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Frank S. Bennett  
Farmer's Assoc.

# HEALTH CLUBS IN ACTION



**Anti-Tuberculosis League  
of Cincinnati**

**312 WEST NINTH STREET  
PARkway 3160**

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## CONTENTS

Inscription  
Portrait of Tony Mees  
Preface  
Introduction

The Reason Behind the Health Clubs.....	Page 1
West End Experiment.....	2
Other Clubs.....	6
Charter Members of Early Health Clubs.....	12
Plan of Procedure.....	14
Tuberculosis Deaths Cincinnati 1925-1943.....	18
Reorganization of the Health Clubs.....	19
Present Trends in Health Club Activities.....	26
Headquarters of Health Clubs.....	27
Officers of Health Clubs.....	28
Health Education Services of the Anti-Tuberculosis League...	31

In memory of Tony Mees  
whose genius and love  
of humanity founded the  
Negro Health Clubs of  
Cincinnati and Hamilton  
County.....and whose  
spirit still guides those  
whom he served to a better  
way of living.



**ANTHONY A. MEES**

November 25, 1873—January 9, 1943

Founder of Cincinnati and Hamilton County's  
Health Clubs

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## Preface

These pages describe twenty years of health education among Negroes of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. Here the health club form of community organization has served health needs of local neighborhoods with unusual success.

These clubs initiated a unique form of health education program that has continued through the years. So many public health workers have shown interest in them that this report was prepared to tell how the clubs originated and how they operate.

Much of the information was secured through the liberal response of the many charter members of the health clubs to questions asked about early club activities.

Early records of the Anti-Tuberculosis League have also been helpful.

*W. K. Curfman*

W. K. Curfman, Director  
The Anti-Tuberculosis League

## Introduction

The creation of health clubs in the Negro population was the great contribution of Tony Mees to the growing structure of health education in Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

Tony Mees served the Anti-Tuberculosis League from the time it originated in 1907 until his death in 1943. Before coming to the League he had had a long career as an official of the National Shoe and Boot labor union. It is said that his insatiable zeal to stamp out tuberculosis came from his personal contact with the disease in the families of union members. While he served the union he persuaded that organization to make special provision for sick tuberculous members and their families.

Health education absorbed his attention from the establishment of the League until his death.

A major part of the League's health education program centered about the health clubs after their creation. Mr. Mees brought an enthusiasm to this work which insured success. Beginning with a small group of followers in a remote section of a sprawling slum area, he started a movement in health education that was destined to spread throughout the city and county and that came to the attention of health educators throughout the nation.

When the Anti-Tuberculosis League opened tuberculosis clinics Tony Mees made appointments at these clinics for health club members. He, himself, took club members to the clinics so that their appointments would be kept.

His method of conducting health club meetings became an accepted, tradition-like pattern locally which has varied but little to this day. Truly it can be said that these clubs are "the lengthened shadow of one man".... their founder ... Tony Mees.

Throughout the history of the clubs we see the genius of their founder developing a unique system of health education; exerting vast influence among the Negro population; persuading the masses to strive for higher standards of personal and community health. Only a genius such as he could cross racial lines so easily; meet the Negro where he lived; and create a program that satisfied the Negro's needs, interests and ambitions. Few men could find as did he the natural leaders in the Negro group, unite them by allegiance to sound health ideals, and persuade them to encourage and influence increasing numbers of their race to accept and practice the life-saving principles of healthful living.

*Raymond S. Bennett*

R. S. Bennett  
Secretary, Negro Programs

## The Reason Behind the Health Clubs

In 1910 tuberculosis of the lungs caused 16.1% of all deaths among Negroes in Cincinnati while among Whites it caused only 10.3%. Ten years later 12 1/4% of all deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs for the state of Ohio were Colored people who were only 3.2% of the whole.

Later, in 1922, 26.1% of all deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs were contributed by the Colored population which was only 9% of the whole.

The rate, then, was about eleven times as great as it should have been.

At this time, too, 19.6% of pneumonia deaths were contributed by the Negro population.

Many people at that time believed that excessive tuberculosis among Negroes was due to the race. Some ethnologists believed the Negro to be inclined toward tuberculosis and catarrhal diseases when out of the tropics while White people seemed subject to fevers within the tropics. The more constructive point of view coming into prominence was that conditions in Negro neighborhoods and housing were important factors.

In nearly every American city the Negro lived in the slums, railroad yards, river bottoms - the most unsanitary sections of cities. Many did not have adequate sewerage systems or paved streets; in fact many lived in alleys and too frequently their neighborhoods were neglected by public officials. Poor housing conditions; inadequate room; poor plumbing or no plumbing; overcrowding in rooms as well as neighborhoods; high rents; low wages; dissipation; the necessity of taking in roomers and boarders; lack of personal cleanliness and hygiene; improper food; ignorance and fatalism (the belief that death at a given time is inevitable); and frequently undesirable working conditions - all combine to encourage tuberculosis in the Negro population.

## West End Experiment

Early in November 1924 the Cincinnati Anti-Tuberculosis League, after completing a careful survey begun in 1923 of the tuberculosis situation in Cincinnati, selected a portion of the Seventh Ward as an experimental district. The League, also mindful that the incidence of tuberculosis among Negroes was many times greater than among Whites, selected Negroes to work with and among them. A house to house canvass was made with the idea of forming a health group or groups that would work among themselves for the betterment of health conditions in the district.

On November 19, 1924 the West End Colored Women's Health Club was organized as a result of this canvass. Meetings were held the last Thursday in each month in the Twelfth District school. Each of these meetings was addressed by some well qualified health speaker. Educational motion pictures were shown, and a better organization of the group was effected at each meeting. No dues or collections from the members was permitted at any time.

During the week April 6 to 13 a clean-home campaign was conducted by club members. Each member vied with the others in cleaning his home the best and results were astonishing. A committee, consisting of representatives from the West End Colored Women's Health Club; Better Housing League; and the Anti-Tuberculosis League, visited the homes of those participating in the campaign and selected those homes which were cleanest according to the point system used. A total of ninety homes were visited and checked by this committee. Twenty percent of these homes received 100% for cleanliness. Only one was below 50%; the remainder ranging from 50% to 95% with the majority in the higher percentage group. Twenty-five prizes, all valuable household articles such as table cloths, bed spreads, tea kettles, and bath towels, all of the best quality, were presented by the Anti-Tuberculosis League. These prizes were awarded in April at the last meeting of the year. Also at this time fly-swatters, donated by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, were given to each club member present at the meeting.

Enthusiasm among club members became extremely high. They began to realize that they were doing something worth while for themselves under the guidance of those qualified to assist in solving the various health problems of the district.

Just prior to clean-home week a committee from the Anti-Tuberculosis League made arrangements with the Cincinnati street cleaning department for the streets and alleys of the district to be flushed. This was one of the most inspiring things that could have been done by the city at that time for it showed the people of the district that when they were willing to help themselves those in official positions were more ready to help them.

Many interesting and heart-gripping stories grew out of the heroic efforts expended by some of these people to clean their homes for inspection. In one instance the mother, being the sole support of the family and compelled to work every day, permitted her two little girls of nine and eleven, after they came home from school, to clean and polish the rooms occupied by the family. They even washed the window ledges outside the windows and made a tiny garden in the yard.

During the first year of this health club a comedy reel was introduced by way of entertainment and questions were answered regarding health problems. Special health literature was distributed. As an inducement to attend meetings a sale of articles such as suits, stockings, towels, soap, bought at extremely low prices, was conducted without profit.



Mrs. Mamie Moore

Meetings of the club were suspended during the hot summer months and resumed early in the fall with a larger membership and greater enthusiasm for a cleaner, healthier, city. Thus the West End Colored Women's Club became the nucleus for a health movement in the West End of Cincinnati which spread throughout the city and county.

The West End Health Club became an influential organization in Cincinnati under the leadership of Mrs. Mamie Moore who served as secretary of the club from its beginning until her death in 1940. She presided at club meetings; suggested participants for the club's musical programs; and selected persons to solicit members. Meetings were held in the kindergarten rooms of Twelfth District school from 1924 to 1928. Club prizes at meetings consisted of fancy boxes, linen tableclothes, scarfs and tea-kettles.



Mrs. Claudia Powell

From 1928 to 1929 meetings were held in the Goodwill Methodist church because the club attendance had outgrown its original meeting place. Dr. R. G. De Voist assisted Mr. Mees in conducting the meetings. Door prizes consisted of candy, small articles of dry goods, and glassware. Clean-up campaigns were conducted at regular intervals.

