

B. YOUTH SOCIAL CENTRES.1. General Introduction.

The services with which we have dealt so far are concerned with the needs of children up to the age of about fourteen or fifteen. The services with which we are now going to deal, viz. Youth Social Centres, Community Centres, Occupational Therapy and Sheltered Employment, are all concerned with young people of fifteen or over and with adults.

The first of these, namely Youth Social Centres, were established to provide constructive leisure-time activities for young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five.

The policy of the Council in regard to recreation is that it is not the function of the Council to provide for recreation as an end in itself. This is the function of voluntary bodies. The function of the Council is to provide recreational facilities as a means to an end.<sup>1)</sup>

As in the case of the Play Centres, close attention to individual characteristics and needs, is an important feature of the Youth Social Centre, which attempts to utilise recreational services, among others, as a basis for training in good citizenship and service to the community. The Youth Social Centre does not merely aim at the prevention of delinquency, prostitution and allied evils, but at providing for the maximum development, through properly directed leisure, of the latent abilities and personal qualities of each of its members. In the

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1). Mr. R. Knobel, in an interview.

Youth Social Centre, as in the other services described so far, the day-to-day organisation of leisure-time activities is conducted by trained physical educationalists and play leaders, arts and crafts specialists, and other suitably qualified staff.<sup>1)</sup>.

## 2. Brief History of the movement.

It is only during the past few years that the movement, which has been actively operating in Britain for the past century, has taken root in South Africa.

In 1916, during the first World War, the Board of Education turned its attention to the provision of facilities whereby young people should use their leisure wisely. The effort at first took the form of encouraging local authorities to form juvenile organisation committees (J.O.C's) whose duties were to help and encourage voluntary organisations to see to the leisure-time occupations of young people, to provide facilities for them and to pay general attention to their social welfare. Soon afterwards all sorts of juvenile committees were set up, including the juvenile Advisory Committee and the juvenile Employment Boards.

Lack of interest and support, however, caused the J.O.C. to go by the board in the years of the great depression. In 1921 an effort was made to revive it, but by 1936 only six authorities employed full-time salaried secretaries to J.O.C's and only thirty-six authorities had J.O.C's of any kind.

Some stimulus was given to club work by the King George's Jubilee Scheme and by another great experiment

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1). R. Knobel; Act. Director, S.W.D; Interim Report on Municipal Recreation, 29/1/1947.

in social education, viz. the Community Club Movement, but it was sporadic.

Before the War, then, the position in Great Britain in regard to youth work was that it was for the most part in the hands of voluntary bodies, although the government took a benevolent interest in it. Certain local education authorities did a great deal to help in the provision of instructors for classes and in aiding schools, but the majority of young people between fourteen and twenty, who belonged to any youth group, belonged to voluntary clubs run by voluntary leaders and helpers, or to such voluntary uniformed organisations as the Scouts, Guides, or the Boys' Brigade, or to societies with definite church affiliations, as the Young People's Guild.

When war came it was feared that the youth movement would suffer because the leaders were called up, but the Board of Education was alive to the resulting dangers should that be the case, and in the famous memorandum, "In the Service of Youth" (Circular 1486 of 1939), drew attention to the seriousness which would arise if young people were denied the opportunity of spending their leisure-time profitably at a time when absent fathers made the steadying influence more necessary than ever. The result was a tremendous fillip instead of the feared decline.

We can trace three stages in the history of the government's schemes.

First Stage. During this stage financial aid was given to voluntary organisations.

Second Stage. Existing youth services were bolstered up and the new Youth Centre Scheme was launched

by the local authority. Youth needed to be served, but youth was also anxious to serve, with the result that youth served in many areas through the Youth Service Corps, The Air Force Training Corps, etc., with great success.

Third Stage. This stage started with circular 1557, "The Registration of Youth", which provided for the registration of all boys and girls between the ages of 16 and 18. Service to youth thereby proved to be more than just a financial appendage to the education services. The stage was now reached in which youth service takes official cognizance of young people at the age of 16.

The result of the war was thus the extension of the work by grants to voluntary bodies on one hand, and by direct intervention by the local authority in the field of youth work on the other. Where existing facilities were not adequate, many local authorities set up youth centres and new ventures of all kinds were started, sometimes by the local education authority alone, and sometimes in co-operation with various voluntary associations. The local education authority youth centre, housed in the senior school, often caters in the larger towns for a membership of from 200 to 600. The clubs are usually mixed and carry out interesting programmes of activities. In some places the churches have started a venture in suitable premises in town.

As a result of the war young people have become enthusiastic about spending their leisure-time in services, in giving rather than in getting. There were the Youth Service Squads doing odd jobs in the village and also the

Youth Service Volunteers helping farmers in summer months.

