

Inside the Orphanages

of SAN FRANCISCO

I-The McKinley Orphanage

"NEXT Tuesday is my birthday, Mrs. Courneen."
 "Is it, dear? Can you tell me how many candles I will have to put on your cake?"
 "Four," piped up the merry little voice of a brown eyed roly-poly girl.
 "Good! What a fine time we will have!" answered the "mother" of a family as large as that of the old woman who lived in a shoe, only, unlike the mother of story, Mrs. Courneen knows exactly what to do with her children.
 This promise was made in the yard of the McKinley orphanage; the birthday child was one of 67 youngsters of every age, who know no other home. Mrs. Courneen is the gentle hearted matron of the place that under the law and customs is classified as an "institution."

Given these facts, the men and women who are striving to solve the problem of the best care of dependent children have something to discuss. Those who contend that the poorest home is better than the best institution will have to get some new arguments after seeing the "family" at the McKinley orphanage. Those who feel that there is certainly a place for "institutions" in the complex life of a great city will find solid comfort for themselves and their beliefs in the shelter that bears the name of the president whose every act in private or public life bespoke charity and tenderness.

All of which is apropos of a series of articles on the "Orphanages of San Francisco," introduced by Rev. Father Crowley of the Youth's Directory, and of which this is the first. Although a firm believer in the home finding agency as conducted by the Associated Charities, Father Crowley feels that in simple justice the people of this city should know of the splendid work that is being done in many of the "institutions." The Call has gladly taken up the question and through several weeks will present each Sunday the results of its investigations, following the introduction written by Father Crowley and printed last Sunday.

The Birthday Cakes

To return to the McKinley orphanage. Who ever thought of an institution where 67, or more, dependent children live, as a place where there are birthday cakes with sputtering candles every few weeks on the supper table, and sometimes every few days? With 67 weeks in the year, it does not take a mathematician to think out how often the "celebrations" come in this family of 67. And there is another birthday celebrated there by way of good luck, and in the general spirit that pervades the home. Mrs. Courneen said, after she had taken note of the cake that "comes next Tuesday," that the children had been asking about her birthday and how many candles she would have. Just as she asked the little one, Not ascertaining the exact number, they came in triumphantly with her cake decked with 75 candles. They could not think of "slighting" her, even in matter of years.

The incident of the birthday cake proved to be the weather vane for that "institution." Searching observation showed that everything happens there just as in a private home. The secret, however, of this institutional home is that the matron is a "mother" and a wise and just one, at that. Mrs. Courneen has presided over 11 of the 12 years of the existence of the McKinley orphanage. Her solicitude is backed by the Methodist churches of this part of California, but all the good wishes of all the members of this denomination could not make a home out of an "institution" without the unselfish love and devotion of such a woman as Mrs. Courneen. She has consecrated her life to this work, in fact, she scarcely ever leaves the house. When she is forced to go out, she hurries while her children are in school, because she would not be absent when they return in the afternoon. Her room is never closed to the children and it would be a lonely evening when they would not huddle in there for a good night word. There is not a child in that orphanage who has the slightest feeling of restraint; not one of them realizes that he or she is under discipline. They are all happy and unafraid. "Do they quarrel like real brothers and sisters do sometimes?" the matron was asked.

"Oh, dear me, no! They get on beautifully." And it was quite evident that if her family ever disagreed, Mrs. Courneen promptly forgot it, like any loving mother.

There is no occasion, however, to trust to the love-blind eyes of the matron. The routine of the family is an open book. Any one may read it. Visitors are welcome.
 This orphanage did not always have its present designation. It was originally known as the San Francisco Methodist orphanage. That name was changed because it gave the impression that only children of the Methodist faith were taken. On the contrary, religion is not considered when an orphan or an abandoned child must have a home. Although entirely distinct from the Fred Finch orphanage, the McKinley orphanage is regarded as a branch. Following the success of the Fred Finch orphanage, there

were prominent Methodists who felt that such responsibility as comes with the care of dependent children was a beneficent one, and it was put upon the people. The conduct and accomplishments of the McKinley orphanage show how willingly the burden was accepted.

This orphanage is situated at 3841 Nineteenth street, the Castro street cars running with two blocks and a half. The house was formerly a private residence, and is set in ample grounds. It is comfortable and commodious and, being on the crown of a hill, has all there is of sunshine and good air. Besides, every vista is an inspiration. It has spread before it the panorama that Burnham says is the most beautiful one of San Francisco.