Soon after the Antioch Baptist church was built the club began to meet there with very large attendance at meetings. At this time prizes consisted of ice-cream, groceries, candy, clocks, glassware, dry goods, and coal. Choral groups and choirs were brought to the club for entertainment. Out-of-town speakers were featured. A health visitors group was organized among the members and a course in first aid and bedside care was given them by the Anti-Tuberculosis League. This course, given in the Carmel Presbyterian church, consisted of a series of six lectures and demonstrations given by graduate nurses.

The meetings at Antioch marked the achievement of the main objective of getting complete medical examination of every one in the district. It had been a long, hard struggle to educate these people to a point where they were willing to submit to an examination. It took repeated talks, explanations, assurances, and a most careful handling of a people who were frightened and inclined to run at the first miss-step, to bring them up to the state of confidence desired. Appointments at the clinics were made for them and they were taken to the clinics and returned home by automobile. When X-rays were advised they were taken for the pictures and home again. Where hospitalization was advised the patient was taken to the hospital. Relief was provided by the proper agencies. Sanitary irregularities were reported to the city Health Department and corrected immediately.



Miss Paralie Burton

The second area in Hamilton County to receive the benefit of a health club was West College Hill. In February 1931 the College Hill Health Club was organized with headquarters in the Second Baptist church on Betts avenue.

Miss Paralie Burton tells the following story of the club's early activities:

"The College Hill Health Club was organized in 1931 under the auspices of A. A. Mees. Meetings were held regularly the second Wednesday night of each month in the Second Baptist church on Betts avenue of which the Reverend A. W. Jackson was pastor. On several occasions members of the club rendered wonderful musical programs and during the meetings Dr. De Voist showed wonderful health movies. At one meeting we had a distinguished guest, Mrs. Helen Walker King, who sang two beautiful solos.

"Mr. B. Crittenden was guest speaker at one meeting. He gave a wonderful talk on health which was enjoyed by all. On another occasion there was a discussion on health by Mr. Mees; the late Reverend Childress; and others. The chief topic of discussion was the value of health as compared to the value of money. They stressed the point that it is more valuable to have health than money for money is not enjoyed without health. At the close of each meeting wonderful prizes were awarded.

Another important feature of the club was the free medical examination which was held at Steele Subdivision school in 1939 for the West College Hill area. Residents of the vicinity were conveyed to the Medical Center of the school by Mr. Mees and his assistants. The Center was open for a period of eight days and most of the people in West College Hill were examined."

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The Northside Health Club was the third club to be organized in Hamilton County. It was formed in October 1933 in the Second Baptist church on Kirby Road. Mrs. Rebecca Johnson was the first secretary of the club.

When the church was torn down in 1936 the club moved to the First Baptist church of Cumminsville on Streng street. Mrs. Johnson tells us in her own words how this club was organized:

"In 1938 I was a member of the No. 1 West End Health Club and then I moved to Northside. Here I saw need for a health club in our community so I went around soliciting names in Northside and Southside to make up a club. This was in the year 1933. I secured 175 names and sent them to Mr. A. A. Mees and asked him if he would organize a club for us. Immediately he responded to my request and came out. We selected a place where the meetings should be held; the Second Baptist church of Northside under the Reverend Washington now deceased.

"We held our first meeting in November 1934. We held our meetings there for approximately four years, after which we moved to the First Baptist church of Cumminsville in 1938. The last meeting I attended was in February 1941.

"Our tasks included clean-up weeks during which we had city trucks to go around and remove trash which our men had gathered from basements and vacant lots. Every year in the last week of August I would organize a picnic. We would take the parents and children to Kroger Hills Camp No. 2 located at Mt. Holly, Ohio, and have a basket picnic. Mr. Mees would be pleased to see us and welcome us there. We had many activities there, one of which was a ball game between our children and the children in the health camp. Mr. Mees was president and I was secretary of the club."

Prizes in the early years of the club were fruitcakes and glass ware. After the club moved to its present location, (the First Baptist church) health movies were shown. Annual X-ray examinations were encouraged and health specialists were brought to the club regularly as speakers.



Mrs. Rebecca Johnson



Mrs. Fannie Sims

The Lockland Health Club was the fourth health club organized in Hamilton County. It began to function in November 1934. Mrs. Lizzie Rencher is the only charter member who is active in the club at present.

The first secretary was Mrs. Mary C. Young who served as such for the first two years of the club's existence. Mrs. Carrie Strauss then became secretary and has remained active throughout the years.

Lockland Health Club meetings have always been held in the Lockland Branch of the Y.M.C.A. on the second Tuesday of each month from October through March.

In November 1935 the Central Health Club was organized to assist in meeting the health needs of the West End area. Territorially the West End club was originally concentrating on the area west of Central avenue and north of Seventh street. Health problems, however, were increasing in the congested areas south of Seventh street between Central and Freeman avenues. To service this area the Central Health Club was formed.

The first meeting place was the Holy Trinity Catholic church, and Mrs. Rose Darling, a member of the church, was the first secretary. She served intermittently until the club closed in 1942. In her absences Mrs. Lucille Blevins served as secretary.

The club moved to the Phillips Metropolitan C. M. E. church in 1940 and remained there until the death of Mr. Mees. Mrs. Fannie Stewart, a charter member, is still active. Meetings were held in the afternoon of the last Tuesday in each month.

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Number six in the list of health clubs was the club in Lockland Subdivision, now known as the South Woodlawn Health Club. This club, from the beginning, held its meetings in the South Woodlawn Public school. It was organized in November 1937. Meetings were held on the last Wednesday of each month from October through March at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Mrs. Claudia Wooten was secretary of this club from its creation until 1942. She is now inactive.

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The Addyston Health Club was the seventh club established in Hamilton County. It came into existence in November 1938. Its first meetings were held in the First Baptist church and later, in the Addyston Public school building.

Mrs. Beulah Willis served as secretary from 1938 to 1940, and Mrs. Thelma Williams was secretary from 1940 to 1942. Both of these members are active in the club at present.



Mrs. Beulah Willis

Mrs. Thelma Williams gives the following information about this health club's early activities:

"The Addyston Health Club was organized November 10, 1938 under the direction of Mr. A. A. Mees, in the First Baptist church. It was known then as the Colored Women's Health Club, Branch No. 7. Mrs. Beulah Willis was secretary. Mr. Mees brought nice, useful prizes to each meeting. He would also bring an outstanding speaker to each meeting to talk about different health subjects, such as the treatment of different diseases; the problem of unemployment, and the value and necessity of a home. Movies were shown under the direction of Mr. J. Powers. We obtained valuable health hints and advice from them. Mr. Mees was planning X-ray examinations for every member of the club when his health prevented his return."



Mrs. Thelma Williams

The eighth club formed in Hamilton County for health education in the Negro population was the East End Health Club. It was formed in November 1939. Mrs. Lillie Woolfork was secretary from 1939 to 1942. The club met regularly in the First Baptist church on the last Thursday in each month at 8:30 p.m.

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Ninth and last of the health clubs organized by Mr. Mees was the Madisonville Health Club. Its first meeting was held in November 1940 in the Trinity Baptist church, Chandler street. Regular meetings were held on the third Tuesday of each month at two in the afternoon. Miss Dorothy Bomar was the club secretary from its beginning until its close in 1942.

CHARTER MEMBERS - EARLY HEALTH CLUBS

West End 1926

Mrs. Kitty Campbell  
Mrs. Rosa Carter  
Mrs. Elizabeth Crowder  
Mrs. Mollie Foster  
Mrs. Ada Kirkland  
Mrs. Lillie B. Lewis  
Mrs. Mamie Moore (deceased)  
Mrs. Claudia Powell

College Hill 1931

Mrs. Marie Anderson  
Miss Paralee Burton  
Mrs. Mattie Clay

Northside 1933

Mrs. Rebecca Johnson  
Mrs. Jennie Lewis  
James Long

Lockland 1934

Mrs. Lucille Kennedy  
Mrs. Lizzie Rencher  
Mrs. Fannie Sims

Lockland Subdivision 1937

Mrs. Sarah Bell  
Mrs. Genever Cooks  
Mrs. Mina Davis  
Mrs. Anna Dyer  
Mrs. Clifford Ector  
Mrs. Bertha Haney  
Mrs. Roxie Hunter  
Mrs. Mary Mundy  
Mrs. Belle Neal  
Mrs. Zadie Shauers  
Mrs. Iona Shepherd  
Mrs. Lottie Shepherd  
Mrs. Effie Stroud  
Mrs. Zodey Taylor  
Mrs. Phillis Taruer  
Mrs. Mary Wilson

East End 1939

Mrs. Catherine Covington  
Mrs. Julia Harris  
Mrs. Ozenious Nance  
Mrs. Estella Neal  
Mrs. Anna Nixon  
Mrs. Shellie Payne  
Mrs. Lucy Stallworthy  
Mrs. Ruth Thornton  
Mrs. Lillie Woolfork  
Mrs. Ida Wyatt