Circular 1486, "In the Service of Youth", enjoins on local education authorities the duty of forming youth centres whose special duty shall be to see that all young people between the ages of 14 and 20 are provided with facilities for the development of body, mind and spirit and also to encourage and aid financially and otherwise, voluntary associations already engaged on such work and to provide such further facilities as seem necessary and desirable.

Now that the war is over there still remains great need for youth services. The Ministry of Education has recognised the need and the new Education Act makes special provision for social and recreative work, not only for young people, but for people of all ages.

Where it was estimated that in 1939 only about 40% of young people between the ages 14 to 20 belonged to any organisation after leaving school, it was about 65% in 1945. 1).

After "1486 and All That", as "In the Service of Youth" is generally known, and the terrific excitement caused by the revelation that over 60% of the adolescent population had no attachment to church or chapel, club or fellowship, local authorities made very praiseworthy efforts to fill the gap and a new thing called a Youth Centre came into being. Actually it was no new thing, since it is merely a large club, which meets in a school, where the helpers are, for the most part, paid, and where

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1). Pamphlet: Education in England, 1939-1945; N.E.F. Monograph No. 4 of 1945, p. 25.

as a rule, the boys and girls meet together as a mixed club.

The large numbers of young people that flocked to these Youth Centres were proof of their great need.<sup>1)</sup>

### 3. Need for Youth Social Centres and their Establishment in Johannesburg.

Youth Social Centres were established in Johannesburg to provide for some of the needs of adolescents.

#### (a). Most Important Needs of Adolescents.

The adolescent takes an interest in a large variety of games and forms of play, especially in sports and athletics. Gradually group games, such as football and basketball, come to predominate. The honour of the team takes the place of the former individual glory.

Related to their play interests are their social interest. They form into smaller or larger groups of playmates or associations, clubs or gangs. They love to camp out and hike. They show an increasing interest in books, newspapers, periodicals and in art. Particularly noticeable are their interest in science and philosophy, that is in metaphysics. Last, but not least, is their profound interest in sex and in members of the opposite sex.<sup>2)</sup>

Youth Social Centres cater more particularly for the play, recreational and social needs of adolescents, but it does not entirely neglect the other needs mentioned.

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1). Brew; In the Service of Youth. pp. 21-25, and p. 55.

2). Coetzee; Inleiding tot die Algemene Teoretiese Opvoedkunde, p. 307 and 309.

As the "Report of Community Recreation for Young People"<sup>1)</sup> points out, every recreation programme begins with the recognition of a basic human need: the need for relaxation, play and for a satisfactory social life. At no time in our lives is this need more urgent than during the "in-between" years of adolescence,<sup>2)</sup> when youth is so often nobody's particular concern and when he is so sensitively open to many influences, both good and bad.

(b). The Schools and these Adolescent Needs.

No matter how good the education the adolescent receives at school, there are many aspects that the school cannot do full justice to. Besides, young people will always need opportunities to pursue those tastes and interests in their leisure-time which the school has fostered within them.<sup>3)</sup>

His education for citizenship begins when his school education ends. Education for life in society and education for leisure can only really begin in earnest when the youth has secured dexterity with the tools of education.

Unfortunately for many adolescents the change over from school to life is often very sharp and painful. From a sheltered world adapted to his immaturity he emerges all too abruptly into the open. He is let out on his own at a time when he is still far from feeling inwardly the confidence which his outward appearance would have us believe. It is at this time, perhaps more

- 1). What about us? - A report of Community Recreation for Young People; p. 1.
- 2). Evans; Age Grouping in Clubs, p. 1.
- 3). Education in England. p. 27

than at any other in his whole life, that he should feel that he belongs, that he is wanted, that he should feel safe and that he is of some importance. He is then most in need of sympathetic guidance. He needs a place where he can find opportunities for full development when he is released by the educational machine as he ceases to be a child, but is still far from being a man.

Yet only a very small percentage of young people on leaving school are catered for by churches, Sunday schools, boys' and girls' clubs and uniformed organisations.<sup>1)</sup> The great majority of the adolescent population, on leaving school, never join any organisation. Brew calls these the "great untouched" - untouched by any socialising agency. For the majority of these the street gang is the only possible club and the street corner the only practical continuation school.<sup>2)</sup>

(c). Results of Adolescent Needs Inadequately Provided for.

