

This method of treating the staff, most of whom were at first hostile or indifferent towards the new administration, has gained the goodwill of the employees and rendered possible a series of reforms in the internal administrative service. Whole departments have been abolished, while others have been amalgamated. The whole system of accountancy has been reorganised from top to bottom and double-entry bookkeeping has been introduced into a number of branches of the administration. The staff has proved adequate to the heavy demands made upon it. It is noteworthy that apart from an eight-day tramway strike not a single dispute during the ten years of socialist administration has led to a stoppage of work worth mentioning.

In this connection it should be mentioned that the Vienna Police Force is not controlled by the Municipality, but is a State authority. Its rights are regulated and salaries paid by the federal government.

The total expenditure of the Municipality upon salaries and wages (excluding the municipal enterprises) is estimated for 1928 at £3,780,000 in respect of active employees and £1,200,000 in respect of pensions. The total expenditure upon staff, which amounted to 26 per cent. of the pre-war budget, now comprises 35 per cent. of the total expenditure.

Social Welfare Work.

When the Socialists assumed control of administration, they found in existence certain welfare institutions which prior to the war had proved inadequate and during the war had fallen into neglect. Moreover, the spirit in which this welfare work had been carried on was bad. It was the almsgiving spirit of the haughty rich. The terrible misery of the post-war period made welfare work more urgently necessary than ever before. Mortality had increased by 60 per cent. in comparison with pre-war times, and child mortality by as much as 100 per cent. Even now the Municipality cannot perform all the duties that devolve upon it in this sphere, but it has recognised its obligations and strives to discharge them.

Child Welfare.

Welfare work begins with the unborn child. Every needy woman is entitled to apply at the Child Welfare Department not later than the fourth month of pregnancy. There are 34 pre-natal clinics where blood tests may be taken, to combat hereditary syphilis at the earliest possible moment. Women who apply for advice at the proper time and are not entitled to aid from a sick fund receive an allowance of about 6s. Od. per week for the four weeks following confinement. They are afforded legal advice and given any other aid that the family circumstances may render necessary.

City health visitors are in constant attendance at all Vienna maternity homes, to render assistance to mothers and babies in case of need. This attention covers a large number of cases, as two fifths of all legitimate and one-half of all illegitimate children are born in maternity homes. The remaining births are also kept under observation. Registrars of births send details of all births notified to the Child Welfare Department, which in its turn sends a visitor to the home. Thus no child is born in Vienna without an offer of assistance from the Municipality. Needy mothers are given a supply of baby's clothes. In the year 1927, 9781 sets of baby's clothes were supplied. In the ante-natal clinics instructions for the care of children are imparted to mothers.

The Child Welfare Department also supplies assistance in the form of clothes for a payment which generally comes to only 10 per cent. of the cost price. In 14 Child Welfare Centres weekly classes are held for the purpose of instructing parents and foster parents whose children are backward. (1927: 3224 cases). In the 89 City nurseries 9078 small children are at present accommodated. A trifling weekly sum, which may be remitted, is charged for admission. If the parents desire it, breakfast and dinner are provided for the children for a weekly payment of 2s. 6d., or less when conditions require it. 64 per cent. of the children are admitted free of payment. The City Budget provides for a total increase of 112 in the number of nurseries, especially in the municipal dwellings.

The school doctor, accompanied by a nurse, pays a weekly visit to the city schools, in order to prescribe the necessary hygienic measures, based upon his own observations and the information supplied by the teacher, and taking into account economic needs and educational requirements. During their first school year children are subjected to a thorough examination and also, so far as their parents assent (about 75 per cent. at present), submitted to tubercular tests. Sometimes the school doctor prescribes a Wassermann blood test.

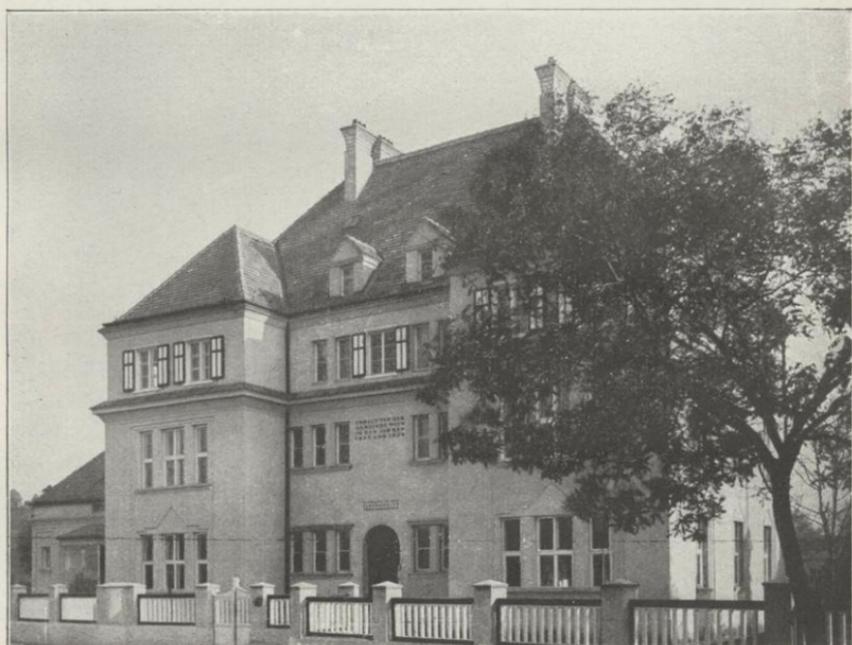
The Child Welfare Department also supervises the welfare of all illegitimate children who are in legal custody. The number of such children is 22,647. The Department also attends to the collection of the allowances payable by the fathers, dealing with 4076 cases at the end of 1924.