Central 1935

Mrs. Maggie Glisson  
Mrs. Fannie Stewart

Addyston 1938

Mrs. Bessie Bailey  
Mrs. Carrie Chinn  
Miss Leola Mae Davis  
Mrs. Mandy Green  
Mrs. Annie Hall  
Mrs. Nellie Hawkins  
Mrs. Sarah McKinney  
Mrs. Marjorie Ross  
Mrs. Eva Sockwell  
Mrs. Carrie Thomas  
Miss Emozel Ward  
Miss Liza Wysinger  
Mrs. Mary White  
Mrs. Thelma Williams  
Mrs. Beulah Willis

Madisonville 1940

Miss Dorothy M. Bomar  
Mrs. Angie Copeing  
Mrs. Mary Embry  
Mrs. Thomas Givens  
Mrs. William Harris  
Mrs. Maggie Kirtley  
Mrs. Ruth McKinney  
Mrs. L. B. Owsley  
Mrs. Alice Prosser  
Mrs. Rachel Tatum

## Plan of Procedure for Organizing

### Negro Health Clubs

(Written by Tony Mees 1928)

After analyzing effective techniques and procedures contributing to the success of the West End Colored Women's Health Club, the Anti-Tuberculosis League enumerated the following suggestions to use in starting health clubs in other areas.

1. Call a meeting of those interested in promoting such a club. Have representatives present of the local tuberculosis organization; health department; and any other business and professional groups or interested persons.

2. Appoint a small executive committee with power to act.

3. Select the district in which work is to be done.

4. Make personal contacts with residents of the district. This contact is one of the most important features of the entire project for it will either make or break the organization. Super tact; super organizing ability; super patience; and super "horse sense" are needed by the contact person to put the job over successfully.

5. Individual health education talks are given to each family. No individual in a family; not a family in a house; not a house in a block; not a block on a street; not a street in the district, should be missed or passed up. In other words the district must be gone over with a "fine tooth comb" and not a "hay rake."

6. Discussion should be so worded as to put the responsibility for his or her won personal health, the health of his family, and that of the entire community, squarely on the shoulders of the person contacted. If done in the proper manner it can be done without offense or suspicion.

7. The one thing necessary to gain, first of all, is the confidence of the person approached.

8. Never allow dues, subscriptions, or collections in the organization. Keep all mention of money out of the contact unless, perhaps, to say that someone is interested in them and ready to spend money for them.

9. Talks must be on the level of the ones to whom the talks are given. Never talk over their heads.

10. A spirit of optimism must prevail at all times. Stress health and prevention.

11. After a few preliminary, individual, personal contacts then call a meeting of those contacted.

12. The program of the meeting must be interesting. It should consist of a business meeting (not too formal); some entertainment; a talk by a qualified speaker (preferably on health although other topics may be brought in and shown how they are related to health).

13. After two or three meetings bring in the subject of medical examinations. These preliminary meetings should subtly lead up to this point. To speak of examinations before the time is ripe is a mistake. The inherent fear that Negroes have for doctors, clinics, and hospitals must first be overcome.

14. At first, confidentially arrange for examinations with individuals themselves. Later, it may be announced in meetings that those desiring examinations may leave their names with the secretary. Caution - be very careful of this feature and do not publicly propose examinations at all until you are sure the time is ripe.

15. Arrange with the proper persons or agents for the making of the examinations and be sure you have regular physicians to make the examinations.

16. Take those to be examined to the place where the examinations are to be held. In so doing you minimize fear for you go with them. You are sure the appointment will be kept, and you are there to explain in language they can understand the findings of the examination. You are in constant touch with your people. Show them your interest at all times and under all conditions.

17. Follow up all cases; assist in having corrections of defects made; assist in securing special examinations, treatments, hospitalization, material relief or numerous other things which may arise.

18. See that those are re-examined whose examinations indicated necessity for such.

19. Conduct campaigns in the clubs from time to time. Make them different and interesting and offer prizes (not expensive but many of them).

20. Keep accurate records of all phases of the work. Check those records with the official mortality and morbidity records of the community.

21. If the meetings are primarily for women only and held during the day, then hold at least four night meetings a year in which men are interested.

22. When the proper time arises secure the pledge of all club members for a medical examination of all members of the family and as many friends as they can secure.

23. Secure the approval of the local medical society first, and then of as many public and private organizations as possible.

24. The examinations must be made as quickly as possible. Do not, however, permit haste to make for inefficient examinations. Do not keep persons to be examined away from their homes any longer than necessary.

25. Sympathy, kindness and clinic salesmanship should be the objective of all workers in the clinic at all times.

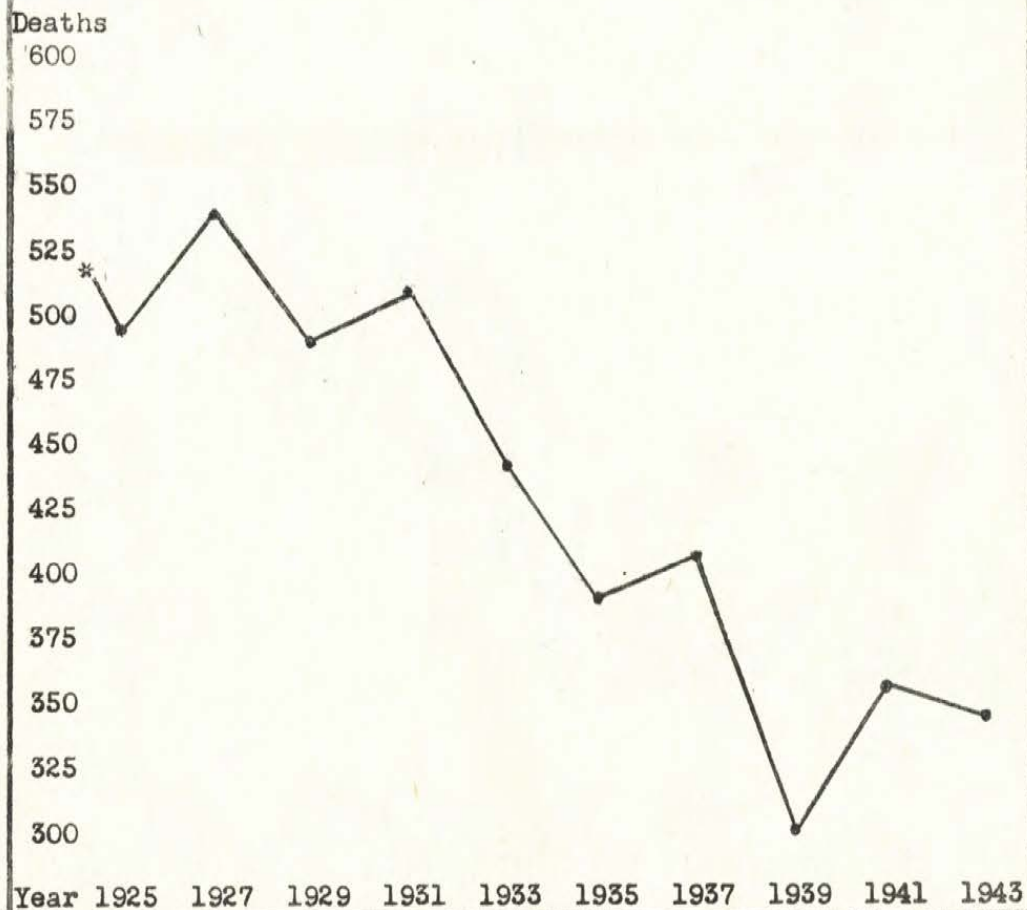
26. Never promise anything you cannot fulfill.

27. Have the examination center as near as possible to the area where you are working.

28. Be sure the contact person is the right one, for success depends upon that person more than anyone else.

This plan was tried successfully in Cincinnati, Ohio, and it can be used with success anywhere if carried out by the right person.

Tuberculosis Deaths in Cincinnati 1925 - 1943



In 1924 (see \* above) when the West End Health Club was started, Cincinnati had a total of 524 tuberculosis deaths. In 1943 the total number was 388. Although this showed marked progress, almost half of those who died in 1943 were Negroes. In spite of progress Cincinnati still had a Negro tuberculosis death rate of more than 300 per one-hundred-thousand population. Because of this fact the Anti-Tuberculosis League felt it imperative to continue the work so ably begun under the guidance of Tony Mees. In 1944 Raymond S. Bennett was selected to carry forward this important program.



R. S. Bennett

The Reorganization of the Health Clubs

When R. S. Bennett came to the staff of the Anti-Tuberculosis League in 1944 as secretary of Negro programs, plans were effected to revive the health clubs which had been dormant since the illness of Anthony Mees in 1942.