The visitor who waits in the reception room is sure to find something there to indicate what kind of an "institution" there is on the top of the hill. One day, recently, there was a darky doll reposing on one cushion of the sofa and a blonde one on another. This room is not reserved for "company." It is a part of the home. Two pianos with an abundance of music about tell another story. Promotion certificates tied with blue ribbon from Sunday schools lying on the table recall the picture of the happy little trooping in with the tangible evidences of their proficiency. A small organ in the hall adds a chapter to the story told by the reception room.

Inquiry shows that the day begins briskly for the big family. Daylight finds the household about its business. All the children dress in their play clothes, the ones they put on when they come from school. There is a merry hustling in the lavatories, where the smiling faces are scrubbed until they shine and then comes breakfast. Between that time and the 15 minutes before school the beds are made and the rooms put in perfect order. The children in the primary grades attend the Douglass school and the older ones Everett grammar school, while a few attend Mission high school. Dinner is at noon. This arrangement is possible because the schools are all within sight of the house.

Children Have Liberty

There are study rooms for those who need them, but the home rule is that each child shall do as it pleases from supper until bed time. The dining rooms are utilized for the evening gatherings. Games of all sorts, including checkers and dominos, are popular and there is always a quiet corner for the boy or girl who wants to read.

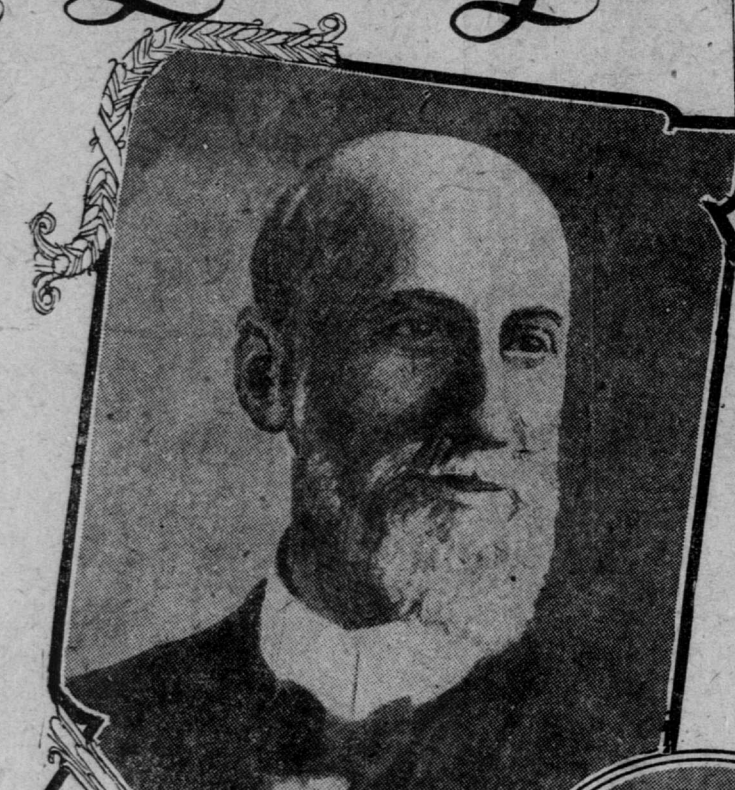
In the earlier years of the orphanage a cook had to be hired as well as general attendants, but as soon as possible Mrs. Courneen decided to do the work with the aid of the larger members of her household. A suggestion one day for a volunteer to assist with the cooking brought so many eager offers that Mrs. Courneen decided to take the prospective cooks in rotation. In adopting this plan Mrs. Courneen carried out one of her pet theories that she will not ask any of the children to do what she does not do herself. She and her children always work together. The kitchen experiment proved successful. Each girl had her turn in the kitchen until finally one of the older girls developed such a genius for cooking that she was installed as head of the kitchen and is paid wages just as if she came from the outside. Under her and Mrs. Courneen the younger ones cook, and so there is many a good little house keeper in the making at the McKinley orphanage. Another girl who has grown up in the home has been made Mrs. Courneen's assistant and is happy in the compensation she receives. She is now an efficient typewriter and is of great value to the home.

The problem of the kitchen has been further solved by the advent of the fleshless cooker. Three of them stand in the kitchen, working all the time. The mush for the morning goes into the cooker at supper time the night before. Likewise the warm dishes for supper are put in the cooker in the morning. The vegetables for dinner have a little cooker all to themselves. The "cookers" mean that for many hours of the day the kitchen is closed up and dark where, in earlier years, something was going on every hour of the day in order that the family, that varied from 65 to 85, might have enough to eat. All the bread used is made at home. There is a big baking every day.