Foster children also come under the care of this Department, whose sanction must be obtained by anyone who desires to adopt children under fourteen years of age. This provides an opportunity for the constant supervision of such children, and also of all illegitimate children who are looked after by their parents. In December 1927 there were 23,044 of such children in private families and about 3000 in private welfare institutions in Vienna.

As a result of all this activity there were 36,709 permanent welfare cases at the end of December 1927. Of these one-tenth



Children's Reception Office. Vienna, District 9



Municipal Child Welfare Office. Vienna. District 21



Children's Gymnasium in Waldmüllerpark. Vienna, District 10



Hall in Habsburg Castle „Wilhelminenberg“, now a municipal children's home. Vienna, District 16

related to babies, a third to children of tender years, more than half to children of school age, and the rest to young persons. The supervision of these cases necessitated in the year 1927 230,776 house visits and service journeys on the part of the health visitors.

The cause of child welfare is also served by the following institutions. 34 homes and crèches have been established in school buildings, and this number is to be rapidly increased. 86 dining halls for school meals serve more than a tenth of all scholars (about 15,000); 81.9 per cent of the children receive their mid-day meal free, owing to the poverty of their parents. During the summer holidays 1829 children are sent to country homes and 700 to resting homes for periods of 5 weeks.

The Child Welfare Department is also responsible for managing the Vienna Children's Relief Work, with which public and private welfare institutions are connected. This work is well supported by the Municipality and in 1927, it enabled 20,000 children, more than one seventh of all Vienna school children, to have a summer holiday. The Child Welfare Department also runs retreats on the confines of Vienna for 2,000 children; travellers' rests in Vienna and in the Alpine provinces, where a night's lodging may be had for a small payment; 31 playing grounds, which are assigned to the schools for certain hours and are otherwise free to the public; 13 skating rinks and 12 free baths for children.

The entire system is supplemented by municipal child welfare institutions. A Children's Reception Office classifies all children who need assistance. This Children's Reception Office, which is housed in a new building with all up-to-date equipment, functions with quite striking success. The infants are sent to a special home. The bigger children are sent to institutions, where they stay until a home is found for them. For such children the Municipality pays a maintenance allowance, up to £1.6.8 per month (14,892 children at end of 1927). The latest children's home has been installed in a Hapsburg Castle, which the Municipality acquired in 1927. Sick children are placed in nursing homes, and there is a special hospital for children with venereal disease. Children who cannot be placed with foster parents are admitted to the city orphanages. For utterly neglected and backward children there are two special institutions, in which the youngsters are educated on the most up-to-date lines. These institutions have their own schools, a number of workshops, and allotments. The pupils stay in the institutions until they are eighteen, when the authorities attend to their settlement in life. There is a school for domestic economy and for dressmaking, and a guest house for former city orphans during the time of their business education.

Members of the welfare staff undergo a two years' period of training and continuation courses are also held.

Adult Welfare.

Municipal relief of the poor has a special importance because there is as yet no insurance against old age and disablement in Austria. The care of disabled ex-service men is the business of the State, and insurance against unemployment is likewise the subject of federal law. Vienna as a Diet is obliged only to contribute one third towards the cost of the compassionate allowance which the unemployed receive after exhausting 30 weeks of unemployment pay. A much greater burden than this, however, falls upon the Municipality in connection with the huge volume of unemployment, as the years of economic crisis have made extraordinary demands upon its welfare activity.

Additional maintenance grants, up to £1.3 per month, are made in respect of 43,045 persons, besides which relief is granted in kind and by way of making up the rent.

Indoor relief embraces 12,000 persons accommodated in 11 homes. In this connection many reforms have been carried out. The privileges of a favoured class of so-called citizens were abolished. Mentally defective persons are separated from the healthy old people. Life in the institutions is made much happier than it used to be. A certain control is exercised over these institutions by welfare councils, and in the largest of all it has been possible to reduce the mortality below the pre-war level. There are also shelters for homeless persons or families, which give shelter and meals in return for prescribed work. The shelters have also been enlarged and improved.

For servants out of place the Municipality has established two homes with 210 beds. The homes have been placed under the management of the Association of Servants, which charges very low fees for board and lodging. The cost of maintaining the buildings is borne by the Municipality.

There are 6,000 welfare committees to which special districts have been assigned.

Public Health.