Mrs. Beatrice Serious

The West End Health Club was reorganized at a meeting held in the Union Baptist church, February 1944. Mrs. Lucille Finch served as chairman and Mrs. Beatrice Serious as secretary. The second meeting was held in the Zion Baptist church, in March, in cooperation with the Young People's Educational Department.

Door prizes were not restored until September 1944. At this time a regular meeting place was obtained in the Elk's Rest and a regular time for meeting was established - the third Thursday in each month from October through March.

This club was strengthened by having six officers elected by the club membership. A chairman was elected to preside at meetings, direct club activities, plan meetings with the aid of the Anti-Tuberculosis League, and represent the club in official capacities. Next a vice-chairman was chosen to preside at meetings in the absence of the chairman, to head an adult health committee to arrange for special adult health meetings in the community and to bring information on health for adults to the club; to handle door prizes; and to plan neighborhood meetings during Negro Health Week. A program chairman was needed to plan the expressional part of each club program and to direct this activity and the worship services. An assistant program chairman assumed the above duties in the absence of the program chairman but functioned regularly in handling a question box; heading a committee on child health; arranging youth programs in the



Mrs. Lottie Green

community and helping in the annual essay contest. A secretary was elected to keep the club roll and attendance; keep minutes; and keep written reports. An assistant secretary was selected to head a membership committee and serve in the absence of the secretary.

It was decided that these officers should be elected annually at the first meeting of the club year and this plan of organization was adopted in each of the clubs as they were revived.

Northside Health Club was resumed in March 1944, in the First Baptist church of Cumminsville. Meetings were held on the first Monday in the month from October through March. Mrs. Lottie Green served as chairman of the club for the year 1944-45.

Other clubs revived in March 1944 were: the College Hill Health Club; Lockland; the East End; and Madisonville clubs.

College Hill residents re-opened their health club at a meeting in the Second Baptist church, Betts avenue, in March. Mrs. Geneva Price served as club chairman and Mrs. Florence Byers as club secretary. Door prizes were not given until September 1944. At this time the place of meeting was changed to the Steele Colony school so that a wider program of community health education could be developed. Regular meetings were held on the second Monday in each month.



Mrs. Carrie Strauss

Lockland revived its health club at a meeting in the Bethel A.M.E. church. Mrs. Catherine Turner was elected temporary chairman. Regular meetings followed this held in the Lockland Branch Y.M.C.A. beginning in September 1945. Mrs. Clara Shaffer was elected chairman; Mrs. Carrie Strauss secretary, and Mrs. M. L. Rhodes, program chairman.

The Madisonville Health Club held its reorganization meeting in the Liberty Baptist church with Mrs. J. H. Anderson as temporary chairman. Beginning with the September 1944 meeting the club met regularly in the Trinity Baptist church and Mrs. Alice Prosser was elected chairman for 1944-45. Date of meeting was established as the third Tuesday in each month.

A new club, the Delhi, was also organized in September 1944. Mrs. Ethel Lewis arranged for this club to meet in the First Baptist



Mrs. Ethel Lewis



Mrs. Shellie B. Payne

church of Delhi. Miss Josephine Dudley was elected chairman of the club and the last Friday evening of the month was established as meeting date.

The East End Health Club renewed its activities in March at a meeting in the St. Mark's Methodist church, with the cooperation of the East End Civic League. Mrs. Inez Love was selected as secretary. The last Thursday of each month was established as meeting date. In January 1945 the East End club changed its headquarters to the Mt. Carmel Baptist church because larger quarters were necessary. Mrs. Robert Campbell was elected chairman.

The Central Health Club (second club in the west end area) was revived at a meeting in the C & O Recreation center. Mrs. Rose Darling resumed the duties of secretary. Meetings were held at



Mrs. Lucille Blevins



Mrs. Rebecca Streeter

2:30 on the last Thursday afternoon of the month. In September 1944 the club began to meet regularly in the St. John A.M.E. Zion church. Mrs. Lucille Battle was elected chairman and Mrs. Rebecca Streeter, program chairman.

The club in Lockland Subdivision, known as the South Woodlawn Health Club, started regular meetings in September 1944 in the South Woodlawn Public school. Due to illness Mrs. Claudia Wooten, former secretary, was unable to attend and Mrs. J. H. Watts was elected chairman. This club arranged to meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

The last club to reopen in Cincinnati and Hamilton County was the Addyston Health Club. It began to hold regular meetings in January 1945. Meetings were held the last Monday evening of the month in the C.M.E. church of Addyston. Mrs. Beulah Willis, first



Mrs. Cornell Hall



Mrs. Magnolia Frost

secretary of the club, returned to active service and was re-elected secretary.

The eleventh health club in the Cincinnati area, called the Walnut Hills Club, held its first meeting January 10, 1946, in the Walnut Hills Y.M.C.A.

Mrs. Magnolia Frost, a former member of the West End Health Club, interested a small group of people in the Walnut Hills area and brought them together in an organized group to create this latest addition to our health clubs.

Its meetings are held on the second Thursday in each month in the evening. During the thirty-second observance of Negro Health Week this club sponsored a community-wide mass meeting for the Walnut Hills area.

## Present Trends in Health Club Activities

The real strength of the health clubs sponsored by the Anti-Tuberculosis League of Cincinnati was the organizing of the citizens in each Negro community for the achievement of better personal and community health. Club membership was sought among the masses of the Negro group - the ultimate source of community power. In the beginning the health club technique was brought to these people. Their organization and participation made it a program of the people, aided by the Anti-Tuberculosis League, to build a health education program for solving their practical health problems.

Hamilton County now has eleven health clubs. These local lay groups are developing as centers about which the activities for healthful living evolve in the communities they represent. Able leaders are emerging who are to be trained in club leadership by institutes conducted by the Anti-Tuberculosis League and cooperating agencies.

The idea of continuous health education is becoming a part of each club's year-round program. Gradually information regarding important health problems is more and more requested by local groups. Movies on important health subjects and health speakers on topics of community interest are being scheduled at the request of health club leaders. Greater participation of members has been stimulated by a question box in each club; individual questions are answered privately if desired. The health club movement in Hamilton County is meeting the challenge of whether local leadership can develop effective methods of meeting community needs and thus advance the cause of health among Negroes. The Anti-Tuberculosis League of Cincinnati stands ready at all times to bring the best of current thought to members of these groups in order that those directly concerned can work out effective solutions to their problems. Together the citizens and the health organizations intend to eradicate tuberculosis and other health hazards.

Headquarters of the Health Clubs  
October through March

Club	Date	Place
Addyston.....	3rd Mon.....	C.M.E. Church, 268 Sekitan Addyston, Ohio
Central.....	Last Tues.....	St. John A.M.E. Zion Church Barr & Mound Sts., Cincinnati
College Hill.....	First Wed.....	Steele Colony School, Second and Simpson Sts., Cincinnati
Delhi.....	Last Fri.....	First Baptist Church of Delhi Revere & Ivanhoe Sts., Sayler Pk.
East End.....	Last Thurs....	Carmel Baptist Church Eastern & Ridgley, Cincinnati
Lockland.....	2nd Tues.....	Lockland Y.M.C.A. 310 N. Wayne, Lockland
Madisonville.....	3rd Tues.....	Trinity Missionary Baptist Church Chandler Street, Cincinnati
Northside.....	1st Mon.....	First Baptist Church of Cummins- ville, Streng St., Cincinnati
S. Woodlawn.....	Last Wed.....	Lincoln Heights Y.W.C.A.
West End.....	3rd Thurs.....	St. Andrews Episcopal Church Parish House, 8th & Mound Sts., Cincinnati
Walnut Hills.....	2nd Thurs.....	Walnut Hills Y.M.C.A.