In a large city such as Johannesburg there is ever present <sup>a great</sup> danger, not only for the young person fresh from town or country school and parental control, but also for the city-bred. many of these young people, lacking the wisdom which only comes with experience, fall a prey of unfavourable influence. Their deep-seated sense of insecurity is undoubtedly a great reason for their delinquency. When accompanied by a feeling of being deprived of some fundamental need, such as a lack of normal satisfaction of affection, the danger is even greater. Probably half the trouble with adolescents is caused by their longing to prove that they are grown-up.<sup>3)</sup>

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- 1). Brew puts the figure at 30%. In the Service of Youth. p. 30.  
 2). Boys' Club Handbook, no. 1; Principle and Aims of Boys' Club Movement. p. 6.  
 3). Foster; These Our Children. p. 81.

Delinquent behaviour is largely caused by a faulty character formation which is mainly due to environmental influences disturbing the normal development of personality. If the disturbance is recognised early enough there is a good chance that this faulty development may be remedied by appropriate methods of social and psycho-therapeutic treatment.<sup>1)</sup>

(d). Creation of Youth Social Centres.

Youth Social Centres have invariably been created to meet those needs of youth mentioned above in places where the necessary facilities are absent. These centres are places which satisfy two of the natural instincts which are particularly strong in adolescents, viz. the instinct to play and the instinct for companionship.

Their aim is both preventive and promotive. By providing healthy and satisfying recreational facilities, they aim, in the first place, to reduce maladjusted behaviour, and in the second place, to prevent these maladjustments ever taking place through positive education for citizenship. In a rapidly changing world it is necessary that knowledge be constantly renewed and refreshed and that social education shall be actively pursued throughout the adult life. It can even be said that it has become a moral duty to provide places where adolescents can meet with companions of both sexes and of similar tastes in the happiest possible conditions, and where they may be helped through the difficulties of adjustment to adult life in all its phases, at work, at home and in leisure.

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1). Friedlander; The Treatment of the Juvenile Delinquent; in Lord Horder (Editor): Health and Social Welfare, p.123.

Cities are becoming worried about their youth with its restlessness and its craving for excitement. Some youngsters get completely off the reservation and fall down hard. Some of these cities are slowly coming to realise that school does not stop at 2 p.m., nor even when <sup>the</sup> youngster leaves school, and that a sixteen-year old's free time is as much a part of his education and as much the country's responsibility, as his lesson in arithmetic. They are beginning to meet their obligations through the provision of playing fields, social centres, etc. They are generally putting their weight behind a wholesome, well-rounded recreation programme.

(e). Establishment of Youth Social Centres.  
in Johannesburg.

On the 3rd of December, 1945, an informal meeting was held in the City Hall Committee Room to discuss suggestions in connection with the running of a young people's Social Centre. In her introductory remarks the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. J. McPherson, said that such a centre would fill a long felt need in the City. As the Council was anxious to obtain the fullest co-operation between the outside public and the Council the Youth Social Centre Advisory Committee was elected.

The following were among the most important matters discussed at the informal meeting:

1. Objects of the Centre. The Chairman, (Clr. Colin Legum), suggested that the objects of the Centre might be defined as the provision of amenities for young people with the principal aim of developing in them the characteristics necessary for them to become the best type of citizens.

(2). Membership. (i). Age. The age limit should be 15 to 30 years, but this age limit should not be too rigidly adhered to.

(ii). Qualifications. There should be no means test nor any qualification other than that membership should be conditional upon the member agreeing to abide by the Club's rules and regulations.

(iii). Cards. Membership cards should be issued to all members and used as permits of entry to the Centre.

(iv). Subscriptions should be 5/- per year or 1/- per month.

(3). Hours. The Club to be open between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m.

(4). Facilities. These were to include:

(i). A restaurant where meals could be served, for which the charge would be 9d. for a three course meal, but members to have the right to purchase only one or more of the courses provided.

(ii). A canteen for the sale of coffee or tea at 1d. a cup.

(iii). Opportunity to receive friends in a room set apart for the purpose.

(5). Activities. With regard to activities it was decided that:

(i). The outstanding primary needs of the age group be considered.

(ii). A Members' Committee should be formed and developed with the Secretary of the Youth Social Centre as the chairman. The importance of this was to make the members feel that it was their club and that they had some say in its government.

(iii). That the activities should include the following group activities: physical training, photography, model aircraft building, music, debating, ballroom and folk dancing, dramatics, arts and crafts, needlework, picnics, hiking and camping, and games.

(6). Membership Campaign. A membership campaign was decided upon. With regard to schools it was decided that only those pupils who were shortly leaving school were to be interested, as the club was not intended for young people still attending school.

(7). Finance. The financing of the club was to be the responsibility of the City Council. It was, however, generally felt that the Government should be approached for some form of subsidy.

The Club was consequently opened on the 1st of July 1946, in buildings rented from month to month at 80 Loveday Street, (the old German Club), but efforts were immediately begun to acquire the building.