Every child in the house is taught to do something. The boys, quite naturally, are the workers in the garden and yard, but they assist with dish washing as well as the girls. It is a case in the McKinley orphanage of "many hands making light work" even if they are little hands.

Developing Natural Bent

One phase of the work which is of the greatest concern to Mrs. Courneen is the consideration for the individual. She watches the boys and girls and cultivates any natural bent. For instance: One girl decidedly musical in her tastes soon learned to play marches and other music for the different drills and exercises and was able to take the place of an accompanist who came in for hire.



H. B. HEACOCK, D. D., PRESIDENT



JOSEPH F. FURDNER, VICE-PRES.



McKINLEY ORPHANAGE
3841 19TH STREET



I. J. TRUMAN, TREASURER



BROTHER AND SISTER GOING UP TOGETHER AT THE McKINLEY ORPHANAGE



BOYS DINING ROOM

"HOME SWEET HOME" IS AT THE McKINLEY ORPHANAGE FOR THESE THREE GRACES

SOME OF THE BOYS OF THE McKINLEY ORPHANAGE WHO ARE BASE BALL EXPERTS

BASKET BALL TEAM

issued the administration was in the following hands:
 Board of directors—Rev. H. B. Heacock, D. D., president, Pacific Grove; Joseph F. Furdner, vice president, Alameda; Rev. E. R. Dille, D. D., secretary, 1444 O'Farrell street, San Francisco; I. J. Truman, treasurer, 708 Humboldt Bank building, San Francisco; Rev. Carl M. Warner, 20 Hartford street, San Francisco; Rev. James H. N. Williams, D. D., Pacific Grove; C. B. Perkins, 600 Oak street, San Francisco.
 Officers of joint board—Rev. H. B. Heacock, D. D., president; Joseph F. Furdner, vice president; W. S. Matthews, D. D., vice president; Mrs. W. W. Duncan, recording secretary, 578 Grove street, San Francisco; Miss E. J. Dorris, book keeper, 3858 Twenty-first street, San Francisco; I. J. Truman, treasurer, 708 Humboldt Bank building, San Francisco.
 Advisory Board—Hubert S. H. Hughes, LL.D., 488 Buchanan street, San Francisco; Rev. W. C. Evans, D. D., 555 Elderwood avenue, Oakland; Rev. E. B. Davis, 860 South Ninth street, San Jose; Rev. G. L. Pearson, Santa Rosa; Rev. E. D. McCleary, Berkeley; Rev. W. S. Matthews, Berkeley; Rev. W. C. Schmutzler, Los Angeles; Rev. J. D. Wahlberg, Los Angeles; Rev. F. D. Bowers, 5 City Hall avenue, San Francisco.
 The financial matters of the McKinley orphanage are interestingly told in the following report by the treasurer, I. J. Truman, which also shows the total amount of money available since its incorporation, October 22, 1897.

TOTAL CASH RECEIVED TO DECEMBER 31, 1908	\$79,505.04
Total cash paid out to December 31, 1908	75,959.59
Balance on hand December 31, 1908	\$3,545.45
Total cost of buildings and improvements	19,055.93
CASH RECEIVED FROM JANUARY 1, 1909, TO DECEMBER 31, 1908	\$4,232.08
From state aid	1,622.49
From relatives	10.00
From paying inmates	240.77
From donations	30.00
From investments and bequests	6,089.83
From interest	248.08
From accidentals	31.85
CASH PAID OUT FROM JANUARY 1, 1909, TO DECEMBER 31, 1908	\$12,266.22
Due treasurer January 1, 1907	\$970.50
For pay roll	1,794.50
For food	240.77
For clothing and laundry	69.07
For water, light and fuel	17.80
For furniture, hardware, drugs	254.93
For bedding	140.03
For insurance	1,535.75
For building and improvements	140.03
For express, freight, printing	323.72
For postage, stationery, education, clerical and medical services and incidentals	993.40
For investments	\$8,060.77
Balance on hand December 31, 1908	3,545.45
Total	\$12,266.22
Not counted as cash on hand:	
Humboldt savings bank	\$1,559.95
Citizen's state bank	1,430.21
Bequest Maria L. Smith, deceased, in hands of John F. Titter, trustee	3,352.41
	\$9,352.57

