

How Uncle Sam Is Helping Children in Trouble

A LIST OF CHILDREN'S BUREAU PUBLICATIONS

A Healthy Personality for Your Child 20c
Children Living in Their Own Homes 20c
Health Services and
Juvenile Delinquency 20c
Infant Care 15c
Prenatal Care 15c
Your Child from One to Six 20c
Your Child from Six to Twelve 20c
The Adolescent in Your Family 25c
The Child Who Is Hard of Hearing 25c
The Child with a Cleft Palate 10c

The Child with Cerebral Palsy 10c
The Child with Epilepsy 10c
The Child with Rheumatic Fever 10c
Your Well Baby 5c
The Mentally Retarded Child at Home 35c
When You Adopt a Child 10c
Nutrition and Healthy Growth 20c
Protecting Children in Adoption 20c
The Preschool Child Who Is Blind 10c
The Effectiveness of
Delinquency Prevention 25c

Parents and Delinquency 20c
Police Services for Juveniles 35c
Your Gifted Child 20c
Youth Groups in Conflict 25c

You may order these books from the
U. S. Government Printing Office,
Washington, D. C. For a complete list,
write to Children's Bureau, Department
of Health, Education, and Welfare,
Washington, D. C. The list is free.

Abandoned, afflicted, neglected—whatever misery
youngsters suffer, they find wise and experienced friends
in a Government bureau so modest we often overlook it

By CURTIS MITCHELL

THE CHILD, says Lord Byron, is a "rose
with all its sweetest leaves yet folded."

A sanitation worker making his rounds
in New York City emptied a garbage pail.
Out fell a shivering baby boy, only six
hours old. He had been abandoned.

A drunken mother, thinking to punish
her baby daughter for crying, held the
infant's tiny feet over a gas flame until
they were blistered.

Six children of a migrant couple who
followed the California harvest were rea-
sonably happy until the crops failed. When
police found the family, all eight were
living in their battered sedan where it had
run out of gas. The two youngest children
were asleep in the trunk, and all were
close to starvation.

Such "roses" as these are more numer-
ous than we think. The crippled, the re-
tarded, the mentally ill, the rebellious,
how many millions have we bred? And
what are we doing about them? This is
a question for every parent and every
citizen to ask himself.

The answer, fortunately, is that we are
doing quite a lot, thanks to a modest
organization, the Children's Bureau of
the Federal Department of Health, Educa-
tion, and Welfare, in Washington, D. C.

Because of the efforts of this bureau,
directed by Mrs. Katherine Brownell
Oettinger, millions of children will know
a better life than they were born to.

A boy or girl born with a clubfoot no
longer needs to hobble through life.

A child who loses an arm or leg can be
fitted with an artificial limb, enabling him
to live a more normal life.

After years of neglect, more than a third
of a million children of migrant workers
are being reached by mobile medical units.

Mentally retarded children are being
helped by educating their parents to a
better understanding of their needs.

The Children's Bureau started as the
unlikely dream of Lillian Wald, founder
of New York's Henry Street Settlement.
Early in this century, children died by the
thousands every summer. It was her dar-
ing concept that some government agency
should do something about it. "If the
government can concern itself with the
cotton crop," Lillian Wald demanded,
"why can't it have a bureau to look after
our crop of children?"

Theodore Roosevelt encouraged her and
in 1912 Congress established the Bureau,
whose primary mission was the "better-
ment of the conditions of children."

The Bureau had a threefold program:
1) get the facts; 2) inform the public;
3) make sure that personal help was avail-
able to every needy child.

During five decades the program has
not changed.

How the Bureau Works

Facts flow into the Children's Bureau
from hundreds of observers throughout
the U. S., reflecting all the problems of
children in trouble. How many are born
without fathers, and what becomes of
them? How many "blue" babies are born,
how many saved? How many broken
homes produce disturbed children who re-
quire care? How many teen-agers are
hailed into juvenile courts, and what hap-
pens to them? The Bureau knows, having
obtained the facts by bringing all kinds
of opposing viewpoints to the conference
table. Police chiefs met with college pro-
fessors, mothers with social workers,
health officials with playground experts.
The result: one of the most remarkable
series of publications ever issued by a
government.

"Inform the public" has been a basic
Bureau policy from the beginning. Bureau
booklets, available from the Government
(Continued)

Among the Children's Bureau
projects are aptitude tests given by
trained psychologists to
discover learning abilities of many
so-called retarded children.



PHOTOGRAPH BY HERB FLATOW