In this sphere entirely new institutions have been created which supplement the ordinary public health service. Mention has already been made of the medical inspection of school children. A special branch of this work is the dental treatment in the schools. The children are trained in the care of the teeth, and treatment is provided where necessary. The 11 school dental clinics were responsible in 1927 for 24,925 new inspections, 8,324 fresh inspections, 24,885 extractions, 9,234 stoppings, 56,841 teeth scrapings.

The Municipality also contemplates the establishment of a Central Eye Clinic, in which systematic attention will be given to the sight of all school children and glasses provided where necessary.

Mention should here be made of the 12 free baths for children, which were attended in the summer of 1927 by 838,092 children,

and the number of baths will be increased by 5 during the year 1928.

Special efforts are made to assure apprentices a four weeks holiday in homes set apart for the purpose. The Municipality assists these activities, which are chiefly borne by the friendly societies, by the payment of the costs of maintenance of many apprentices. In the years 1918 to 1927, 35,568 male apprentices and 18,638 female apprentices were enabled to spend a holiday in 3 homes for male apprentices, supplied with 1,150 beds and 3 other homes supplied with 950 beds.

The fight against tuberculosis has been conducted on an extensive scale, whereas no machinery of this kind existed in pre-war times. The 9 centres for combating tuberculosis have first of all to discover infected persons, and then to adopt the most suitable measures to prevent the spread of the disease. Thus in 1927, more than 89,538 examinations and 58,933 visits were made, and over 13,000 patients were placed in institutions. At the present moment the Municipality controls 2,000 beds for tubercular patients in addition to some hundreds of beds in private institutions. Among them are special institutions for tubercular children, some in the Alps and some on the Adriatic. All the beds are allocated by a central office. In 1927 this central office allotted beds to 6,427 patients and made about 10,000 examinations. Another innovation is to remove children in danger of tubercular infection to the care of a strange family. The labours of the Municipality have been attended with such success that the 1913 death rate from tuberculosis of 30 for every 10,000 inhabitants has been reduced to 20 in the year 1926. Only half as many people die from tuberculosis in Vienna today as before the war.

There is also an institution for the treatment of cripples, who are supplied with proper appliances and taught a trade.

Side by side with the State institutions for the care of the sick, the Municipality conducts a model hospital provided with 1,000 beds, and is gradually taking over the children's hospitals of Vienna, which were formerly maintained by voluntary contributions. It also runs a maternity home, and two large institutions for mental and nervous diseases.

In view of the importance which blood transfusion as a life-saving expedient has attained in recent years, the Municipality has set up an office to collate blood suppliers with blood receivers at any hour of the day or night.

As the sisters of mercy in the municipal institutions are gradually being replaced by secular nurses, a nurses training college has been established. This college provides a three years course of training for 134 nurses, and has so far functioned with striking success. Continuation courses of training have also been devised for the municipal nursing and welfare staff.

The city health service is further supplemented by a marriage advice bureau (1927 288 applicants), which is conducted by a qualified doctor. In addition there is an advice bureau for persons

suffering from venereal disease (1927 1,790 applicants); and finally an advice bureau for inebriates (1927 1,303 applicants), which works in close touch with the municipal inebriates home, keeping under observation the patients who leave the latter institution.

Then there is a welfare office for the mentally defective, which looks after persons who are sent home from lunatic asylums.

An employment bureau, which was consulted by 20,132 persons in 1927, gives advice upon the choice of a vocation and found situations for 5,983 persons in 1927.

Another section of the Public Health Office attends to the purity of the drinking water and the adoption of disinfectant measures.

A thorough reorganisation of the cemetery service has resulted in a considerable lowering of the burial fees. The establishment of a crematorium, which involved the Municipality in severe conflict with the clerical State government, which appealed to the highest tribunal, now renders cremation possible in Austria. In the great cemetery of Vienna a place is set apart for those who fell in the war, and there in the year 1925 the Municipality raised a great memorial for the victims of the world war.

The number of patients housed in municipal institutions on the 31st December 1927 was about 20,000. In addition, the Municipality gave assistance to 58,000 persons. The total expenditure on welfare work during 1928 is estimated at £2,400,000, nearly three times as much as in pre-war times.

Education.

As was to be expected, the Socialist government paid special attention to education. The sharp decline in the number of scholars, from 240,000 in the last pre-war year to 138,000 in the year 1927-1928, was not utilised to dismiss teachers and effect economies. It presented a favourable opportunity for the enforcement of drastic educational reforms. In the last pre-war year the average number in a class was 47; it is now 29.

School Reform.

As Vienna is both a municipality and a province, it possesses wide powers in the sphere of elementary education. Consequently, the work of educational reform, which so far as the State was concerned remained in abeyance after the Social Democrats left the Government in 1920, could be continued in Vienna almost without hindrance. The chief innovation consisted in reforming the curriculum. The rigid time-table of other times has vanished, and attention is now concentrated upon drawing out the child's individuality.

Practical instruction has supplanted theoretical teaching. The children are taken for walks or short excursions, and all the