Looking at the exceedingly happy conditions obtaining at the McKinley orphanage, the question of putting children out in homes becomes singularly interesting. The experience of home finding in connection with this institution did not prove satisfactory and just at present no effort is being made along that line. In times gone by the placing of children by this shelter was done with confidence in the people who asked for them. In a way little ones were kept track of, but in the very nature of things it was not possible for this as it has never been for any one institution to follow up the placing of children, particularly when they are sent some distance. That is specialized work and expensive and can only be done by concentration of effort such as the Associated Charities has organized. The managers of the McKinley orphanage came to a realization of this and in the present "the family" is not being increased and every effort is being made to rear what children they have in a home, not an "institution." With them the pendulum has swung far back. From giving children rather freely they have changed and practically keep them all.
 In good time, when the organized and absolutely honest medium of home finding—that conducted by the Associated Charities shall have further enlarged its sphere of usefulness—all institutions will join in bringing about that millennium for dependent children when every available one will have the individual love and care possible in a home, and the efforts of the institutions can be redoubled for the children whom no one wants.
 With the extremely close ties now existing between Mrs. Courneen and her family of 67 boys and girls, to give one of them up would be something of a sorrow.
 Dr. E. R. Dille, secretary of the McKinley orphanage and one of the foremost thinkers of the day, scarcely ever submits an annual report without some reference to this burning question, always acknowledging the superiority, for the majority of dependent children, of a home over an institution.
 But while the world is growing wiser and the machinery for handling dependent children is being perfected the "family" at the McKinley orphanage is being most tenderly "mothered."
 (The story of St. Joseph's orphan asylum will be published next Sunday.)

were taken at the McKinley orphanage, but the matron became ill and was relieved of this responsibility. Having a perfect genius for handling children during the difficult years, the management did not want her strength dissipated. So now "the littlest of them all" will soon have four candles on her birthday cake.
 When the children scamper in from school they look as if they belonged in as many small homes where time and love and money had been expended on their upbringing. Frocks, in a few cases supplied by relatives, in others by church friends of the home, and many of them the work of the matron, made in all a very attractive lot of well cared for children. No two are allowed to dress alike. Even sisters do not wear hats alike. Mrs. Courneen says that it is just as easy to buy remnants as bolts of cloth and that it is far more interesting to make them up and certainly the results are better appreciated by the children. Every effort is made to save the little ones from the designation "charity children." When any number of them go out together, they never march in line.
 The matron has much to say of her girls, but she declared that there are no better boys than hers anywhere in the city. Watch the boys when they come dashing home from school, when they change their clothes and when they put on their running clothes and the other badges of sport and all race down to Mission park, not more than 100 yards away. The smaller boys wait until the older ones come from school so that they have protection.
 "Do your boys ever take advantage of their liberty?" was asked of the matron. Having "perfect" boys, she answered:
 "No—except one time two of them ran away in the morning, and came back at night, very sorry and penitent."
 The boys have athletics and fun and good example at the Mission branch of the Y. M. C. A. The girls have basket ball in the nearby park and all the merry making that is legitimately theirs.
 Back of this "home" institution stands all the good will and good offices of the Methodist church. Besides the official support, personal generosity comes to it in good measure. Quantities of fruit is sent from the country. Clothes that can be "made over" by Mrs. Courneen are always gratefully received. Of the 67 children at present in hand but 10 are boarders. The others are orphans and abandoned children. When the last report was

As this girl developed surprisingly, she was given music lessons. Now she turns those lessons directly over to others in the house. She is methodical about arranging for the lessons and practice of her pupils, and her particular ability is adding much to the pleasure of the home. Mrs. Courneen says that this girl would never make a cook or a second girl and she is very happy to have been able to start her in congenial work.
 Another girl who did not fit into the scheme of household economy is making a distinct progress in the study of commercial work. As but one boy has grown up in the orphanage the question of trades or employment for them has not yet been a vital one. A real sorrow came to the home through a serious accident to one boy who has grown up under Mrs. Courneen. He obtained employment with the Walts-Danner printing company, was paying something toward his board and was looking forward to the time when he would be able to help his sister, who is also in the home. Last June, when he was out on an errand for the firm, he was run over by a streetcar and had to have one of his legs amputated well above the knee. He is now a convalescent, waiting for the adjustment of an artificial leg and before long will be taken back by the firm and taught the trade. Mrs. Courneen has convinced the boy of his good fortune that he did not lose an arm and she has him almost happy again. But she is really proud that her boy is

In former years, very young babies