Institute, situated at Fourth and Burnside streets, is an illustration of the success of such methods. The Men's Resort was first opened ten years ago, consisting then of a large reading-room, cheap restaurant and lodging-house and gospel services. Three years later, under the superintendency of Rev. J. F. Snyder, the old Mowbray Theater building was secured, the restaurant and lodging-house discontinued and the institutional features of public service, Sunday school, boys' brigade, gymnasium and industrial classes were begun, while in the same quarters the Free Kindergarten Association of Portland conducted a free daily kindergarten with two teachers in charge. For seven years the work has played an important part in the lives of the people of this district.

Three years later the location of the institution was again changed to Sixth street, where the work was so hampered for lack of adequate space that steps to secure a suitable permanent location became imperative. At this juncture the gift of the present site was announced. The First Presbyterian Church immediately raised funds and erected the building now occupied at Fourth and Burnside streets.

Numerous branches of religious, social and industrial work are pursued. Situated in the district of low-priced hotels, restaurants and lodging-houses, the district teems with transient men. Vice appreciates the opportunity thus afforded it, and saloons, brothels and suspicious lodging-houses present an environment of persistent temptations decked in brilliant illuminations and rife with the sounds of music and revelry. There was deep need

of some place of wholesome pastime as an alternative to the attractions of the inevitable saloon and brothel.

This need has been met by the opening of a cheerful and spacious reading and game room which occupies half of the first floor of the building. Pictures, palms, potted plants and boxes of eminent men adorn and give the place an air of comfort and refinement. Thousands of men make use of these accommodations during leisure time every week, and acknowledge them to be a godsend. Travelers who have put up at cheap hotels, loggers during a lull in work, longshoremen waiting for vessels, carmen between shifts, night-workmen during waking hours of the day, farmers in town on business for a few days, and unemployed men looking for work—these are the men who find the Men's Resort of the People's Institute a comfortable place of profitable and wholesome pastime. Business men who need help of any kind can almost invariably find it at the People's Institute, phone Main 6225. Besides this provision of a practical and successful substitute for the social factor of the saloon, special lectures, practical talks and religious meetings are held, in which the city ministers and platform speakers participate with the utmost cordiality and always leave a commendatory testimony for the work. A prominent lawyer, after addressing the subject of men upon a sociological subject, remarked surprise at the careful attention and hearty appreciation shown, and after several times addressing similar audiences in the same place, gave it as his opinion that a more earnest and appreciative audience could not be found anywhere in Portland. A prominent Episcopal clergyman recently said from the platform: "We often play at religion in some places in our city, but this is a place where religion is real work."

A free Saturday-night entertainment for the people is given every week. Much of the best musical and literary talent in the city contribute voluntarily to the continued success of these

entertainments. A regular pastoral work is done in the district by the superintendent and his wife and on every Sunday night a people's religious service is held which is of unique and attractive character. Illustrated hymns are sung by the audience in which they are led by a boys' and girls' vested choir. Special songs are sung by the vested chorus and a pointed gospel address or stereopticon sermon completes the programme.

A novel Sunday school named the boys' and girls' Sunday song and story hour is conducted under the superintendency of Charles A. Dalseg every Sunday at 2 o'clock. The choicest hymns are taught with the help of the stereopticon and Bible narratives are presented with lantern views—a method that never fails to interest and teach. A boys' brigade, under the efficient management of Alex. C. Rae and Captain Cuthbertson is an effective solution of the night street-gang boy problem. A well-equipped gymnasium and a clubroom furnished with books, periodicals, games and pictures are thrown open for the boys' use three nights in the week. Their enthusiastic attendance expresses their full appreciation of such an opportunity. Through the generosity of a friend guns and uniforms are being provided for the boys' brigade in both of its senior and junior departments. During the Summer such time as the boys can take from their employment is given to outings and camps. Drill and gymnastics are supplemented with short practical talks upon themes attractive and profitable to the boys.

