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LEND A HAND SOCIETY

Twenty-fifth Annual Report



MAY,

1916

101 Tremont Street Boston

LEND A HAND SOCIETY Incorporated November 20, 1891 Edward E. Hale, D. D. Founder

LEND A HAND SOCIETY.

OFFICERS FOR THE COMING YEAR

PRESIDENT Rev. Christopher R. Eliot

VICE-PRESIDENTS Franklin P. Daly Miss F. H. Hunneman

> HONORARY SECRETARY Mrs. Bernard Whitman

SECRETARY Mrs. Martha Adams Leland

> TREASURER Josiah M. Fowler

DIRECTORS

Rev. C. R. EliotMrs. Alonzo E. LockeFranklin P. DalyHenry R. ScottMiss F. H. HunnemanMiss Blanche MerrittMrs. M. A. LelandRev. James H. HoldenJosiah M. FowlerMiss Caroline FreemanMrs. Wm. T. FosterMrs. Alfred Mitchell

TRUSTEES OF HALE ENDOWMENT FUND Frank E. Peabody William P. Fowler Wallace L. Pierce

> SUPERINTENDENT Miss Annie F. Brown

LEND A HAND BOOK MISSION COMMITTEE Miss Anna E. Wood Edwin D. Mead "The Club reports do me more good than anything with which I have to do."

.

"If I never see you again, I die happier for your efforts to make my work permanent." EDWARD E. HALE.

Annual Meeting

THE twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Lend a Hand Society was held on Saturday, May 20, 1916, in the South Congregational Church, Boston. The President, Rev. Christopher R. Eliot, presided. The public meeting was well attended, but the attendance at the business meeting was a disappointment, as but twenty-two Clubs responded to the roll-call. The change in time and day of meeting has been heartily endorsed, and those present were delighted to meet in Dr. Hale's church.

The Nominating Committee presented the list of officers, given on previous page and they were unanimously elected.

As Nominating Committee for the coming year, the President reappointed those who have kindly served for several years, Mr. Frank B. Thayer, Miss A. W. Cummings and Rev. Chas. F. Dole.

For himself and the other officers, Mr. Eliot expressed thanks for the honor conferred in being asked to serve another year, and bespoke the hearty coöperation of the Clubs and all indi-

vidual members of the Society. Mr. Eliot referred to the loss to the Society in the death of Mr. Benjamin H. Jones who had faithfully and efficiently served as Treasurer for nine years. In introducing the new Treasurer, Mr. Eliot said it would be most fitting that Mr. Fowler should say a word as to what Mr. Jones had done for the Society. Stating that he had not known Mr. Jones personally, Mr. Fowler said he had nevertheless become acquainted with him through his conscientiously kept books; that it had been a real privilege and an inspiration to follow the luminous sheets in which he had recorded the doings of the Society for nine years, and that guided by these books on which Mr. Jones had so affectionately labored he had been able to make the annual report as Treasurer.

VOTED: That a letter of appreciation and sympathy be sent to the family of our dear Mr. Jones.

VOTED (a rising vote): That a message of love and greeting be sent to Mrs. Whitman, former Secretary and Superintendent.

Miss Ellen Gould, a member of the Lend a Hand Club of Davenport, Iowa, spoke of the work of that Club consisting of one thousand working women in all professions and business, and of its campaign to raise \$125,000 for a Club building.

The public meeting was called to order by the President, who invited Rev. Arthur H. Sargent, of Rockland, to lead in prayer.

Expressing the pleasure of the Society in meeting in the church which is known, and will be for many a year, as Dr. Hale's church, in which his work is still going on, Mr. Eliot said that a word of welcome from the minister of the church, Rev. Edward Cummings, would be most fitting. Mr. Cummings stood by Dr. Hale's side during the last years of his life, working hand in hand and heart to heart with him.

