

### HADLEY SCHOOL SEEKS TO BROADEN SERVICE

#### Annual Report of Winnetka Institution Indicates Great Work; Elect New Officers

By Alfred Allen

(Executive Secretary, Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind)

During 1927, more than 700 blind adults availed themselves of the opportunities given them through the service extended by the Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind, which ended its sixth year of incorporation last December 31.

This in itself is a record to be proud of, for it speaks highly of the character and value of the work which has been carried on through the beneficence of a generous-spirited group of Winnetka people. Yet we may be pardoned if we should feel greater pride in the individual evidences of success which have come to our attention during the year, and in the contemplation of the encouragement which has helped so many to bear their handicap uncomplainingly.

To know someone has his welfare at heart, is interested in him, in his problems, in his spiritual and physical contact with the world, has a tremendous influence on the blind man; and it is with just such interest that we try to lighten his burden, renew his joy in life, and help him to be a normal being. We can point to many instances where a word of encouragement has changed completely the outlook on life, has brought the man or woman into that group of blind which is perhaps the happiest of all handicapped people.

#### Find Posts for Graduates

Going through our records we find that we have placed ten graduates of our Life Insurance course in positions as agents which are paying them returns according to their abilities to write insurance. Not one has failed to make a good beginning. We find also that a student who has taken a course in Short Story Writing has been able to sell his first story, not on the strength of his blindness (which was unknown to the periodical when his story was submitted), but on the merit of the story. We learn that another young man has been able to conduct

very satisfactorily a magazine agency, which has paid him in returns more than he ever hoped it would, as he writes. Students write us that they are making splendid records in college, and that they have been able to maintain high marks because of the help received at the Hadley school. We can point with pride to social workers, teachers of the blind, blind ministers and evangelists, to whom we have been able to give help in many ways, through the courses of study placed at their disposal, the personal advice which many find themselves in need of, and by the word of encouragement here and there without which we should feel disheartened.

#### Offer 24 Courses

At the present time the school offers twenty-four different courses of study, including grade-school and high-school studies, with some college courses and some half a dozen commercial courses. These courses are given whenever the demand for them is sufficient to justify the expense of installing them. The initial cost for books to use is usually very heavy, and so for economic reasons we do not always give courses asked for.

The enrollment of 450 students is approximate to the capacity of the school under present budget limitations, but the time is hoped for when the courses may be made available to a very large number of the blind not now reached. We extend our service to only one-half of one per cent of the blind population of America, though these are distributed over the entire country, there being students from every one of the 48 states, as well as a number in Canada and other countries.

During 1927 the school sustained a great loss in the passing of its first president, Douglas Smith, whose interest in and devotion to the blind and their work led him to take an active part in the establishing of the Hadley Correspondence school. The blind will miss him in many ways.

#### Elect Officers

The annual meeting of the board of trustees was held earlier in the week. At this meeting, there were elected to the board several new trustees, including Mr. and Mrs. William D. McKenzie, Frederick E. Clerk, principal of New Trier High school, and Kenneth G. Smith.

Raymond E. Durham heads the school as president, his treasurership

having been filled by Donald Dallas. Frank J. Bersbach will serve as chairman of the finance committee, and Mrs. John R. Reilly fills the secretaryship, which was carried on for six years by Mrs. Ernest S. Ballard. John W. Scott is vice-president.

Milton M. Mayer of 721 Lincoln avenue left for a four weeks' business tour of southern Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Tennessee, last Sunday.



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