An important adjunct of the general work of the Men's Resort—fully as important to women and children as the main institution is to men—is the Institute Club. This is a large club of women which has undertaken the support and management of a free daily kindergarten, industrial and physical culture classes for girls and small boys, and which co-operates with the general work of the Men's Resort and People's Institute. Miss Valentine Fritchard is the able superintendent of this club, and many of the prominent women of Portland personally interest themselves in the actual operations of the club work. There is a Banquet, a women's and children's department, each presided over by a chairman and the work is done by many committees. Many young ladies of social and church prominence take personal supervision of classes, going to the club's rooms three times each week to teach little children who are unable for various causes to attend the public schools. Their services are volunteered, the very large attendance making it impractical to engage salaried professional teachers. The assistants, together with four paid teachers, now number 41, and Miss Fritchard states that it is due to their enthusiasm, cheerfulness and unflagging interest in the work that much of the great success of the year is due. The classes have grown from a kindergarten of 12 children, opened one year ago, to an industrial school of 14 classes with an enrollment of 545 for the year. The daily kindergarten now has a daily average attendance of 25 and an enrollment of 62. Children living too far from the institute to come alone are brought by the assistant teachers. The 24 hours spent there each day are undoubtedly the happiest of their lives, and they are

always reluctant to go home. A game and playroom is kept open daily from 2 to 5, in charge of volunteer helpers. This was originally started as a reading-room, but it was found that games and plays were more attractive to the children. The children have attended in such numbers this season that there is a lack of proper room and for this reason this work has had to be restricted to a degree. A special free playroom, open every afternoon for children who cannot be accommodated in classes or who have no place to go after the public schools are dismissed, is much desired by the management, and it is hoped to have it another year.

A children's chorus rehearses every Monday, and, aside from the chorus work there is a vested choir of boys and girls. The children love this work and feel very proud to be members of the choir. The basket work class is an interesting one, having 40 members from 6 to 14 years old. There are gymnasium classes for both boys and girls, through which much wholesome physical culture is being obtained. The boys are taken by their teacher, Mr. Myers, to the Y. M. C. A. swimming pool several times each month, a trip they always anticipate with much joy. The sewing school is an important department for girls, and has an enrollment of 60. The Fruit Institute method is used, a complete system of sewing being taught. Diplomas will be given and students enabled to secure paid positions in dressmaking shops on finishing.

Under the head of kitchen garden work is a class which is more deeply interested in its work than any other. The members number 24, with a waiting list of that many more, and are all under 12 years of age. Their instruction includes all lines of housework, such as washing, ironing, sweeping, dusting, making beds, setting tables, washing dishes.

"We just love this class best of all," was the remark of a very young member the other day, which is said to echo the general sentiment of the entire class. In addition to all these classes there is a children's study hour, a boys' club, a kindergarten training school and a class for deficient children. A bathroom which was opened this Fall has proved most attractive to the patrons of the Institute. A nurse from the Visiting Nurse Association is in attendance one morning during the week, and volunteers have assisted in giving baths at other times. The bathroom is also open twice a week for the use of mothers and their little ones. During the year 103 articles of clothing were received and 52 distributed. Co-operative work of various kinds in looking after individual cases and families is carried on with the Traverses' Aid, Visiting Nurses, Y. W. C. A., Flower Mission, Juvenile Court and Civic Improvement Associations. The last organization last Spring furnished a stereopticon lecture and 200 packages of flower seeds for free distribution.

"The year's work has been one of unlooked for and astonishing growth," stated Miss Fritchard. "Plans which we outlined at first have been laid aside in some instances, and others unthought of carried out. We have simply studied the needs and tried to meet the demand. We have aimed to lay the foundation for a work which would not need to be undone, and one broad enough to meet future needs."

"We hear much in these days of applied arts, applied sciences, applied psychology, and so on, but it seems to me the work we have to do in this particular field is a work of applied Christianity."