After a very cordial welcome to the church, Dr. Cummings related several humorous stories connected with the church and Dr. Hale, and closed by saying, "I sometimes think in these days when harmony and good-will and peace seem in abeyance in the world, that it is well that Dr. Hale did not live to see the break-down of the world at the present moment. Yet I sometimes wish he were here because he would not only be making himself heard throughout this country, but across the ocean. You are carrying on the work in the way he would like, and so I wish you Godspeed."

Mr. Eliot responded briefly, first thanking Mr. Cummings for his welcome, and then referring to the business meeting already mentioned. He next spoke of the Lend a Hand movement which represents more than anything Dr. Hale's own personal religion. He was not a man of creeds, but he was certainly a man of deeds. His religion was a religion of working together, worshipping together, and, as he said, walking together, - a religion represented by these words, "with God, for man, in heaven,"--touching again upon the three realities and connecting our faith with our life of service. On request, Mr. Eliot read part of I Corinthians xiii, ending with, "And now abide Faith, Hope and Love, and the greatest of these is Love."

A most delightful part of the programme were the reports given by three representative Clubs, particularly those by the charming little girl from the West Roxbury Club and by the bright boy from the Strong Arm Club of Rockland. The report made by the Brockton Ten Times One Club showed what one hundred and twenty-two active women can do for their community.

An address was made by Rev. James A. Thoms, his subject being, "A Sky Pilot's Lumber-Jack Experiences."

Dr. Thoms illustrated conditions among his "lumber-jacks" with stories which made it evident that the reforms, physical, mental, and moral, which he has felt called to begin are sadly needed.

At the Board meeting held on June 19, 1916, the Directors re-elected Miss Annie F. Brown as Superintendent of the Lend a Hand work. Superintendent's Report

THIS is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Lend a Hand Society as a corporation, though it is forty-five years since the first Lend a Hand Club was organized.

Once again we have come together to hear a report of another year's work. An account of the doings of one day would occupy more time than is at our disposal to tell of the work of a whole year. We can, therefore, only indicate the spirit of the work.

Our President has just read the wonderful chapter which closes with, "And now abide Faith, Hope and Love, and the greatest of these is Love," -the "three eternities," as the Founder of Lend a Hand called them and translated into the mottoes which are the underlying principles of our work. As we repeat them together let us make sure that the children and young people in our Clubs understand that when "looking up" we renew our faith, when looking forward" we find hope, when "looking out" we have the love spirit and when we "lend a hand,"

love is expressed in deeds. Because of the many and constant activities of the Lend a Hand Clubs the emphasis is placed on deeds, and so it is well to remind ourselves occasionally that the three great fundamental religious truths referred to are the inspiration of all these deeds. Contrary-wise, while we are constantly urging the need and the joy of service, is it not a fact that the result of this service is a deepening of the religious nature and the strengthening and broadening of the whole character? I dwell on this because of being more and more impressed with it as the Clubs among the younger children increase, and because it is a very vital reason for urging the formation of Sunday School classes and other groups, younger or older, into Lend a Hand Clubs."

To organize new Clubs and to strengthen old ones has always been an important part of our work. During the past year thirty new Clubs have been formed in various sections of the country, and the membership of many old Clubs has been increased. Of these new Clubs eighteen have united with the Society, as have seven others previously organized. The Clubs are of all denominations. We like to emphasize that our work is non-sectarian and that any group of people of any age, race, creed or color can adopt our mottoes and unite with the Society. There are Clubs of children of seven or eight years of age, there are Clubs of young people, and there are Clubs of women who have been organized from one to thirty-five years. We are proud of the largest and most exceptional Club in Davenport, Iowa. Starting with three young girls it now has a membership of one thousand women. It has begun a campaign, postponed by the war, for the raising of \$125,000 to construct a new building in which to carry on its splendid civic work. Our smallest Club consists of five little girls whose small services of kindness we regard as valuable as the larger undertakings of their adults. Once there was a Club of lumbermen,-or was that in the story of "Ten Times One Is Ten?" Perhaps we can again have a Lend a Hand Club among lumbermen, since Dr. Thoms, who is with us today, may be sufficiently interested to add our message to that he already has for his "lumber-jacks" and their families in the Adirondacks. We have