With regard to the status of the Advisory Committee, all matters of policy would be discussed by it and recommendations made to the Council through the Director of Social Welfare, although the actual control of the Club would be vested in the Council. In addition the Advisory Committee would control the raising and the spending of the Youth Social Centre Benevolent Fund which would be created with donations received by the Centre.

(f). Development of Youth Social Centres in Johannesburg.

By October, 1946, the membership had risen to about 1000 boys and girls, but it was felt that it

had grown too rapidly and that the position should be reviewed and that a policy should be formulated in relation to the type of member to be admitted and to the age group. A sub-committee was subsequently elected to consider the matter and it reported that while ballroom dancing, gymnastics, hiking and camping were the most popular groups, dances had to be cancelled temporarily and other activities substituted, so that the large hooligan element which had been attracted thereby could be got rid of. The matter of opening the Centre on Sundays between 12 noon and 6:45 p.m. was deferred until the views of the clergy could be obtained.

At first the development of the club was handicapped because nothing could be done until the building was acquired. Besides, lack of equipment restricted the activities of the club and there was as yet insufficient financial provision so that great economy was called for.

Efforts were made to raise the general standard of the club as the staff complained of lack of interest, lack of seriousness in debating and dramatic groups, and poor dress at dances. The club suffered from the drawback that it had been opened in a hurry and that they had had no time to make any finer arrangements.

(g). Administration of Youth Social Centre.

The Centre is administered through a permanent, a voluntary and a part-time staff. At the head is the

Organising Secretary, a qualified social welfare officer who is responsible to the Director of Social Welfare. He is assisted by a staff of qualified social workers, male and female, clerks, typists, doorkeepers, messengers, catering assistants, Native boys and a watch boy.

Every staff member is made responsible for his or her different activities and in turn organises the services of the voluntary and the part-time workers. These part-time helpers are drawn from different sections of the municipal Welfare Department, chiefly from the Play Centre and the Research branches, and from the public.

(h). Membership.

Prospective members have to fill in the following application form which is then dealt with by the Membership Committee:

Youth Social Centre.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE YOUTH SOCIAL CLUB,

80 LOVEDAY STREET, JOHANNESBURG.

1. name .....
2. Residential Address .....  
Telephone Number .....
3. Where Occupied .....  
Telephone Number .....
4. Age ..... 5. Date of Birth .....
6. Present Occupation .....
7. Previous Occupations .....
8. Is there any occupation which you prefer to your present one? .....
9. How do you employ your leisure-time? .....

10. Are you interested in any hobbies, for which you have at present no opportunity? .....
11. Would you like to take part in any of the following groups?
1. A Trousseau Club .....
  2. A Gymnastic Club .....
  3. A Folk Dancing Group .....
  4. An Arts and Crafts Group .....
  5. A Dancing Class Group .....
  6. A Dramatics Group .....
  7. A Tailoring and Designing Group .....
  8. An Art Needlework Group .....
  9. A Hiking and Camping Group .....
  10. A Music Group .....
  11. A Photographic Group .....
  12. A Housecraft Group .....
12. Is there any other activity not mentioned above in which you are interested, and which you would like the Club to organise? .....
13. I undertake to abide by the rules of the Club .....
- Date ..... Signature of Member.
- Place ..... Signature of Secretary.

Privileges and Duties of Members.

Privileges. As a member of the Club you are entitled to the use of the following:

- (a). The Dining Room and the Tea Room.
- (b). The Reading Room and the Writing Room.
- (c). All the activities and groups in the Club, on condition that you notify the secretary that you wish to join the various groups.

Duties. As a member of the Club it is expected of you that you:-

(a). Pay regularly in advance the membership fee of 5/- per annum, or 1/- per month.

(b). Abide by the rules of the Club. Copies of the rules are obtainable from the secretary.

Practically every suburb of the City is represented in the membership of the Centre as the following table indicates:

T A B L E XVI.