5. East End -

Chairman - Mrs. Shellie Payne  
Program Chairman - Mrs. Beatrice Barnett  
Assistant Program Chairman - Mrs. Daisy Benton  
Secretary - Mrs. Lillie Woolfork

6. Lockland -

Chairman - Mrs. Mary Foster  
Assistant Chairman - Mrs. Lela Clay  
Program Chairman - Mrs. Mary L. Rhodes  
Assistant Program Chairman - Mrs. Lottie Perry  
Secretary - Mrs. Carrie Strauss  
Assistant Secretary - Mrs. Willa Ruth Mackey

7. Madisonville -

Chairman - Mrs. Alice Prosser  
Assistant Chairman - Mrs. Thomas Givins  
Secretary - Mrs. Mary Duncan  
Assistant Secretary - Mrs. Emma Hawkins  
Program Chairman - Miss Allie M. McCary

8. Northside -

Chairman - Mrs. Lottie Green  
Assistant Chairman - Mrs. Mary Rice  
Program Chairman - Mrs. Margaret Nichols  
Assistant Program Chairman - Mrs. Mabel Veal  
Secretary - Miss Hazel Green  
Assistant Secretary - Miss Alice Burr

9. S. Woodlawn -

Chairman - Mrs. Mahala Jackson  
Assistant Chairman - Mrs. Theola Bellup  
Secretary - Mrs. Carrie Fears

10. West End -

Chairman - Mrs. Lucille Fisher  
Assistant Chairman - Mrs. Easter Dans  
Program Chairman - Mrs. Sarah Crotchfield  
Assistant Program Chairman - Mrs. Dora Johnson  
Secretary - Mrs. Beatrice Serious  
Assistant Secretary - Mrs. Dona Easton

11. Walnut Hills -

Chairman - Mrs. Magnolia Frost  
Assistant Chairman - Mrs. M. B. Adams  
Program Chairman - Mrs. Cornell Hall  
Assistant Program Chairman - Mrs. Winnie Adams  
Secretary - Mrs. S. C. Townsend  
Assistant Secretary - Mrs. Leola Echols

Health Education Services  
of the  
Anti-Tuberculosis League

The health education services available to health clubs in Cincinnati and Hamilton County include both basic materials and assistance in program planning.

The materials available consist of health movies for all age groups; health literature on all subjects; all kinds of health posters; health exhibits; and valuable household prizes.

Speakers are secured for health club meetings, and a special leadership training course will soon be offered to health club personnel.

Chest X-ray examinations are arranged for health club members and mass X-raying is occasionally brought to their local communities or places of employment.

Newspaper publicity is given to club activities.

The cooperation of club members is obtained in neighborhood programs during National Negro Health Week; in health programs for special groups; in health institutes; and in the annual tuberculosis essay contest.

This is only a partial list of services available through the Anti-Tuberculosis League; club members are cordially invited to visit the League's headquarters at 312 West Ninth St., Cincinnati for further information or assistance.

✓ Please fill out and return in order that we may complete our records on former Rosenwald Fellows: <sup>202, 101</sup>

Name: Raymond S. Bennett

Present position: Negro Program Secretary, Anti Tuberculosis League of Cincinnati.

Address: 312 W. Ninth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Significant recent activities:

Senior Caseworker, Hamilton County Child Welfare Bd. 1940-42.  
Field Counsellor, State of Ohio Boys Industrial School. 1942-43.

(Use additional sheet if desired)

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

The Julius Rosenwald Fund is making a review of the Negro fellowships which it has granted during the past seven years. Since an appraisal of our activity thus far in this field will naturally have some effect on future policy, it is requested that all persons who have received fellowship grants from the Fund cooperate by filling in carefully the brief information asked for on the following blank and returning the information promptly to the Fund.

SCHOLARSHIP

Name Raymond Spencer Bennett

Position at time grant was made Student: University of Cincinnati, School of Social Work.

Specific purpose of the fellowship study was to obtain further preparation for social work.

Subject studied under the fellowship (or special work accomplished) Graduate courses in social service administration, economics, and sociology.

Institution at which fellowship study was carried on (or, if no specific institution was attended, state nature and place of the work carried out under the grant)

Graduate School of Social Service Administration,  
The University of Chicago.

Present position or occupation Caseworker: The Children's Home,  
909 Plum Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Your opinion of benefits received from the fellowship I received a broad training in the fields of philosophy and techniques of social work and practical experience in the child welfare field. In addition I gained a more thorough understanding of economic and sociological problems, particularly as they concern the Negro. The atmosphere at the University of Chicago was especially inspiring and stimulating. Since the close of my period of study I longed for the opportunity to return to the

Other reports or comments may be written on the back of this sheet

University of Chicago to complete my work. It was impossible for me to obtain the Master's Degree in three quarters work in the Graduate School of Social Service Administration because of the strenuousness of the work and because the administrative heads prefer a longer period as the catalogue indicates. I have wondered whether or not the Julius Rosenwald Fund gives loans to former fellows and if they do I could obtain a leave of absence from my work here for the purpose of completing my work at the University of Chicago. That seems to be the only possible way for me to complete my work at the University of Chicago for I now have a family of my own.

FELLOWSHIPS. December 1, 1946

*J.W. Maylat*

Mr. William C. Haygood  
Fellowships Director  
Julius Rosenwald Fund  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago 15, Illinois

*Bennett, Raymond S*

<i>WCH</i>	<i>12/2</i>	<i>WCH</i>	<i>12/5</i>

Dear Mr. Haygood:

Your letter of November 7 reached me several days late because it was sent to the agency where I worked as a senior caseworker immediately after my year of Rosenwald training at the University of Chicago. After eight years of employment at The Children's Home, I worked two years for the newly created Hamilton County Child Welfare Board as a caseworker for problem boys; and then I had two years of service as a field counsellor for the State of Ohio Boys' Industrial School before I began my present activities as Negro Program Secretary of the Anti-Tuberculosis League of Cincinnati. While employed by The Children's Home, I wrote The Ideal Boarding Home, Leisure Time Activities For Boys, and Employment Opportunities For Older Boys, for the monthly publication of the agency which was known as the Children's Home Record.

Since 1944 I have been a health educator and community organizer for the Anti-Tuberculosis League of Cincinnati. This position has brought me many opportunities for creative work and creative expression. In 1944, I was the recipient of a trainee fellowship on the staff of the National Tuberculosis Association which permitted me to study health programs in New York, New Jersey,



Pennsylvania, and Michigan. Later that same year I received a certificate in health education at a special institute conducted for selected individuals by the National Tuberculosis Association in Louisville, Kentucky. Then, in the summer of 1945, I attended the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan by means of a fellowship from the Anti-Tuberculosis League of Cincinnati.

During the past year I have written several short articles for What Goes On In Negro Programs, which is a publication of the National Tuberculosis Association, and a few articles for the official journal of the Ohio Public Health Association. In addition, I have described my health education program before the Ohio Public Health Association in Columbus, Ohio, and before the Mississippi Valley Conference on Tuberculosis in Chicago. My booklet, "Health Clubs In Action," has carried a unique method of community organization for tuberculosis control throughout the United States in an effort to combat the tuberculosis death rate in the Negro population. Incidentally, I am scheduled to speak at the Seal Sale meeting of the Louisville Kentucky Tuberculosis Association on December 5. Aside from my vocation, I have dabbled in short story fiction writing since last summer without success as yet but I plan to pursue it as a hobby.

The foregoing account is submitted to bring your files up-to-date. Several inclosures pertaining to prospective fellowship candidates are attached. Please send applications to these young people or send the applications to me and I will forward them.

Kindly address future correspondence to me at the Anti-Tuberculosis League of Cincinnati, 312 W. Ninth Street or at my home at 883 Rockdale Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sincerely yours,

*Raymond S. Bennett*

FISK  
UNIVERSITY

SUGGESTED CANDIDATES FOR 1947 JULIUS ROSENWALD FELLOWSHIPS

- 1. Miss Rowena Chenault, 7820 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
Employment- Better Housing League, 312 W. Ninth Street,  
Cincinnati, Ohio, social worker. B 12/5

This young lady is a 1938 graduate of Wilberforce University.  
Degree- B.S in Education; minors in sociology and political science.

For six years prior to her present employment she was director of the Laurel Homes Nursery in this city. She writes articles regularly on child care and family welfare for our local Negro newspapers.

Ambition- If she were granted a fellowship she would make a study of " Sub-standard Housing in Relation to Negro Welfare. "

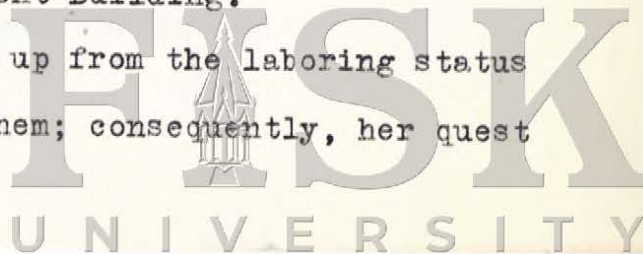
- 2. Miss Laverne Davis, 3167 Syracuse Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. B 12/5  
Employment- Cincinnati Board of Education, Student-Teacher,  
Harriet Beecher Stowe Junior High School.

This young lady is a 1946 graduate of the University of Cincinnati. She will receive the B.E degree in Education next June. While at the local university she demonstrated leadership ability as president of the Quadre Society and high scholastic ability as a student.

Ambition- If she should be fortunate enough to obtain a Rosenwald fellowship she would train to be a psychiatric social worker.

- 3. Miss Kathryn Stewart, 528 Richmond Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. B 12/5  
Employment- Senior student, Kentucky State College, Frankfort  
Kentucky, Home Management Building.