never been able to make a complete record of all the Clubs formed, since many have not united with the Society, and a Club formed this year may disband the next. As Dr. Hale once said, "A Club which dies does not write its own epitaph or send us its obituary." Our records show that one hundred and twenty-two new Clubs have formed during the past five years, that fortyfive have disbanded for various reasons, and that on May 1, 1916, there were one hundred and forty-five active Clubs in twenty-two states. Some have united with other Lend a Hand Clubs, or joined forces with the Women's Alliance or Civic Clubs, while others are temporarily disbanded because their members are at college. Whatever may be the reason, and wherever the members are, we are confident that the lend a hand spirit is still manifest.

The Clubs report on their local work at the Conferences held in October and February each year. An average of one hundred and fifty delegates representing about fifty Clubs attended the Conferences of the past year, while distant Clubs sent reports for publication in the "Lend a Hand Leaflet," a monthly paper which brings the

Clubs into communication with each other and with the Central Office. These Conferences were held in the First Parish Church, Hingham, and in Bulfinch Place Church, Boston, and addressed by the following were speakers: Miss Lucy Brigham on "Box Furniture Making," the invention of her sister, Miss Louise Brigham; the Superintendent of the Society on the "Southern Trip for the Lend a Hand Book Mission;" Miss Ethel de Long of the Pine Mountain Settlement School, Kentucky; Mr. Allison G. Catheron, Chairman Committee on Social Welfare, Massachusetts House of Representatives; Miss Emma E. White, Secretary New England Grenfell Association. The inspiration and information obtained from these meetings is most valuable.

Another year of world woe has found the Clubs responding well to the appeals of the Central Office, especially in our efforts to help save the homeless and destitute children of Europe. Though some of the older Clubs were drained by last year's demands not only of financial ability to respond, but of courage and interest in what has seemed a hopeless task, the interest of

many has never abated, and the new Clubs have heartily coöperated. Clothing for the refugees and wounded soldiers has been sent through several agencies. A number of "Kits for the Kiddies" and \$100 with which to purchase more outfits for boys and girls were sent to the Children's Fund, New York City. Contributions have been made to the Serbian, Belgian, and Frontier Children Funds. A number of dime banks for Belgian relief have been distributed, the result of which will soon be reported. With the slogan of the American Girls' Society in France, "Ten cents will keep one baby one day," we have sold nearly four hundred French Flags for their Baby Fund. Fourteen "maisonettes"-that is, pasteboard banks in the form of little cabins -have been taken by the Clubs and other friends in which to collect funds for sheltering the fatherless and widows left destitute in the Marne Valley, France. Sixty dollars will build and furnish a wooden cabin of the style of the bank. One friend has assured us of one of these cabins, another is probable, and we feel certain that the collections from the other banks will pay for at least one more. The aggregate

in money for these funds may be comparatively small, but the love spirit behind it all is what we are stressing.

Let us now turn to the work of the Clubs at home, if we can call Newfoundland and Labrador "home." We consider Dr. Grenfell a member of our family at any rate. At the October Conference the Clubs voted to comply with the request of Dr. Grenfell that the Lend a Hand Medical Case given him years ago be again repaired and refilled in the spring, and the response has been so generous that nearly \$200 This is well, since Dr. is in sight. Grenfell in a recent inspiring visit at the Central Office, on his return from France, stated that he wished a few surgical instruments added to the supplies for the case, in lieu of certain drugs at present not obtainable or too costly. We are proud to have a share in this noble work of relieving the suffering and distress of the Labrador fisher-folk. That Dr. Grenfell feels the need of the co-operation of the Clubs is shown in the letter received from him early in March from which we quote;

"I am obliged to address you from 'Somewhere in France,' no address being permitted. I want to send just a line to your Lend a Hand Clubs about the winter box of tablets for the Lend a Hand sledge.

