

PROTECTION
OF WOMEN
CHILDREN
AND
JUVENILES
IN POLAND

36

3296 KPiP



1103296

**PROTECTION OF WOMEN,
CHILDREN AND JUVENILES
IN POLAND**

PROTECTION
OF
WOMEN, CHILDREN
AND JUVENILES
IN POLAND

1 9 4 8

PUBLISHED BY

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE

WARSAW



3296

DRUKARNIA NR 3 »WIEDZA«
KRAKÓW — 216. V. 48 — 500

LABOUR PROTECTION

LABOUR PROTECTION OF WOMEN

Labour protection of women in Poland has been based since 1924 upon the prohibition to employ women on work which is heavy, dangerous or harmful to health, such being specified in a detailed list of prohibited jobs; upon the prohibition to employ women underground and upon the prohibition of night work (with certain, not numerous exceptions).

The above set of protective measures has been completed by the provisions, which put upon the employer when employing over 5 women an obligation to install for them separate W. C., cloak-rooms and lavatories, and when he is employing over 100 women -- to maintain for them bathing arrangements and a crèche for infants.

The law of July 28, 1924 granted to a nursing mother a right to benefit by two halfhour interruptions during her work included within the working hours, and to a pregnant woman a right to interrupt her work with the moment of presenting a doctor's certificate to the effect that the confinement may be expected not later than in 6 weeks.

A pregnant woman had a right to benefit by interruptions in her work lasting not longer than 6 days per month. Legal provisions included prohibition to employ women during 6 weeks from the day of confinement, with the provision that during all the interruptions mentioned above the employer was not allowed to give notice or to dissolve the labour contract.

Polish Diet, in solicitude about the future mother, has amended by its resolution of April 28.th 1948, Article 16 of this law, ensuring to a pregnant as well as to a nursing woman a fuller and more effective protection of her work and health.

Now a pregnant woman employed at an exhausting job shall be — beginning with the 6.th month of her pregnancy — transferred if possible to an easier work, with wages not lower than the average monthly earnings from the last three months of her work. In the case of a dispute concerning the change of the type of work, the question shall be referred to the decision of the labour inspector, who is also entitled to order the change of the type of work on his own initiative.

It shall be prohibited to employ a woman — beginning with the 4.th month of her pregnancy, as well as a woman having children below 18 months — in overtime hours and outside the permanent place of her work. Also the regulations allowing in certain cases exemptions from the prohibition of night work to women, shall not be applied to her.

A pregnant woman shall be entitled to break her work for the period of 12 weeks, out of which two weeks at least ought to take place before the confinement and 8 weeks at least after the confinement. The remaining two weeks may be taken as preferred, wholly or in part, either directly before the obligatory two weeks' break before the confinement or directly after the obligatory 8 weeks' break after the confinement.

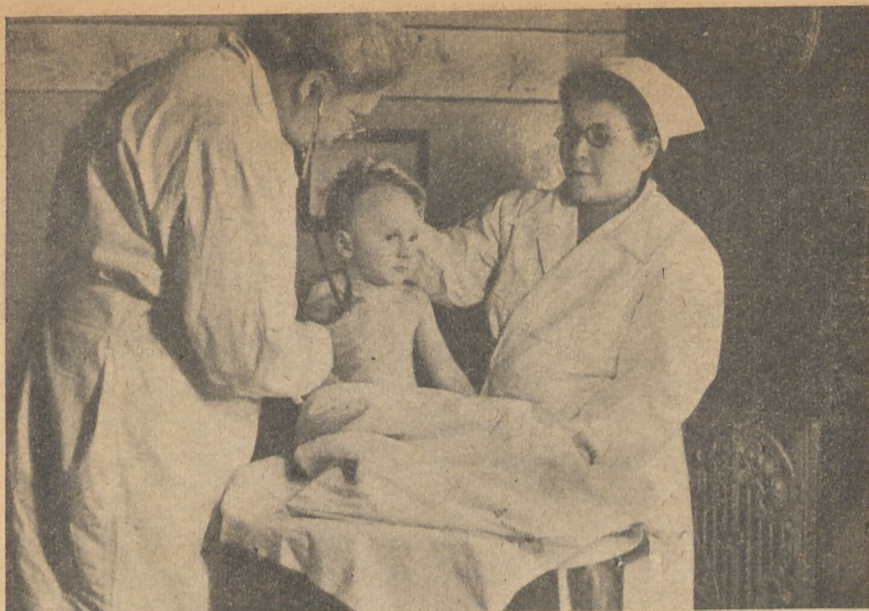
During the obligatory breaks in work the woman cannot be employed even with her consent.

