

# MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY FOR MENTAL HYGIENE (1909-c.1951)

Records, 1914-1942

## Charities Collection-CC 3

1 manuscript container	Processed April 1993 by Sheri Kelley
2.5 linear inches	Supervising Archivists:
Accession number: 93.004	Megan Sniffin-Marinoff and Peter Carini

**ACQUISITION:** In 1911 the Boston Children's Aid Society gave its entire library to the Simmons College School of Social Work Library. This library included the annual reports of many local and international welfare and charitable organizations. With the passage of time this collection took on historical significance and in 1991 it was transferred to the Simmons College Archives.

As part of donations in 1988 and 1989, Donald Moreland, a local social worker and collector of social work history, gave the Simmons College Archives a large number of annual reports, pamphlets and other materials related to various welfare and charitable organizations. Since neither of these donations is a discrete collection, the materials transferred in 1991 from the School of Social Work Library and related materials donated by Donald Moreland were combined to form the Charities Collection. The Simmons College Archives Charities Collection consists of numerous small collections. Accession numbers for the individual collections are assigned during processing.

**ACCESS:** Unrestricted.

**COPYRIGHT:** Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the College Archivist.

### **HISTORY:**

The formation in 1909 of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene resulted in the organization of similar societies at the state level. The Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene, a cooperative unit of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, was organized and incorporated in 1913 and began its public service in 1914. The goals included increasing awareness of the needs of the mentally ill through preventative work and educational reform. The Society carried on a campaign of popular education through public lectures, the preparation and distribution of literature, and annual conferences.

All information taken from Its Aims and Purposes, The Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene, 1914.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene (MSMH) records, 1914-1949 (with gaps), are arranged chronologically and include the annual reports and publications of the Society. The annual reports for 1914-1939 include the number of lectures given by the Society's lecture service, the number of publications distributed, a list of available publications, all public conferences and speakers and the topics of discussions, exhibits, the Society's library, and the Medical Director's and Treasurer's reports. The Medical Director's reports include classes taught, lectures given, and beginning in 1931, an update on the Society's magazine for teachers, *Understanding the Child*. The report of the medical director for 1949 lists the members of the Medical Advisory Council, the Joint Committee on Community Mental Health Programs, the Legislative Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Board of Directors and staff. There are individual Medical Director's reports for 1927, 31, and 1932.

In 1918 the Boston Conference of the Society presented the subject of Mental Hygiene and the War (the first public discussion of shell-shock)...(p.8). This heightened interest in the mental health of soldiers resulted in publications such as, *How the Soldier Keeps His Nerve*. This and many other publications were distributed to military training centers. Publications like, *Mental Health for Normal Children*, were distributed in teachers' colleges. These two publications, among others, are part of the MSMH records. The collection also includes two copies of the *Mental Health Sentinel*, a members subscription. This publication which was discontinued after four issues due to a lack of interest, includes the annual reports for the corresponding years.

The report of the Executive Secretary for 1943 and 1944 discuss special war projects undertaken by the Society. These included psychiatric screening of potential inductees, courses, consultation service, literature, rehabilitation, and district advisory committees.

*Report of the Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene, 1914-1919, The Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene records, CC 3, The College Archives, Simmons College, Boston, Massachusetts.*

## CONTAINER LIST:

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS
		<b>SERIES I. Annual Reports</b>

1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 1914 - 1919 (combined)</li> <li>◆ 1933 - 1934</li> <li>◆ 1934 – 1935</li> <li>◆ 1935 - 1936</li> <li>◆ 1937 - 1938</li> <li>◆ 1939 - 1939</li> <li>◆ 1948 - 1949</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>SERIES II. Publications / Notices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <i>Its Aims and Purposes</i>, 1915</li> <li>◆ <i>Psychopathic Hospitals and Prophylaxis</i>, 1915</li> <li>◆ <i>What Shall be the Attitude of the Public Toward the Recovered Insane patient?</i>, 1916</li> <li>◆ <i>After - Care of Mental Patients</i>, 1916</li> <li>◆ <i>The Functions of Social Science in State Hospitals</i>, 1916</li> <li>◆ <i>The Meaning of the Mental Hygiene Movement</i>, 1916</li> <li>◆ A card requesting assistance re: the Conference on Feeble-mindedness, 1916</li> <li>◆ <i>Mental Health for Normal Children</i>, n.d.</li> <li>◆ <i>How the Soldier Keeps His Nerve</i>, 1918</li> <li>◆ <i>Mental Health Sentinel</i>, vol. 1, no. 2, January, 1941 (includes the annual report for 1939-40)</li> <li>◆ <i>Mental Health Sentinel</i>, vol. 1, no. 4, January, 1942 (includes the annual report for 1940-41)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>SERIES III Medical Director's Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 1927</li> <li>◆ 1931</li> <li>◆ 1932</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>SERIES IV. Executive Secretary's Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 1943</li> <li>◆ 1944</li> </ul>
---	---	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------