That the Lend a Hand Clubs should keep up their sledge and box is my very earnest wish, partly because in war time anyhow it is very hard to raise the help needed by all charitable societies, and partly because of my personal acquaintance with, and affection for Dr. Edward Everett Hale. I want to feel, so long as I am in Labrador, the help as it were of his hand in that bit of work which he began and I believe loved. It is sentimental to some people, but with me sentiment is a factor I greatly estimate as a vital factor. We feel 'for His sake' of the Christ; why not 'for his sake' of the great men who have walked in his footsteps?"

The Lend a Hand Reading Room in the Seamen's Institute, St. John's is in constant use and the men appreciate the reading matter sent to them. Dr. Grenfell urged the continuation of our interest and said that illustrated periodicals and stationery would be specially acceptable as the Institute furnishes the men stationery free of charge. Parcels containing such things may be sent by mail to the Manager of the Seamen's Institute for the Lend a Hand Reading Room. For the first time in many years Dr. Grenfell reports prosperity in Labrador due to the fine catch of fish. Uuhappily, however, the call of their country to arms has been heard and heeded, and there is the dread and fear that there will be hundreds of widows and orphans in that land as well as in the other countries of the belligerents.

The Outing Department is unique and always satisfactory. To give new life physically and morally is a privilege and that privilege the Society has enjoyed fifty-five times during the past year, for that number of people have benefited through this department. Applications were received from sixtythree persons, but the weather was too cold in March to send men from warm hospitals to country houses, and objections were made by wives and mothers of several others who were thus deprived of the benefit, though arrangements for their outings had been completed. As it was, fifty-five people gained health and courage to return to their work, or to bear their burdens, while the aged have a pleasant memory of a happy vacation. Seven of the men would have specially pleased Dr. Hale for they were from sixty-five to eightytwo, and five of the women were from seventy to eighty-one "years young."

Six were blind, several crippled, a number convalescing from various illnesses, one had a broken hip, and saddest of all, some had broken hearts and broken spirits. Rest, fresh air, nourishing food, and motherly kindness contributed to healing and mending the majority of those sent away. We cooperated with other societies in sending a girl of eighteen to a camp for two months that she might be saved mentally, and in contributing towards the transportation expenses of two people. A pleasant incident was the offer by a kind friend of her log cabin in the country, supplied with wood and ice, if the right people could be found to appreciate it. As a result two refined ladies who greatly needed a month's vacation and who otherwise would not have had one enjoyed this privilege. One expressed her gratitude in these "I feel as if I had entered words: heaven right side up. Life feels not so difficult a thing and problems seem to be dropping away." Numberless car tickets have been given away throughout the entire year, and during the summer months forty harbor tickets and several "Rides for Invalids," donated by the Young Men's Christian Union, gave much pleasure and comfort. The summer is our busiest season for outings and it is close upon us now. On May 1 we had \$140 on hand, not quite enough for the board and fares of thirteen people since the price of board has advanced. Four applications are already filed. We earnestly ask the hearty support of our friends for this useful work, not duplicated by any other society.

At Thanksgiving and Christmas we were enabled by the kind gifts of friends to do more than usual in the way of making many happy and comfortable. We wish specially to speak of the Christmas sales at the Central Office which seem now to have become a feature of the work. Nine women who pick up a living by making fancy and useful articles, calendars, soap, marmalade, and what-not, or by commissions on post-cards and Christmas cards, were permitted to display their wares in our office. It was a pleasure to "talk up" these goods to our callers and a satisfaction to add to the Christmas cheer of every one of these women by handing them the day before Christmas some tangible result of the sale. It is possible to do this only during the