The contract of employment with a woman working at least for three months in the given undertaking cannot be recalled or dissolved during the period of her pregnancy as well as during the mentioned above break in work.

The contract of employment concluded for a definite period or for accomplishing a definite work, which is to be terminated within 4 months before the confinement, shall be prolonged to the day of confinement.

The dissolution of the contract of employment in the periods mentioned above is possible only from serious reason or from the fault of the woman worker; to become valid, however, it requires the consent of the Works Council or of the delegate, and in the undertakings, where there is no workers' representation, the consent of the district labour inspector.

In the case of a dispute between the employer and the Works



AT THE FACTORY CRÈCHE IN NATIONALIZED INDUSTRY
(Candy and chocolate factory „Fuchs“ in Warsaw)



A BABY AT THE CRÈCHE

Council or a delegate, both parties may appeal to the Conciliation and Arbitration Committee at the proper district labour inspector.

The dissolution by the employer of a contract of employment from serious reasons cannot take place, however, within 4 months before the confinement unless the undertaking is being completely liquidated.

Simultaneously changes have been made in the provisions of the law concerning social insurance as regards the period during which a woman is entitled to a confinement allowance, thus making this period uniform in both laws and giving to the pregnant woman full financial security.

The new arrangement of social conditions in Poland brought to working women full economic equality.

The principle: „equal pay for equal work“ is being fully realized.

The care of the child of the working woman by organizing crèches at the factories — while it was, and still is not easy to realize — spreads more and more widely.

The lack of suitable buildings and credits, the lack of children's doctor and qualified nurses, the difficulties of supplying crèches with the necessary equipment and textile materials, are hampering the extension of this work. Gradually, however, the obstacles are being overcome.

Some of the old magnificent villas have been transformed into children's homes, crèches and pre-schools; in other places have been put barracks, or unused factory buildings suitable for those purposes have been adjusted. Wherever it is possible to organize a factory crèche, or where this would not be justified, there are being organized stations of mother and child care.

At the stations children receive supplementary feeding and remain under a permanent medical care, while a nurse visiting workers' homes is acquainting mothers with the new attainments in the field of child's hygiene, and helps them to use all the facilities available.

Now crèches are taking in not only children of people actually working as it was before the war — and not only up to 18 months, but every worker's child up to 3 years of age if one of its parents is working in the factory concerned.

The same applies to stations which have under their protection

children up to 4 years of age; and where there is no pre-school centre for children — up to 7 years of age.

After three hardest post-war years we have already in operation 140 factory crèches, where the children, often in excellent conditions, in perfect cleanliness, well fed and healthy, remain under the watchful care of a doctor and nurses.

Mothers of these children do not need to be anxious about them and may devote themselves in peace to their wage-earning work.

98 stations of Mother and Child Care are operating now taking care of 54.260 children.

They are mostly factory stations, some of the undertakings, however, not having suitable accomodation, are benefiting by stations run by the city, by the village community or by health centre, participating in the expenses of the care of children of their workers.

In 1947 there were: 293 factory pre-schools attended by 40.000 children receiving supplementary feeding at the expense of the undertaking; 18 recuperation centres and sanatoria for children maintained by state industry, in which there were about 2.000 children of workers; 11 factory recreation rooms for school-age children attended by about 1.500 children.

There were besides:

in summer colonies — about 100.000 children from 6 to 14 years of age;

in part time camps — about 62.000 children from 4 to 14 years of age.

Moreover the women workers of the state sector, and partially also of the cooperative sector (possessing ration — cards of the I category) are receiving from the time of the birth of a child 20 metres of material for baby layettes at a reduced price.

In 1947 — 200.000 baby layettes have been given amounting to 4 million metres of material.

Beginning with April 1948, the distribution of layettes is being taken over by Social Insurance Offices, which — within the scope of a newly introduced family insurance scheme — will give free of charge to each insured woman giving birth to a child, a layette for the newly born infant.

State industry gives for the purpose of the protection of the



AT THE FACTORY CRÈCHE IN NATIONALIZED INDUSTRY
(Candy and chocolate factory „Wedei“ in Warsaw)

worker's child 3,85% of the Wages Fund (i. e. 3,85% of the total of workers' wages).

A great acquisition in the field of maternity protection is the raising up in 1946 of maternity allowances paid by Social Insurance Offices — from 50% obligatory before the war to 100% of the woman worker's wages.

Beside the general Labour Inspection also special women regional inspectors of labour are responsible for the labour protection of women and young persons. Their task is to work out problems connected with the work of women and young persons, and to supervise the conditions of work of these categories of workers.