This young lady has fought her way up from the laboring status of her parents with no help from them; consequently, her quest



for an education has been a long, slow, hard struggle, but she has great perseverance, a brilliant mind, and an exceptional vision. When I tried to find her at her home during the Thanksgiving holidays, I learned that she went to work in private family the same day she came home from school with the expectation of returning to school from her job at the conclusion of the holidays.

This young lady will receive her Bachelor of Arts Degree in home economics in June. Her majors are cooking and sewing, and her minor is in physical education.

Ambition- If she is lucky enough to get a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship, she will use it to obtain become a dietician.

4. Darwin T. Turner, 716 Mt. Hope Road, Cincinnati, Ohio.

10/2/5 Employment- Senior in Liberal Arts, University of Cincinnati.

This young man is only 15 years old, and it takes courage to submit his name to your committee; but I plead for his consideration because he has mental abilities which are lacking in over ninety percent of the human race.

His thesis for his degree this year in English is on " the Arthurian Legend in Contemporary Literature. " His B.A degree next June will undoubtedly be granted with high honors. because he has already won two student aid scholarships based solely on academic merit as an undergraduate. In addition, he won first prize in our local tuberculosis essay contest last year, first prize in that contest in the state of Ohio, and second prize in that contest sponsored by the National Tuberculosis Association.

Ambition- He wants to attend Harvard University next year to specialize in English and Dramatics. He desires to be an actor and an author. He is interested in studying " the psychological

4. Darwin T. Turner ( Continued ).

development of character in modern literature " or the " develop-  
ment of the plot element in modern fiction " as an M.A thesis  
in English. I dare present the name of this young man because  
he is an exceptional individual.

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Raymond S. Bennett*  
*Negro Program Secretary*  
*The Anti-Tuberculosis League*  
*312 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St., Cincinnati, Ohio*



# APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

## NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

17 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

SCHOLARSHIP

4/10/30  
OK



Date of Application 4/7/30

Name Raymond Spenser Bennett

Present Address 409 Boal St., Mt. Auburn, Cincinnati, Ohio

Permanent Address 409 Boal St., Cincinnati, Ohio

Date of Birth August 30, 1904

COLLEGES: Name, degrees, dates A. B. Degree, University of Cincinnati, 1928  
Under Graduate Program

Courses	Instructors	Hours	Semesters	Courses	Instructors	Hours	Semesters
Psychology	Dr. Diserens	2	1	History 1	Dr. Hedger	2	1
Geology I-II	(Dr. Bucher) (Dr. Fennerman)	10	2	Philo. 5a & 10	Dr. Crowley	12	2
English I	Miss Harper	6	2	Psychol. VII	Dr. Talbert	6	2
Eng. II	Dr. Cummings	4	2	Physics 22	Dr. Moore	4	2
Econ. II	Dr. Foreman	4	2	Phila. 40b	Dr. Fuller	6	2
Eng. 25 &				Philo. 36	Dr. Ames	4	2
Eng. IX	Dr. Van Wye	4	2	Astronomy	Dr. Porter	2	1
Ger. 1&2	Miss Nippert	10	4	Phil. 35-32	Dr. Tawney	8	2
Gym	Dr. Nickloff	8	4	Hist. 10	Dr. Bond	6	2
Psychol. 11a	Dr. Vaughn	6	2	Sociol. 1	Dr. Brown	6	2
Biblical Lit.	Dr. Farr	2	1	Psyc. 236-70	Dr. Talbert	10	4
Psycho. 9a	Dr. Diserens	2	1	Pol. Sci. 9a	Dr. Gardner	6	2

Graduate and Technical Training : Phil. 143-142 Dr. Tawney 4 1  
 Graduate Work in Philo and Psychol. 24 : Hvg. 4a Dr. Chenoweth 2 1  
 hrs. Grad. work in Education 26 hrs - Program for Social Work - all at U. of Cincinnati.

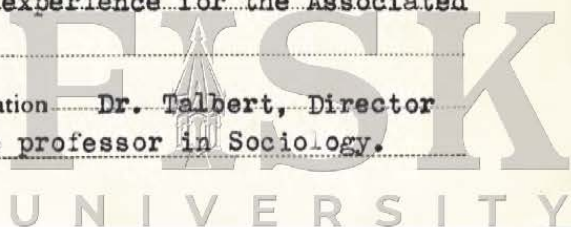
Class Offices and Committees .....

College Offices and Committees Member of U. of P. Inter-racial Club

Society Offices and Committees Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity - Alpha Alpha Chapter

Volunteer Social Work 1 school year of case work experience for the Associated Charities, 312 W. 9th St., Cincinnati, O.

Names of people you have asked to send letters of recommendation Dr. Talbert, Director of Office of Admissions - Dr. Brown, Associate professor in Sociology.



B I O G R A P H I C A L M A T E R I A L

Desired in connection with the Fellowship Competitions

of the

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

1133 Broadway, Room 826

New York City

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Question 1.

In September of 1929 I enrolled in the Graduate School of Education here at the University of Cincinnati, after having spent the previous school year and summer completing credits for the Master of Arts degree in Philosophy and Psychology in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The work in philosophy had become decidedly abstract and seemed to be merely a repetition of impracticable theories the farther I proceeded into its more advanced phases, and I changed to education in search of something more concrete and more applicable to the immediate problems of humanity. In education I had chosen the training program for school principals, superintendents, and supervisors. Here I became interested in a course in mental hygiene given by Miss Seeberg, a lecturer from the Central Psychiatric Clinic, one of the departments of the local Community Chest. Up until this time social work in the scientific sense was practically unknown to me, but in this course which followed seminar procedure, I gradually began to realize the greater opportunity for a real positive contribution to my race in this field than in any other. The course was concerned with the methods of grounding the highest values into human nature, and the conditions under which these values could be fulfilled. At this time I could see the great need for qualified social workers in the Negro race to develop personality, leadership, and character in the masses and lift them to higher and higher standards of living.

After a few conferences with Miss Seeberg and Mr. S. Brown, associate professor in sociology at the University of Cincinnati, I definitely decided to make social work my life work. Mr. Brown referred me to Dr. Eubank, head of the department of Sociology here, and he in turn arranged an appointment for me with Miss Belle Boyson, supervisor of the program for social work at the local Associated Charities. The outcome of my interview with Miss Boyson was my acceptance as a student in the school for social work here for the year 1929-30.

Question II.

A. My first knowledge of the National Urban League came thru reading the newspapers and periodicals of my race while an undergraduate in college. At that time I followed its social programs and projects as mentioned from time to time in the Pittsburg Courier, the Chicago Defender, the Crisis, and particularly in the OPPORTUNITY.



## Question II. (Continued)

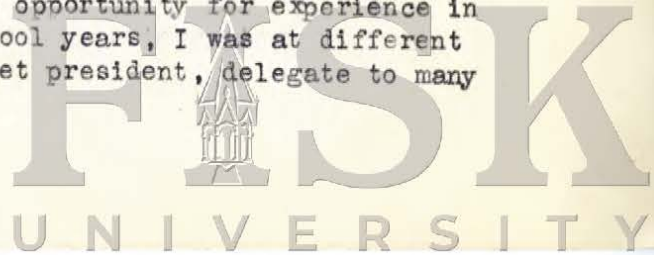
B. Since that time I have secured additional information concerning the National Urban League from several sources. First, I had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Ira Reid, while he was visiting in Cincinnati in the winter of 1928. In our interview I became acquainted in a general way with the interests and goals of the organization. Later Miss Boyson of the local Associated Charities, and Mr. Brown of the University have both talked favorably of the opportunities for service in the National Urban League. And finally, during the 50th Anniversary of our local Associated Charities, I had the opportunity of hearing Mr. Eugene Kinckle Jones, Executive Secretary of the National Urban League speak on, "Industrial Preparedness". This speech gave me much additional information concerning the present activities of the League, and the effective means it is pursuing to make the Negro an industrial and social asset to the nation.

## Question III.

I do not think that I can truthfully say that my educational opportunities have been limited or incomplete in most respects if judged from the long run point of view. Since entering school at the age of six my education has been continuous without missing a single year. Upon reaching the junior year of college a certain degree of specialization was required, and in taking some things others necessarily had to be neglected. I selected philosophy as a Major and psychology as a minor. Continuing these subjects in the Graduate School, they had the tendency to limit my sphere of thinking chiefly to the abstract. It was my knowledge purely for the sake of knowledge, but I do not consider these subjects unduly limited or incomplete. This work served to clarify my thinking and had the additional advantage of encouraging logical thought and open-mindedness on all things within its scope. Later in the Graduate School of Education, the work although chiefly designed for school executives and administrators, served to acquaint me with supervision and administration in their broadest aspects. The theories of learning and teaching gained here were not limited to school activities, as such, but had significance wherever these processes can be applied in life. I have found that my educational background has been largely an asset this year in the program for social work. Each of these fields has been valuable in itself, and I find that they are also interrelated and inseparable. The social work program has been particularly helpful in giving me the necessary case work experience and social theory in preparation for any future work and study that I may be able to pursue.