weeks before Christmas when the fir balsam pillow sale is in progress, for at that time hundreds of people call for the pillows and are often interested in the other articles. Five hundred of these pillows were sold this year, --- no, five hundred and three, for later two more were ordered from Italy and one went to California. This large sale could not have been carried on but for the volunteer help of several ladies on our good Board of Directors, of other Club members, and the use of a vacant office near our own, generously given by the trustees of the building. For all of this assistance we wish publicly to express our thanks. The entire proceeds of the sale, \$125.75, plus donations from friends of \$14, were sent to Mrs. T. It was a snug little sum for the workers in the Maine woods, who were in particularly straitened circumstances this year. Because of this we took special pleasure in packing and sending them the annual Christmas box for the community We must confess to Christmas tree. being a little overwhelmed, though greatly amused, when in answer to our inquiry as to how many children would look for the Lend a Hand Santa, we

were told "there are twenty-five children and five babies." Of course, we rose to the occasion and with the help of friends not only were the "children" remembered, but each of the "babies" had a rattle, the adults received many useful gifts, and there was candy for all. The letter of acknowledgment was a very grateful one and showered blessings on the Lend a Hand.

The Sewing department for needy women has increased its usefulness in that more work has been given a fewer number, all of whom have seen better days, and several are more than sixty years of age. The garments made have come from the Children's Hospital, from friends who were giving hospital shirts to the wounded European soldiers, and from the Comfort Carriers Lend a Hand Club. To these friends and to the Sewing and Belgian Relief Committees of the South Congregational Church who have provided additional work for the deserving women, we wish to express our gratitude, not only for their co-operation, but for their invariable friendliness to the women.

During July and August for the past three years baskets of flowers have been sent three days a week by the branch of the Flower Mission at Bulfinch Place Church for distribution from the Lend a Hand office. Last summer one hundred thirty-two bouquets gave pleasure to many hard-working men and women, and cheered others in hospitals, or lodging-houses.

Good clothing of all kinds has been received, and given to those who appreciated it. A poor, lonely soul, over seventy, called the other day wearing our latest gift, her new spring hat. So grateful and happy was she, she kissed us on both cheeks, saying, "You are my best friends," and I think we are, for she is practically alone in the world. There are many other lonely men and women who need and seek the friendly hand we mean always to extend. It may be simply the cordial word and it may mean the saving of a life. We try to meet the need. Three of our "special beneficiaries" for whom we held trust funds have recently laid down their burdens. Two of them were old pensioners of Dr. Hale, in whom the South Congregational Board of Charities had also continued an interest.

Twice within a month we have been asked to provide layettes for women who had nothing ready for their little ones. A third outfit went by parcel post earlier in the year to Michigan, on request of a lady whose whole family is lending a hand in a region where they are pioneers. Our Clubs keep us supplied with these outfits for emergency calls.

The varieties of human need are endless. They sift through the larger organizations, and those which have special and limited activities, to our office. Neither this meagre report nor the financial report which the Treasurer will make can give more than a hint of the way our days are occupied, for much is accomplished which is never set down on the books.

How happy our founder was when the permanency of the work was assured by the Endowment Fund many present today well remember. It now amounts to \$55,970.55 on account of the payment of the bequest of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Gibbs of \$3000. The amount of this bequest was a pleasant surprise, for the original notice of the legacy two years ago gave the amount as \$1000. Mrs. Gibbs was an old friend and parishioner of Dr. Hale. In her will it was stated that besides \$1000 for herself, \$1000 was left in the name of her mother, Mrs. Martha A. Croley, and \$1000 in the name of her sister, Miss Annie R. Croley. The Society is grateful, and encouraged by this addition to the Endowment Fund. The work is increasing, as the report of the various departments indicates, and more funds are needed to carry it on efficiently and to extend it. We mention this as plans are already under way for the use of our balance.

Two more gifts have been welcomed. One, a legacy from Miss Harriet Rose Lee of a bond of \$100, bearing 5 per cent interest, to be known as the Harriet Rose Lee Fund, will perpetuate her interest in our philanthropic work. The other, a gift of \$92.92 from the Loyal Helpers' Lend a Hand Club, to be known as the Loyal Helpers' Scholarship Fund, is for needy and worthy students. It is hoped that Clubs and other friends will contribute to this Fund until it amounts to \$5000, when the interest may be used for the purpose specified.