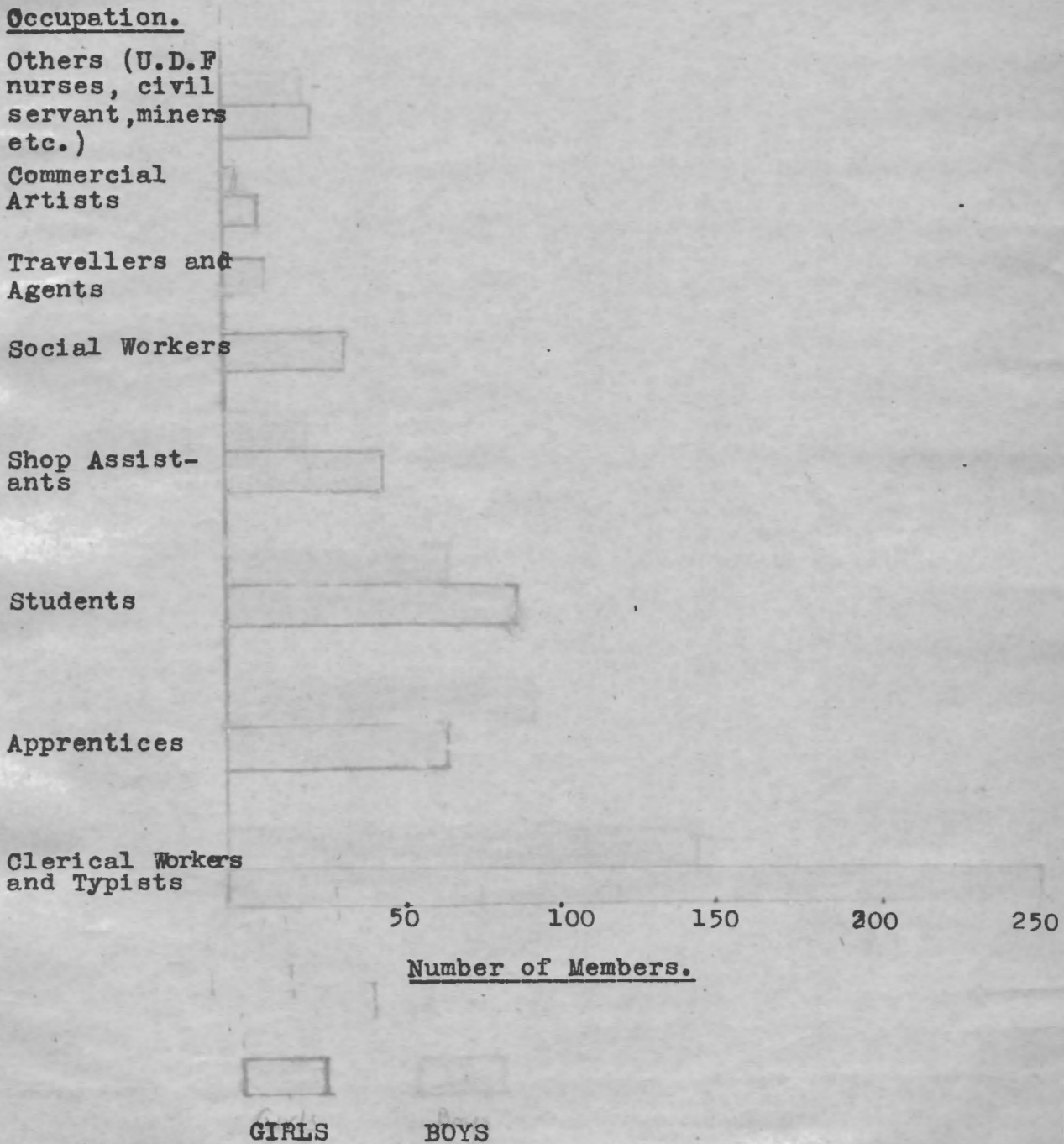
Suburb.	Regional Distribution of Members. (10 or more members <sup>1)</sup> )						
	Membership			Suburb.	Membership.		
	Boys	Girls	Total		Boys	Girls	Total
City	87	86	173	La Rochelle	9	8	17
Mayfair	30	29	59	Clifton	13	4	17
Doornfontein	17	28	45	Bezuidenhout Valley	5	11	16
Malvern	20	14	34	Troyville	11	5	16
Kensington	12	17	29	Parktown	8	7	15
Braamfontein	12	16	28	Parkview	5	10	15
Turffontein	11	14	25	Berea	7	7	14
Booyens	14	10	24	Yeoville	6	7	13
Melville	9	14	23	Brixton	6	7	13
Rosettenville	10	13	23	Orange Grove	5	7	12
Hillbrow	15	7	22	Fairview	4	8	12
Wanderers View	9	12	21	Belgravia	8	4	12
Parkhurst	4	15	19	Parkwood	7	3	10
Glenesk	2	16	18				
	252	291	543		94	88	182
				Total	346	379	725
				Total Membership			824

1). Youth Social Centre Files.

The majority of the members of the Centre are drawn from such occupations as clerical workers and typists, (47%) Students, (17.7%), apprentices, (18%), shop assistants, (5%), and social workers, (4%), as is indicated by the following diagram.

DIAGRAM II.

Occupation of Members of Youth Social Centre. (824 members)



(1). Initial Aim of the Youth Social Centre.

In the beginning the Centre set out purely as a place of recreation, a place where youths could get together, dance and play games, etc. This narrow aim had the desired effect of attracting members. Once, however, this object had been obtained, it was necessary to provide an activity programme sufficiently varied to catch and hold the fluctuating focus of their minds, including groups, such as games, tournaments (chess, ping pong, snooker, etc.) team games, special social events, amateur dramatics, film shows, lectures on appropriate subjects, music groups, outing activities (picnics), etc.