A great stress is being laid upon the activation of the working woman in the works representation of workers, and upon the enlarging of the interest of this representation in dealing with the problems of the working woman.

Rules for the functioning of Works Councils provide, that in the case when there are being employed in an undertaking no less than 20% of women, a Women's Section for the realization of the needs of the working women should be organized.

In Poland the work of young persons is especially cared for by the State.

By young persons are meant boys and girls from 15 up to 18 years of age. Not only the work of young workers is protected, but also the work of pupils, apprentices and workers on practice.

The labour protection of young persons includes the prohibition to employ young persons in conditions, in which the work is especially dangerous or harmful to health, and at jobs which are heavy or dangerous to health, morality or good habits.

The lists of such jobs prohibited to young persons are enumerated in special orders.

Special regulations provide that young persons may be employed up to a certain percentage of the total body of adult workers in the undertaking concerned.

The employer cannot accept a young person to work without:
a certificate showing that he is 15 years of age; a permission of his parents or guardians; a document showing the completion of compulsory schooling; a certificate of the doctor indicated by labour inspection to the effect that the said work does not exceed the strength of the young person.

It is prohibited to employ young persons without payment therefor or to accept by the employer payment for the training.

In the case the agreement does not specify clearly the amount of remuneration, it may be dissolved on the ground of fault of the employer, and the young person granted remuneration for the whole time of his work.

An expression of the labour protection of young persons is the fact of assuring to them a nightly rest lasting at least 11 hours without interruption and including: in undertakings working in

one shift — the time between 8 p. m. and 6 a. m.; in undertakings working in two shifts — the time between 10 p. m. and 5 a. m.

The above set of protective regulations is completed by provisions which prohibit to employ young persons in overtime hours (with the only exception of emergencies); include the obligation to attend supplementary training; authorize the labour inspector to order at any time free of charge medical examination of young persons by a doctor indicated by the labour inspector, in order to ascertain whether the job at which the young person is employed does not exceed his physical strength and is not harmful to his development, and to prohibit — on the basis of such a statement — the employment of young person at the said job, while indicating at the same time at what job he may be employed.

Preliminary examinations before acceptance for work and periodical examinations during the time of work are conducted by doctors of Social Insurance Offices.

The prohibition to employ young persons during the night and in overtime hours as well as at prohibited jobs, is being strictly enforced by Labour Inspection. Moreover, the work of children below 15 years, general during the occupation, has been liquidated.

The rules for functioning of Works Councils provide for the setting up within Works Councils of Committees for Juveniles.

The tasks of those Committees are among others: to inform the Works Council about the needs of the juvenile workers in the undertaking; to control the carrying out of provisions of the collective agreement in regard to young persons; to enable young persons to attend general, professional and special schools.

On a higher level of workers' representation Juvenile Boards of Trade Unions are watching over the protection of rights of the working youth.

V O C A T I O N A L T R A I N I N G

In connection with the great effort towards the reconstruction of the country, and with the need to develop the industrial potentiality of Poland transforming her from an agricultural-industrial country into an industrial-agricultural one, the problem of vocational training and of professional studies is of especial significance.

The programme of the Polish Government in this field was formulated in 1947, in the Law for the Plan of Economic Reconstruction. It brought to the forefront the question of the development of general secondary and professional schools of a general type, in such a way as to assure an output, either to work or to special studies, of the following numbers of pupils:

	1947	1948	1949
a) from general secondary schools	16 000	17.500	19.500
b) from professional schools of a general type	30.800	36.800	47.500

In order to satisfy as far as possible in the quickest and best way the needs of all branches of national economy, vocational training has been based upon training in 2—3 years' professional supplementary schools, organized partly in the works; training at supplementary courses organized mainly in the works or by institutions of professional training; mass training at work.

The following numbers are being professionally trained:

	1947	1948	1949
a) industrial and craftsmanship schools and courses: pupils	250.000	277.000	296 000
of these graduates	54 500	57.500	52 000
b) agricultural schools and courses: pupils	30 000	70.000	110.000
of these graduates	19 000	45 000	63 000
c) commercial cooperative — economic — service schools and courses pupils	22 700	24.000	25.000
of these graduates	16 000	19.000	20.000

The training activity is conducted by joint efforts of three ministries: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Industry and Trade, and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

Beginning with 1. 1. 1948 the financing of professional training in undertakings subject to the Ministry of Industry and Trade has been based upon the Professional Schools Fund created out of the payments of those undertakings amounting to a sum equal to 6% of wages and salaries paid.