Besides the loss of our good friend and Treasurer, Mr. Benjamin H. Jones, to whom reference has already been made, we regret to record the death of the following liberal contributors: Miss M. C. Mixter, a life member, Mrs. W. S. Bullard, Mr. George N. Clark, Dr. William C. Collar, Mrs. George Hollingsworth, Miss F. H. Hunneman, Mrs. C. E. Thayer, Mr. Ezra R. Thayer, Miss A. W. Turner, and Mrs. Charles T. White. We hope that new friends will take up the tasks they have laid down.

To the Clubs and all other friends of the Society, we express our hearty thanks for their loyal co-operation in all our undertakings. It is because we have worked "together" that we have succeeded. Let us today, on this our silver anniversary, renew our enthusiasm, and pledge ourselves In His Name not only to another year of loyal service, but to twenty-five more. The next century is mortgaged by the present European conflict, ideals have been shattered, Christianity challenged. The world needs our message of Faith and Hope and Love. Can we not make this twenty-fifth anniversary an eventful one by each member determining to spread broadcast our message? In no surer way can we follow our Master and Leader, and so help establish the Kingdom of Peace and Love.

Lend a Band Book Mission.

THE Book Mission is the largest de-

partment of our Society and one of the oldest. I have been looking back over old reports to find just when Miss Brigham brought the Book Mission, which she had founded, to Dr. Hale for his co-operation and help. I find no record previous to 1894, though we know that the work antedated that year. In Dr. Hale's report of 1895 he said, "With a certain indifference to statistics, which perhaps has ruled in all our undertakings, neither Miss Brigham nor the officers of the Society can tell how many thousands of books have been sent by people who could spare them in the North to people who needed them in the South." How characteristic that was of Dr. Hale! We all sympathize with him in a measure, for as a rule nothing is dryer than statistics. Nevertheless, I venture to give a few, as I think they will interest and encourage you, and because figures speak volumes when not too confusing. From May 1, 1915, to May 1, 1916,

147 boxes of books, magazines, pictures,

cards, etc., have been sent away. Most of these boxes went to the South, others went to a public school in Arizona, to the Adirondacks Mission, to the Rufus Dawes Hotel for poor men, recently opened in Boston, to Fort Standish, Boston Harbor, to the Sailors' Haven, Charlestown, and to the illiterate and needy district in our own Berkshires. The splendid man who carried on this latter work, Rev. Henry Warren, called at our office and told of his fine work only a week before he very suddenly died.

These boxes contained 3671 new books and 4775 excellent second-hand books, making a total of 8446 books distributed. The new books were purchased with the money contributed by generous friends, amounting to \$1107.59. Eleven dollars will buy a small library of thirty-five carefully selected juvenile books which we send as a first gift to a school. Occasionally when application comes from a larger school about seventy books are given. The possession of the books by a school means much more to the recipients than does the loan of them. They not only have a longer time to enjoy them, but are stimulated to make or buy a bookcase. This improvement in the schoolroom suggests others, so that the influence of the ownership of the books is far-reaching. Two of the teachers who have recently received books for the first time, write that they fear the eagerness of the children to read will interfere with required study. This is hopeful, for such normal boys and girls need give us no further concern as they now have been stimulated to help themselves. We seek those who are not yet awakened, and there are thousands of them still, that we may arouse and nourish their minds and souls.