In all activities members are as far as possible given the responsibility to organise, arrange and assist. The Centre started off with the minimum of equipment to which was added from time to time. The Organising Secretary does not consider that this was a handicap. On the contrary, great value is to be derived from the members scheming, striving for and acquiring additional equipment through their own efforts. Interest and the sense of ownership is heightened thereby. This is an educational aim in itself, as the members are more likely to show respect for property and appreciation of it when they have been instrumental in acquiring it.

Another educational aim is achieved in allowing members to plan for themselves. Members are not chaperoned. The adult supervision is without the watchdog attitude, and they are encouraged and not restricted. In this way they are taught responsibility and selfreliance, two important factors in their education towards citizenship.

(j). Activities of the Youth Social Centre.

A range of activities as wide as possible are provided to interest the members as well as to provide in their primary leisure-time needs. Although the superficial aim of the Centre is to provide for the leisure-time of the members, the deeper aim, viz. education for citizenship through organised leisure-time activities, is always present, although often disguised.

The chief activities of the Centre are various group activities, games, and case work. Here follows the weekly programme of activities:-

PROGRAMME OF LEISURE-TIME ACTIVITIES.MUNICIPAL YOUTH SOCIAL CENTRE.

Mondays.	Dramatics, Photography, Gymnastics (Ladies).
Tuesdays.	Gymnastics (Men), Boxing, Wrestling, Social Group, (Ladies) (Music, Needlework, Beauty Culture etc.)
Wednesdays.	Dances, Dancing Tuition.
Thursdays.	Debating and Dis- cussion, Gymnastics, (Ladies) Concert Rehearsals.
Fridays.	Music appreciation, Gymnastics (Men), Concerts.
Saturdays.	Dances, Cinema shows or Concerts, Picnics, Camping.

(l). Group Activities.

The most important of these are:-

(i). Gymnastics. The Union Education Department pays a 50% subsidy on all equipment purchased as well as an instructor's fees. From time to time exhibitions by individuals and by clubs have been arranged.

(ii). Dancing. Ball Room Dancing. Dancing classes are given on Wednesday nights. The classes are very well attended. Several expert dancing teachers are in attendance. "Bob Hops", where an admission of 1/- is charged, are held on Wednesday nights, while dances are also held on Saturday nights when an admission of 5/- is charged.

Folk Dancing. Meetings of this group are held weekly.

(iii). Hiking and Camping. This activity appears to be very popular. Various picnics and camps have been arranged and were well attended. Boys and girls, many of whom have little chance of getting into the country, are thereby given an opportunity to get out into the fresh air and sunshine.

(iv). Arts and Crafts. So far these groups have been small. Useful work has, however, been done in making of posters for display on the notice boards. It is intended to extend this activity to include drawing, painting, cartooning, commercial art, and leather crafts.

(v). Needlework. Up to the present members have not shown much interest in this group, although it has been found that the better type of member takes an interest in this activity. Female members taking part in gymnastics are required to make their own tunics.

(vi). Dramatics and Concerts. A group was started under the direction of a voluntary worker. Six members were selected for a play which was staged at the Centre

on 23rd October, 1946. Parents and friends attended. The rest of the group was kept occupied on play-reading, voice production, etc. Members have also been given the opportunity to organise and conduct concerts. The concerts produced in this manner have not been of any mentionable standard, but they have afforded an opportunity of judging and selecting talented members for more advanced work.

(vii). Debating and Discussion Groups. Although this group is of a fairly high standard, it is not too well attended. Meetings are held once a fortnight. Occasionally a Brains Trust Evening is held. Debates are held against other groups, such as the Fordsburg Community Health Centre.

(viii). Bioscope Shows. This has not proved a great success, probably because of the unsuitability of the projector and the films used.

(ix). Music Group. Most of the members are interested in swing music only. A programme, by which members will gradually be introduced to better types of music and so develop an appreciation for good music, has been organised under the auspices of two members of the welfare staff.

(2). Games. Great interest is shown in various kinds of games. A system of ladders has been arranged whereby members can compete against one another. Interest is further stimulated by floating trophies. The standard of play reached by some members is fairly high, especially in table tennis.

(i). Billiards and Snooker. Competitions in these have been organised and have elicited considerable response.

(ii). Table Tennis. Keen interest is shown in this. A ladder system has been arranged and friendly matches with other clubs are arranged.

(iii). Skittles. The Centre is fortunate in having an excellent skittle alley. A large number of members are taking part in the game and in the competitions arranged.

