

beggars and vagrants, as suggested by Dr. J. W. Magruder, Robert Biggs and Louis H. Levin, in their interview with the Board of June 4th., 1912, a communication, as follows, was received:

"Baltimore, Md., June 4th., 1912.

The Board of Police Commissioners,
Baltimore, Md.

Gentlemen:-

In compliance with your request at the close of our interview this morning, we submit to you herewith the plan as proposed for eliminating street-begging and vagrancy.

The suggestion which we venture to offer is that the Board of Police Commissioners assign one or more plain clothes men, according to the need, to act as mendicancy officers and give their whole time to this work.

We would suggest, first in regard to beggars of all kinds who are resident Baltimoreans, that the officers instead of arresting them at first sight on the street, personally conduct them to their homes, warning them that they are violating the law and are liable to arrest but advising them that instead of arrest the officer will report them to the Federated Charities, the Federated Jewish Charities or the St. Vincent De Paul Society as the case may be, for such investigation and treatment as will remove any occasion or necessity whatever for their continuing the practice of begging. If however they persist they are then to be arrested and on the representation of the officers, seconded by the charities workers, are to be subjected to trial and commitment under the law by the police magistrates.

Secondly, in regard to non-resident beggars or vagrants, we would suggest that the mendicancy officer arrest them and in case of children under sixteen years of age, take them before the Juvenile Court for proper action.

In the case of boys between sixteen and twenty-one years of age, arrangement has been made with the Maryland School for Boys and the St. Mary's Industrial School by which the prisoners may be saved from sentence to the Jail or the House of Correction and merely detained in one or the other of the schools pending investigation by the proper Charity Organization Society and final disposition of the case, either by sending the prisoner home or by commitment or sentence to the proper institution.

In the case of vagrants twenty-one years of age or over, the State's Attorney has been requested to save the prisoner from being sentenced immediately to Jail or the House of Correction by using the power given to him in the new police law of requesting the magistrate to send cases to the Grand Jury; this to be done, however, with the understanding that the proper Charity Organization Society will at once investigate and report as to the proper disposition of each one of the cases, whether the prisoner should be released and sent to his home or held for the Grand Jury.

If the plan as described meets the approval of the Board of Police Commissioners, we would suggest as the next step that the Board call a meeting at headquarters of all the police magistrates, the State's Attorney, the Supreme Bench and the representatives of the co-operating Charity Organization Societies, with a view to a full understanding as to every detail and intelligent co-operation.

Respectfully yours,
LOUIS N. LEVIN,
Federated Jewish Charities.
ROBERT BIGGS,
St. Vincent De Paul Society,
J. W. MAGRUDER,
Federated Charities."