Many of the second-hand books have been practically new, and never have we received such quantities of choice books as this year. We have had the privilege of selecting 2684 books from a discarded library of the Young Men's Christian Union, 306 from the Waltham Public Library, and 300 from the library of Mrs. George Wigglesworth, deceased. For this privilege we are indebted to the officers of the libraries and to Miss Caroline Jenks, Rev. Robert B. Pattison, and Miss Emma L. Coleman, through whom the privilege was accorded. Boxes from other interested friends have been received all through

the year, and seven were sent by donors direct to addresses furnished, thus relieving the Central Office. Books of fiction, travel, biography, history, reference books, Bibles, dictionaries, and encyclopædias were included. The value of these to the struggling libraries, schools and prison camps that received them cannot be realized by those in the North who have free access to books. In a copy of a local newspaper in Georgia, recently sent by a Superintendent of Schools, was the announcement in **bold** type, "A tenvolume encyclopædia has been donated by the Lend a Hand Book Mission of Boston." This was important news for that community, as the encyclopædia was only the second in the possession of Upson County. It is frequently the fact that there is only one encyclopædia or dictionary in a whole county-and just as often there is none.

From Rev. E. L. Vaughan, the consecrated chaplain of the convict camps near Atlanta, Georgia, came this acknowledgment: "We are more and more pleased with the box as we use the books. We are building a new Library for the Government Camp and wish you could have seen us hustling about making up packages of literature and stationery to take to that camp, the Iron Cage Camp and the two women's camps." I did see them last year and it was a sad sight. All who help carry on this work may be grateful for the opportunity of bringing some pleasure, some light and some hope to these poor unfortunates.

From a letter written by a young colored teacher, I quote : "I obtained nine books for my school from the box you sent Supt. McLeod. I was not positive what good they would do among my small flock. I carried them down to my school, and can truthfully say I was surprised the children liked them so well. The boy that read 'Beautiful Joe' said to me one day, 'I didn't know that it was a real sin to be cruel to animals before I read this book.' I had often told him not to throw stones at the birds, but he said that he just thought that I didn't want them to be throwing stones. Another girl said, 'I am going to read this book to pa for he beats our horse nearly to death sometimes." "Black Beauty" was the name of the book. If nine books can accomplish all that this letter hints in one barren spot, is it any wonder that we are eager to obtain the means to enlighten the thousands in many places who need us?

I wish time permitted the reading of a number of letters received, but here is one which will show the condition of things in Kingston, Georgia, and vicinity, and the appreciation of the people:

"It was with no small degree of pleasure that I unpacked the box of splendid books which came last week. Such a fine selection for all ages! And so many interesting magazines! I have made arrangements to place most of them at what is called 'Best's Chapel,' a settlement in the country seven or eight miles from here, where they will be used for a neighborhood library, Sunday School, public school, when in session, and in whatever way seems best to the young lady who will take charge of them, most probably keep them in her home. The pastor of this circuit recommended her to me, and said he was heartily in favor of this undenominational missionary work. He also told me I had no idea of the number of homes he entered where there was not a single book to read; others where there was just the Bible and children's school readers; and he and I agreed it was no wonder life was so dull for young and old, and that much drunkenness was indulged in and much mischief done out of sheer boredom; minds having nothing to feed on, or

opportunity of coming in contact with others, or to learn what was being done elsewhere in the world, or even that there was any world beyond their own horizon, turn to evil for sheer lack of knowledge of anything else. Who knows but they might contain possibilities for great good, were they given opportunities for expansion.

I am particularly glad of the books for boys and girls of High School age, those telling of football and school doings. The children here sometimes ask for books like that, and I know they will be appreciated on the 'circuit' which I shall establish for them. This being 'Library Day,' I'll go down and take some of the new books and lend them to the library for awhile. I believe I told it was the primary children, the 'kiddies,' who were the most regular patrons, and so critical about their reading matter! If there are only three lines of large print on a page they have their opinion on the merits of the book.

Hearty thanks to your generosity, and sincere good wishes to the Lend a Hand Book Mission, whose I am to command. Assure them of my best endeavors to co-operate with them in distributing the books they so graciously entrust to me."