## Question IV.

At the beginning of my junior year in high school, I was appointed to the staff of the Ninth Street Branch, Y.M.C.A., in the position of Assistant Boys' Work Secretary. This job gave part-time employment during the school terms and full-time employment during the summers from 1921 to 1924. I began work under Mr. L. L. Stone, and later worked under Mr. J. H. Daves, and Mr. W. N. Lovelace. Although I lived at home at this time I was practically self-supporting. The work consisted of directing the play, education and religious activities of the Boys' Department, which enrolled youths up to the age of 18 years. There was also the opportunity for experience in group leadership. During my later high school years, I was at different times Hi-Y Club president, Boys' Work Cabinet president, delegate to many



## Question IV. (Continued)

Y.M.C.A., conferences, and life-guard at the summer camp. My work in the Y.M.C.A. broadened my knowledge of human nature and furnished me with a background of Christian ideals and moral intuitions which have guided me ever since.

In 1924 because of the pressure of additional expenditures and higher standards of living required in college, I was forced to give up part-time Y.M.C.A., work upon which I was hardly able to maintain a subsistence level of existence, and seek more remunerative employment. At this time I began working during the summer seasons at the Central Union Depot here, as a Red Cap. Mr. H. L. Cress, the station master hired me upon the recommendation of a friend, Mr. F. Henry who is now head of the department of Education at Tennessee State College. This job proved very remunerative and at the same time enabled me to meet and talk with people representative of living conditions and standards of unlimited scope. Here I gained further insights into the personalities of many racial groups, particularly that of the southern white and Negro migrants. I worked here until the end of the summer of 1929, and earned enough to send me through each school year without other assistance.

This year my field work experience has acquainted me with the local community assets and gaps and social problems in general, particularly in reference to the under-privileged classes. I have gained a working mastery of the principles of social work technique, the methods of family rehabilitation and personality development.

This summer I intend to be engaged in playground work under the department of Recreation of the City of Cincinnati. Mr. DeHart Hubbard, heads the work, and I feel that I shall gain further experience in dealing with local community problems in the field.

## Question V.

A. As an undergraduate I became a member of the Freshman Cross-Country Running Team in 1923-24. In 1924-25, I made the varsity track team in this division and participated in the local athletic meets until the close of the school year. In the first semester of this year I was elected to the Alpha Alpha Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity on the basis of scholarship and personality. This was my last year in college athletics because of increased school work and my desire to improve my scholastic record. During my junior and senior years I was a member of the University Inter-Racial Club and Y.M.C.A. As a graduate student I was a member of the New Era Club in 1927 and 1928. This club composed solely of Negro Students was affiliated with the University of Cincinnati, for the purpose of giving Negro Students an opportunity for literary dramatic and musical expression through a publication, and student activities. At present I am a member of the University Choral Club, and the Matodi Literary Society both of which are composed of local college students. The Matodi Literary Society is connected with the Inter-Collegiate Movement headed by Mr. Frederick Rob in Chicago.

B. The only personal accomplishments which I have are in the fields of literature and art. Since early youth I have written presentable poetry, and have been fairly well gifted in free-hand drawing, cartooning, and painting. If compelled to do so, I feel that with a little special training I would earn a living in either or both of these fields. My confidence is reassured by having won several prizes in literature and art as a student in the local school system.

## Question V. (Continued)

C. My present means of recreation are chiefly confined to long hikes in the suburbs of Cincinnati, and indoor exercises in the University Gym. Occasionally I visit performances at the local opera houses and such entertainments as are given by the local sorority and fraternity groups. At present I am a member of the Gilpin Dramatic Club, which is an auxiliary of Calvary Methodist Episcopal Church.

D. In reading as a leisure time activity, I am interested in literature dealing with social, economic, political and religious problems. My chief interest is in economics and I seldom read novels unless they portray race relations. When the opportunity presents itself I enjoy short stories in Harpers, the Atlantic Monthly and the American Mercury.

E. I enjoy the following authors most:

- |                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. E. T. Devine  | 8. W. Goodsell         |
| 2. R. E. Groves  | 9. R. C. Cabot         |
| 3. F. W. Ogburne | 10. M. Richmond        |
| 4. John Dewey    | 11. T. O. Watson       |
| 5. R. W. Kelso   | 12. John O'Grady       |
| 6. P. H. Cooley  | 13. S. P. Breckenridge |
| 7. J. H. Tufts   | 14. R. M. McCiver      |

15. J. L. Gillin

F. I enjoy the following periodicals most:

1. The Family (monthly) by the A. S. O. F. S. 372-374  
Broadway, Albany, N. Y.
2. OPPORTUNITY (monthly) by the National Urban League  
1133 Broadway, N. Y. C.
3. The Journal of Social Hygiene (monthly) by the A. S. H. O.  
370 Seventh Ave., N.Y.C.
4. The Social Service Review (Quarterly) by the U. of Chicago  
Press at 5650 Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill.
5. The Journal of Political Economy (U. of Chicago Press)
6. The Journal of Religious Economy (U. of Chicago Press)
7. The Survey (Semi-monthly) 112 East 19th St., N. Y. C.

G. I try to spend at least a half hour daily in reading for self improvement. This usually falls at the close of the day when my school assignments have been taken care of. Each morning I read the local daily newspaper, the Enquire. In the evening I take the Times Star and the Post, both local newspapers and read the weekly edition of the Enquire. I also read the Chicago Defender and the Pittsburg Courier regularly.

H. The last three books I have voluntarily read are:

1. Law and Social Work, by John S. Bradway, Chicago Press.
2. Personality and the Social Group, E. W. Burgess, Chicago Press.
3. Seven Times Seven - Marie Thompson Davies.

## Question VI.

During my childhood my health was unusually good, and the only diseases I had during this period were measles and mumps. In early adolescence I began to contract winter colds but never remember having had forced absences from school because of this. At fifteen years of age I accidentally ran across a copy of Physical Culture Magazine, edited by Bernard McFadden, and upon reading its contents thru, physical development and bodily health became my guiding ideal. I resolved at this time to become a perfect specimen of manhood, and made every effort to develop super-strength. From this age up to twenty-years I recorded my increases in bodily measurements and weight with the utmost diligence. It was my ambition to be able to lift a ton at the age of twenty-one. During this time I took correspondence courses from Farmer Burns in Omaha, Nebraska, Lionel Strongfort in New York City and Antone Matysek in Baltimore, Maryland, and as a result I was immune to all physical ailments of any kind. Upon entering college I became interested in cross-country running and the two years spent in this training equipped me with endurance and strength in heart, lungs, and legs that I possess even to this day.

Since the age of twenty I have had no periods of illness. I visit the University Gym every other day and follow a variety of stunts on the apparatus, including hand-stand dipping on the parallel bars, rope climbing the Roman Chair, bag punching, running and jumping. When my duties prevent me from keeping this regular half-hour gym period, I use barbells and dumb-bells, in my own room in the evening. I am now twenty-five years old and was told by Dr. J. S. Podesta (428 Broadway, Cincinnati, Ohio) upon being examined last month that I was one of the few perfect examples of physical perfection that he has had occasion to examine.

## Question VII.

The most outstanding personal and social qualities in which I have been highly rated by disinterested parties are as follows: carefulness in dress and social niceties, self-control, common sense, a degree of intellectual capacity, industry, perseverance, good health, a desirable voice, self-reliance, selflessness. Those qualities in which I have received an average rating are: likeability, ease in meeting people, absence of distracting peculiarities, a desirable, sense of humor, good general social sense, freedom from selfishness, and freedom from diffidence. In these qualities people rank me average in self-conceit.

In regard to cooperative qualities, I rate highest in enthusiasm, sanity and liveliness in meetings, fair play, loyalty, responsibility, constructive self-criticism, spirit of cooperation in team work, and sensibleness in my opinion of others, and lowest in paying attention to gossip, tales and fault finding.

Those who know me best say that I have the following leadership qualities, a proper ideal of life in tastes and appreciation, a good sense of justice, a desirable degree of self-confidence, a wholesome general influence over others, organizing and planning ability, an interest in the welfare of others, a willingness to enter into group activities, a desire to know people and their conditions, a willingness to go out of my way to advise people, and a tendency for others to come to me for advice and conference.