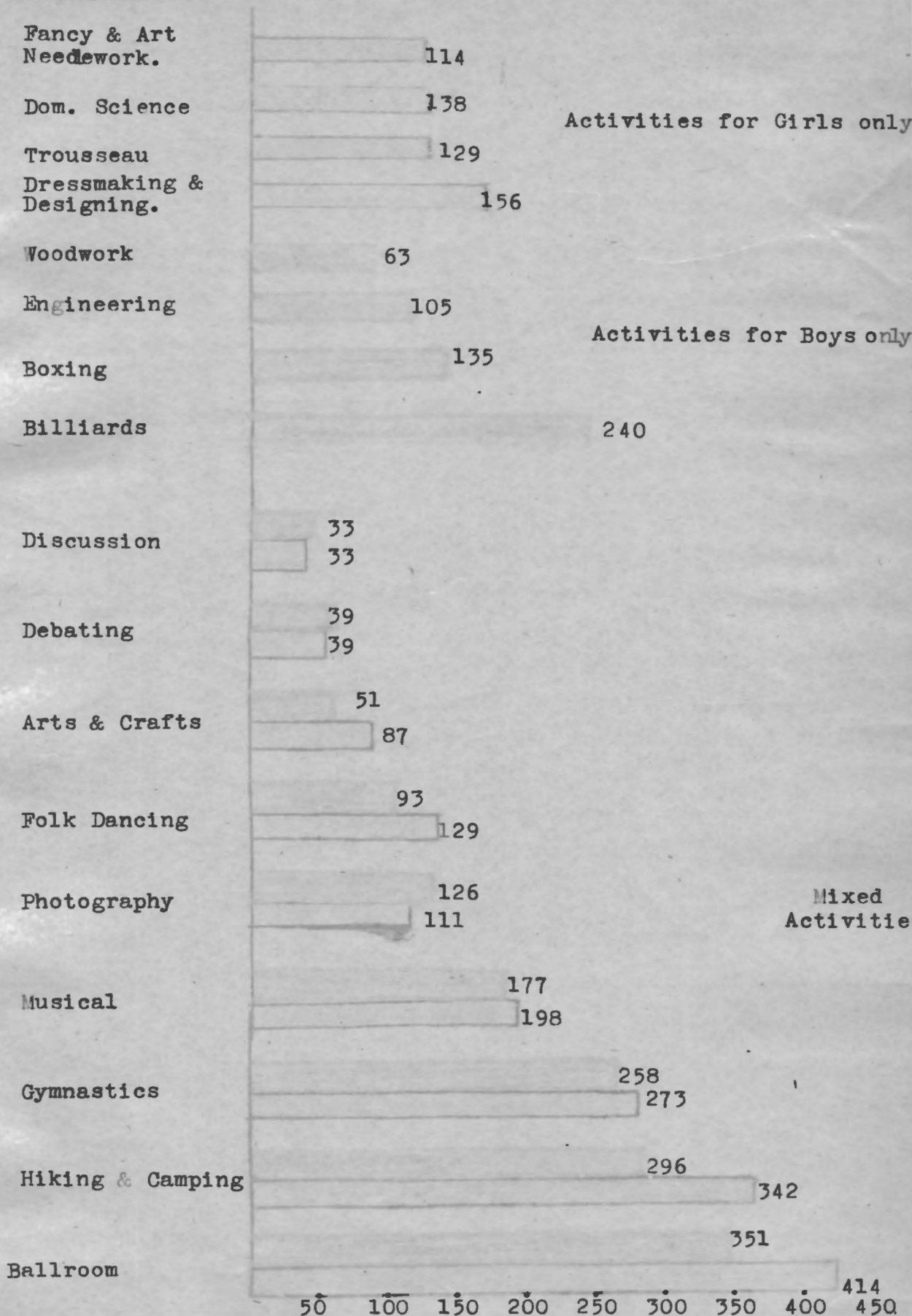
(iv). Draughts, Chess and Cards. Draughts and chess boards are taken out frequently by staff members. A ladder system of competitions has been arranged and games are played, but no gambling is allowed.

The following diagram illustrates the preference for activities:-

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DIAGRAM III.  
ACTIVITIES OF CLUB MEMBERS. Period 1/7/46-30/9/46

Activities.



Numbers Taking Part.

girls boys

(3). Case Work. A considerable amount of case work has been undertaken by the staff of the Youth Social Centre. Many members come from the poorer and more overcrowded areas of the City, and they have voluntarily asked for help and guidance on domestic and other matters. Efforts are made to find employment for those members that are out of work.