We echo the thought expressed in the letter just read : "Who knows but they contain possibilities for great good, were they given opportunities for expansion?" Who knows? Let us give these thousands of rural and mountain children in the south of our own United States an opportunity to develop. To do this we hope to gain new subscribers and to renew the interest of those diverted by the European war, for there has been considerable shrinkage in contributions on this account the past two years. This loss has been partially offset by the generosity of the following transportation companies who have granted the Book Mission free shipment of its boxes of books: The Merchants & Miners Transportation Co., The Southern Railway Co., The Seaboard Air Line, and several smaller tributary companies; while the Norfolk & Western Railway Co. has granted half rates. We wish publicly to express our appreciation of this generous concession and of the unfailing courtesy and assistance of the Boston representatives of these companies.

We again express our gratitude to the generous friends who have given financial and other aid to this great educational philanthropy.

ANNIE F. BROWN,

Superintendent.

Treasurer's Report.

Josiah M. Fowler, Treasurer, in acc the Lend a Hand Society, May 1 May 1st, 1916.		
RECEIPTS		
Donations for Special Cases,	\$ 1,434. 2 9	
Donations and Subscriptions,	573.75	
Dues,	279.30	
Income from Investments and		
Interest,	2,229.46	
Lend a Hand Book Mission,	1,107.59	
Outings,	400.58	
War Relief,	83.6 0	
Dr. Grenfell's Medical Case,	178.55	
Hale Endowment Fund,	3,013.15	
Donations and Subscriptions	450.00	
"Special Need"	450.00	
Sales Account,	35.80	
Lend a Hand Leaflet,	104.05	
Harriet Rose Lee Bequest,	$\begin{array}{r}100.00\\92.92\end{array}$	
Loyal Helpers Scholarship Fund.		
Total receipts twelve months,	\$10,083.04	
Held in trust, Special	,	
Charities, May 1st, 1915, \$1,590.19	,	
On hand, unappropriated, May 1st, 1915, 669.69	,	
May 1st, 1915, 669.69 On hand, Sweetser bequest,		
	5,267.27	
May 18t, 1910, 5,001.58		
	\$15,350.31	
DISBURSEMENTS		
	#1 450 FD	
Donations, Special Cases,	\$1,452.73	
Donations, General,	306.15	
Lend a Hand Book Mission,	$1,167.25 \\ 520.15$	
Outings, War Relief,	57.00	
Hale Endowment Fund,	3,013.15	
Sales,	34.00	
Lend a Hand Leaflet,	122.95	
Office Expenses, Printing, etc.,	355.63	
Rent and Salaries,	2,085.96	
Transfer of Sweetser bequest to	_,	
Endowment Fund,	2,007.39	
Harriet Rose Lee Bequest,	100.00	
Total disbursement twelve		
months,	\$11,172.36	

Amount brought forward,		\$11,172.36
Held in trust, Special	#1 000 14	
Charities, May 1st, 1916,	\$1,033.14	
Loyal Helpers Scholarship Fu	and, 92.92	
Reserve Fund,	1,000.00	
On hand, unappropriated,		
May 1st, 1916,	2,051.89	4,177.95
		\$15,350.31
Invested Funds, May 1st, 1915,	\$50.618.96	
Sweetser bequest, 1915, trans		
ferred to Endowment Fund		
Mary Elizabeth Gibbs Beques		
Subscriptions and Additions		

Subscriptions and Additions
to date,344.40Total Hale Endowment Fund,\$55,970.75Harriet Rose Lee Fund,100.00Total Invested Funds,\$56,070.75

JOSIAH M. FOWLER, Treasurer.

The Treasurer's Report herewith has been examined and found correct.

IRVING B. COBURN, O. ARTHUR MCMURDIE, Auditors

Boston, May, 20, 1916.

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*Deceased

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Form of Bequest.

I give and bequeath to the Lend a Hand Society (incorporated) of Boston,

the sum of dollars.

one of the following phrases may be added : If it is desired to specify the use to which the bequest shall be devoted,

- 1. For Lend a Hand Work.
- 2. For the Hale Endowment Fund.
- 3. For the Book Mission Department.
- 4. For the Loyal Helpers Scholarship Fund.