Question VII. (Continued)

I think that I have the following qualities making up my scientific and professional attitude, an interest in professional reading, a proper respect for the social work profession, the ability to suspend judgment, a proper respectful attitude toward the conclusions of others, a sane optimism, open-mindedness, and good business sense. I am weakest in giving attention to details and strongest in being generally reliable, having pride in my work, and having sufficient dignity.

In conclusion, I do not think that my social and personal, cooperative, leadership, or scientific and professional attitudes and qualities whether measured by the view-points of those who know me or by my own honest estimate of them tend to hinder my achievement or personal relationship.

Question VIII.

A. I am interested primarily in specializing in group and community work, because I enjoy organizing and working with bodies of individuals such as recreation groups, industrial groups, etc., and participating in community programs and projects.

B. I am attracted to this field because it presents the following specific opportunities:

1. The opportunity to develop more harmonious relations between primary and secondary groups and institutions of the races living within a given community.

2. The opportunity to bring about a greater degree of security of life and property of Negroes thru community organization and legislation.

3. The opportunity of making effective use of community resources for better physical well-being among racial groups, particularly my own.

4. The opportunity of creating a more constructive use of leisure time for my people in community areas and groups.

5. The opportunity of stimulating higher ethical standards in Negro communities.

6. The opportunity of making valuable information assessable to the masses of my people now living in ignorant and isolated communities.

7. The opportunity of giving Negro communities more free avenues of expression than they now have.

8. The opportunity of educating my people into participation in democratic forms of community organization.

9. The opportunity of motivating spiritual and national ideals in Negro community life.

10. The opportunity of developing economic well-being in Negro communities, and thus stimulating the Negro to do things for himself.

## Question VIII. (Continued)

C. I think that I still lack one of the essential qualifications for success in this field, namely, a higher and specialized training in group and community work. My educational background and experience gained by doing field work in the local community have given me a consciousness of community problems and remedies for their solution. At present I have some knowledge of community resources and gaps and a year's experience in helping individuals become acquainted with and utilize the former and find substitutes for the latter. In addition I have an unshakable loyalty to my race, and a personality which is flexible enough to enable me to mingle freely with people on all economic and cultural levels and form lasting friendships on such differences. Furthermore, I feel that I have sufficient leadership ability to gain and hold the attention of community groups and sufficient honesty to sway them only in the direction which I think is right.

D. I am expecting to follow social work as profession.

## Question IX.

In attempting to give some of the factors making for a probable solution of the race problem in the United States, I shall first give what I consider the essential elements in the economic situation of the Negro where adjustment is necessary.

1. The Negro needs a fairer chance in industry, the chance to get work and to hold it upon the same terms of tenure and of wage as white workers.
2. Negro workers need the opportunity for training for and advancement to the more skilled and highly paid occupations, as they show equal ability to fill them.
3. The Negro tenants and farm laborers of the South need an adjustment so that those whose hands produce the crops may share equitably in their bounty.
4. Negro women in industry, domestic and personal service need better treatment, training and wages.
5. There is need of improvement of the housing and neighborhood conditions where Negro workers live.
6. Friendly adjustments of the labor situation must eliminate the policy and theory of class war now widespread in the industrial field.
7. Color should no longer play a part in the opportunities for entrance into industrial occupations, especially the higher and skilled occupations, and race should not be considered in the conditions of tenantry and the opportunity to take advantage of federal farm loans.

Next I shall consider briefly the essential things the Negro needs of an educational, religious, political, and recreational nature, in addition to the proceeding economic adjustments.

1. The Negro needs more schools, set and developed upon the standards of the best that America has in its vision.

## Question IX. (Continued)

2. The Negro needs churches, and guidance in those churches that shall be marked by the highest type of equipment, of policy, of plans, programs, and personnel that shall make them the par of any similar facilities for the development of the moral and spiritual life of America.
3. There must be play places where, in recreation and amusement, the Negro can express his talents, and at the same time have the opportunity to enjoy the wealth of recreational facilities of other races.
4. There must be the same interpretation put upon law for Negroes and white men, and in the field of government, self-determination, now still a matter of discussion must become a principle of action applied to non-white groups and races. This will also mean freedom from insurety of person, property, and discrimination and restrictions that seem to have no foundation in right or reason.
5. There must be the removal of the habitual thought and action which regards and treats Negroes as something less than men and women, and the idea that the American Negro is a person and an end in himself, to be educated and developed, to become a participant in all that makes life and liberty worth while must gradually replace the idea of the Negro as a servant.
6. The Negro both individually and collectively must have the privilege of choosing his own leaders, and have avenues of training for these leaders of the future.
7. The growing appreciation and recognition of the qualities of mind and heart, which the Negro has shown must be further developed before the Negro can become a greater asset to America.

The preceding material has shown where I think racial adjustments are necessary. I will now give a few methods of personal contact and the agencies through which they may be made to advance both races together toward the ideals of American life and government, and I shall be happy beyond my expectation if I am able to outline the smallest possible contribution to a solution of the race problem.

1. The success or failure of the American Negro in assimilating and using the knowledge and culture of his day will be mainly determined by whether or not he is shut out of the occupations and experiences in school, church, and state. Community consciousness must be aware of the mutual interests of all classes and races thru cooperative movement which give racial contacts, racial goodwill and understanding. Their joint interest in labor, trade, government, education, morals, and religion are so inexplicably interwoven that they cannot be separated so long as the two races live side by side in America.
2. In the factories, the schools and colleges, the courts, the homes, the churches, in all the routine of life; hostile feelings, prejudiced beliefs and attitudes, unfounded fears and groundless suspicions are aroused and nourished or removed and replaced by pleasant sensations, by friendly feelings, by mutual understandings, and by cooperative good will. These avenues thru which pleasurable contacts may be made that create new attitudes, give the spirit of brotherhood the opportunity to operate.

Question IX. (Continued)

- a. The home should be made an avenue of pleasurable racial contacts, chiefly through the proper training of its younger members.
- b. The church should be made an avenue of racial cooperation by means of interracial conferences and exchanges of speakers.
- c. Educational institutions should promote cooperation by furnishing opportunities for amicable racial contacts.
- d. The government should give cooperative contacts by making the Negro eligible to all offices and by giving him equal standing in the courts and equal representation in everything political.
- e. Voluntary organizations should coordinate interracial activities in the following ways:
  1. Form constructive plans and work to meet definite needs of the community.
  2. Constructive social betterment projects to improve conditions and prevent racial clashes. Such preventive programs should be definite, be aimed at specific needs, and bring results which all the people can see.
  3. The personnel of such community organizations must be of two types: the community minded citizens, white and Negro, with interracial tolerance, and the Executive, especially trained in social work.
  4. There should be an appreciation of distinctive racial attitudes, impulses, and habits of thought and action.
  5. Real cooperation must mean operating together, each mindful of the full interest of the other or ready to give and take for the sake of reaching a common goal.
- f. Popular education is needed among Negroes and white people to inform each race about the other and about race relations; the following means must be effectively utilized:
  1. The press, white and Negro.
  2. The American pulpit.
  3. The lecture platform.
  4. The Moving Picture and Stage.
  5. Interracial Conferences and Conventions.

By considering all of the factors mentioned as inter-related and ineffective unless suited to specific life situations, we should gain the ideals of justice, of law and order, of American freedom of speech, press and representation, of courtesy, of the obligation of the strong for the weak, of respect for all personality and of constructive cooperation on the basis of brotherhood of mankind which compose the goal toward which the races should travel amicably in America.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) R. S. BENNETT

409 Boal St., Cincinnati, Ohio



UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Department of Psychology - McMicker Hall

April 7, 1930

My dear Mr. Jones:

Raymond S. Bennett is a candidate for one of the fellowships for colored students which the National Urban League offers. Mr. Bennett made a uniformly good record. I found that he read widely and wrote well. His power of organizing material is excellent. He has ideas.

Personally he is prepossessing. He is well liked by student and faculty. In my judgment he would be a good person for the Urban League to assign a Fellowship.

If I can give you further information I shall be glad to do so.

Very truly yours,

Signed: E. L. Talbert

Mr. Eugene K. Jones  
Executive Secretary  
National Urban League  
New York City

# FELLOWSHIPS

December 5, 1946

Dear Mr. Bennett: Thank you very much for your recent letter. It is good to have this personal information to keep in our files, and I both congratulate you and stand somewhat in awe of the varied activities in which you have been engaged in the past few years.

We are sending application blanks today to all of the young people you have recommended. I hope they will fill the blanks out properly and return them to me before the first of the year.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM C. HAYGOOD

WCH:rfl

Mr. Raymond S. Bennett  
Negro Program Secretary  
The Anti-Tuberculosis League  
312 West 9th Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio

FISK  
UNIVERSITY