When investigating, diagnosing and treating cases, all possible factors are taken into account, including home circumstances, financial position, childhood upbringing, social relationships and psychological abnormalities. All cases are checked with the Central Register and if known to other organisations, are dealt with in conjunction with them. In some instances, cases are referred to organisations providing specific services, e.g. Union Department of Social Welfare, Child Welfare Society, etc. Before making important decisions cases are kept under close observation for a while to ensure that no errors of judgment occur.

Two typical cases from the files of the Centre are — quoted here.

Case 1. A girl, aged 21.

Circumstances. Immorality and suspected prostitution, unemployed, friendless and generally discontented. Had begun drinking in order to forget her unhappiness. Parents divorced. The mother with whom she lives is an alcoholic.

Action taken. Suitable employment was procured for her. This helped considerably in restoring her self-esteem. Her problems were discussed with her employer who became kindly disposed towards her and <sup>who</sup> made allowances for her shortcomings. Friendships with other club-members were encouraged. She was also given constant guidance and supervision.

Result. There was remarkable improvement with no relapse. She is, however, an extreme introvert and requires much patience and understanding. She is being referred to a Psychological Clinic for special treatment.

Case 2. A boy, aged 17.

Circumstances. Self-conscious with acute inferiority complex, mainly due to a speech defect.

Action Taken. Members of the staff had friendly talks with him whenever possible. Friendships with other boys were also encouraged. He was persuaded to join the dramatic group where he was given a minor part in a play. This helped considerably in giving him self-confidence. He was also given the task of reporting social functions in the Youth Social Centre Magazine.

Result. He now appears to be much happier and more self-confident.

#### 4. Probable Future Development.

As the question of the future development of Youth Social Centres will be discussed in detail in Part III,<sup>1)</sup> it will suffice to merely state a few broad points here.

##### (a). Extension of the Service.

Johannesburg is at present served by only one Youth Social Centre, housed in the building which formerly housed the old German Club, at 80 Loveday Street, Johannesburg. Although its present membership of approximately 500 is representative of most of the suburbs of the City, it cannot be said that the service thus provided in any way approximates

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1). Vide pp.

the need.

At present the entire cost of the service, apart from a subsidy for gymnastic equipment and the salary of one instructor, is borne by the City Council. The Union Social Welfare Department has been approached for a subsidy and the granting of this will to a large extent determine the extension of the service. As there is every reason to believe that this subsidy will be granted in due course, it can safely be assumed that the number of these centres will be increased in order to serve the more congested suburbs.

(b). Housing of Youth Social Centres.

In overseas countries, notably in America, Youth Social Centres form an integral part of Community Centres, which are often housed in school buildings.<sup>1)</sup> It still remains to be seen whether the overseas example will be followed in this respect, or whether they will develop independently and be housed in separate buildings. The advisability or not of this will be discussed in Part III.

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1). The Conduct of Community Centres; National Recreation Association; pp. 4-30.

MONDAY.

TUESDAY.

(1st Week)

(2nd Week)

WEDNESDAY.

THURSDAY.

FRIDAY.

	Supervisor	First Assistant	Second Assistant	Student	Visiting Parks Staff	
2:30-3	Wash and meal)))					Wash and meal.
3-3:45	Dancing (Small Girls)	Sewing (Big Girls)	Physical Training (Big Boys)	Modelling (Small Boys)		
3:45-4:45	Dancing (Big Girls)	Discussion (Big Boys)	Physical Training (Small Boys)	Modelling (Small Girls)		
3-3:45	<i>M A Y F A I R. (Dancing.)</i>	<i>A R T.</i>	<i>S W I M M I N G (Girls)</i>	Dramatics (Small Boys)	Cricket (Big Boys)	
3:45-4:45				Paper & Pencil Games (Big Boys)	Cricket (Small Boys)	
3-3:45 A.	Discussion (Big Girls)	Free Play (Boys)	Games (Small Girls)	Free Play (Boys)		
3:45-4:45	Free Play (Boys)	Knitting (Small Girls)	Physical Training (Big Girls)	Free Play (Boys)		
3-3:45 B.	Dramatics (Big Boys)	Free Play (Girls)	Free Play (Girls)	Games (Small Boys)		
3:45-4:45	Free Play (Girls)	Toymaking (Little Boys)	Base Ball (Big Boys)	Free Play (Girls)		
3-3:45	Dancing (Big Girls)	Knitting (Little Girls)	<i>S W I M M I N G (Boys)</i>	<i>S W I M M I N G (Boys)</i>		
3:45-4:45	Dancing (Little Girls)	Sewing (Big Girls)				
3-3:45	<i>I N T E R V I E W I N G</i>	Painting (Small Boys)	Physical Training or Base Ball (Big Girls)	Dramatics (Small Girls)	Boxing (Big Boys)	
3:45-4:45		Painting (Big Boys)	Games (Little Girls)	Dramatics (Big Girls)	Boxing (Small Boys)	