

keenly enthusiastic desire to perfect the administration which was apparent amongst the officers of every department.

Municipal Library. The Municipal Library, which the Socialist Council had established to keep its officials in touch with Municipal activities all over the world, was but one of the many evidences of this spirit.

Child Welfare Bureau. The Bureau of Child Welfare, another department established by the Socialist administration, was set up with the object of co-ordinating the management of all the children's institutions for which the Municipality was already responsible and of adding many further activities for the benefit of the city's children. The Secretaries, Mr and Mrs Wilbur Phillips,* the clerks, probation officers and others in the Children's Bureau, all seemed eager, vigorous and essentially young – certainly all were young in spirit, if some few were no longer so in years. Only Americans would confide work so momentous to youthful hands, but they have faith in youth and in what is fresh enthusiasms can accomplish. I found everyone in this department preparing to leave at the close of the busy day, and have ever since regretted that circumstances prevented my finding other opportunities of seeing their work.

Free Labour Employment Bureau. Passing to the Labour Employment Bureau, established by the Socialists in March 1911, I found the Superintendent, Mr Fred King, weighed down by the knowledge that his office gave him no power to strike at the root problems of unemployment, but only to tinker a little with the evil on the surface, by helping a few cases here and there. The record of the Bureau was depressing, as those of such institutions always are. Out of 3,850 persons who registered, work was found for 1,100, or 28 per cent, and only in the case of 497, or 12 per cent of the applicants, was the work of permanent character. Record cards were kept in the case of 915 of those for whom work was found. Of these 915, only 267 registered as labourers and 80 as farm hands, yet 815 of the applicants were obliged to accept employment as ordinary labourers and 174 as farm hands. Thus very few persons actually obtained permanent employment at their own trade.

* Socialist couple Wilbur C. Phillips (1880–1967) and Elsie Cole Phillips (1879–1961). Sylvia was the guest of Elsie Phillips and Crystal Eastman in Milwaukee on 31 January 1912.

Only four women applied for work to the Bureau, probably because there was no woman official and no separate room for women applicants.

The maintenance of the Bureau cost 340 dollars (£68). That is to say 31 cents (1/3 1/2d) for every person who obtained work. This cost was born by the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association, representatives from whom and from the City City [sic] Council, the County Board of Supervisors, the Federated Trades Council, the Chamber of Commerce and the Press Club, formed a general committee on unemployment.*

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Director of the Health Department was Dr Kraft, a dark active man, with a black beard and sparkling eyes, full of vitality and talk. Dr Kraft and his Department felt that an important part of their mission was to teach the citizens of Milwaukee the laws of healthful living. With this object, they organised a Bureau of 'Education and Publications', which was opened on June 23rd, 1911. From this Bureau they issued large numbers of leaflets on hygiene, sanitation, milk, tuberculosis and the prevention of infectious and contagious diseases, and replied to correspondents asking advice on health matters. They also organised health exhibits in shop windows in two of the principal thoroughfares and in connection with various exhibitions that were held in the town. One of these exhibits represented a clean well-managed 'store', or as we should say, shop, placed side by side with a dirty neglected shop, kept by a dishonest man. Once an hour the insanitary shop was visited by an Inspector, who rated the shopkeeper for his various misdeeds and shortcomings for the information of all who might stop to hear.

A monthly magazine, called the *Healthologist*, was also published, and sent regularly to any who made application for it.[†] Its circulation quickly rose to between 7,000 and 8,000. Beside endeavouring to spread general hygienic knowledge amongst the citizens, the *Healthologist* gave statistical tables of births, marriages and deaths, the growth of population and the incidence of disease. It reported the work of the Sanitary

* These figures are evidently derived from Fred A. King, *Citizens' Free Employment Bureau*, Bulletin No. 6 (September 1911), pp. 4, 8, 10, 4, 3–4.

[†] Sylvia was impressed with the *Healthologist*. She sent some pages from the January 1912 edition of its exposure of insanitary conditions to Keir Hardie in her letter of 5 February 1912.