These transformations have been accompanied by a change of the regulations concerning professional studies.

Before 1939 juvenile workers were bound to attend supplementary schooling during 6 hours per week, which were included in their working time only in case when the school training took place during working hours of young persons.

In September 1945 a decree was issued which obliges juvenile workers to attend professional or supplementary training during 18 hours per week paid for equally with the 28 hours of work making up the 46 hour week, irrespective of whether school is held during normal working hours or not.

This decree aimed not only at enabling the young persons to improve their knowledge but also at protecting juvenile workers against excessive effort caused by work and by compulsory training.

The trebling of the number of hours during which schools are open for theoretical and general subjects allowed a considerable enlargement of the programme of studies, and a change from the old system of three years' supplementary schooling to a recognized three years' public secondary professional school course of study. While the old supplementary school system had been a blind alley in the

life of the working youth desiring to continue studies, the new public secondary professional schools open the way to more capable students, to proceed to higher educational establishments.

The total of such schools organized by the Ministry of Education is not yet sufficient, however, for the needs of the regenerating economic life. It becomes necessary, in addition to supplementary training and re-training of adult workers, to develop a still greater mass training of juvenile workers. To cover this need, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, in agreement with the Ministry of Education, has organized industrial training schools to meet its own needs.

Thus there have been organized in larger undertakings beside retraining courses of several months' duration for adult workers — professional schools of various types: industrial preparatory schools for juveniles not yet working, three years' industrial schools for employed juvenile workers, which are on the same level as secondary public professional schools, and finally general secondary and industrial high schools.

While the pupils of industrial schools constitute a part of the labour force and are obtaining practice in separated workshops or in working halls of the factory, pupils of secondary and high schools are treated as scholarship students of the undertaking concerned and are devoting their time exclusively to school studies.

The importance of the schools of this type in the school year 1947/48 may be presented by following figures: secondary public professional schools — 737; classes — 3.734, pupils — 115.442, among them about 25% of girls; industrial schools — 268, pupils — 31.730; among them boys — 26.182 and girls — 5.548.

While the schools run by the Ministry of Education are attended by juveniles employed in industry, handicrafts, trade and offices, as well as by juveniles who are not yet working anywhere — industrial schools are attended exclusively by those employed in industry.

According to the figures for the next few years, the following numbers of young persons from 16—18 years of age are expected to reach the labour market from the schools:

YEAR	16 years	17 years	18 years	Total
1949	479	471	481	1.431
1950	459	477	569	1.505
1951	499	457	475	1.431
1952	469	497	455	1.421
1953	471	467	495	1.433

These figures must be supplemented by ranks of juveniles of 19 to 24 years, and even up to 30 years, who during the German occupation had no possibility either to graduate from schools of general education or to undergo any vocational training.

But the problem of the training of youth has really been solved by the law of 25. II. 1948, which created a national youth's organisation under the name of „Service to Poland“.

„Service to Poland“ introduces a national obligation of professional, physical and military training, and provides for the organisation of matters pertaining to physical culture and sport.

The law applies to Polish citizens of both sexes from the age of 16 to 21 years inclusive, and to persons up to 30 years of age who have not discharged their military duty.

The juveniles are discharging their obligation under the scheme „Service to Poland“ by studying and by performing periodical or temporary work.

The duration of periodical work for juveniles of conscription age or older cannot exceed the period of military service, and the duration of temporary work — may not exceed three days per month.

Juveniles called up are trained in professions, for which they are capable physically and which suit their inclinations and qualifications.

Manual work may not last longer than 6 hours per day; the remaining time is devoted to studies, to exercises within the scope of physical and military training, activities connected with the maintenance of discipline, and rest.

To persons of conscription age and older general rules concerning working hours are applied.

The whole scheme is based upon a coordinated and planned

participation of all ministries, and in the first place of the Ministries: of Labour and Social Welfare, Industry and Trade, Reconstruction, Education, Health, National Defence, Agriculture and Agrarian Reforms, Communication, Posts and Telegraphs, Public Administration and Recovered Territories.

A coordinated and planned participation of those Ministries is expressed in close cooperation with the Commands of the „Service to Poland“ through their offices and sections, in the direction of professional training, the registration of juveniles and financing. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare being an authority responsible for the policy of employment gives opinions as to the principles of professional training and the registration of juveniles, who without loss to the labour force in the national economy should be called on to perform the duty of vocational training.

The directing, instructing, administrative and office personnel of the Commands of „Service to Poland“ consists of: instructors, managers of jobs and specialists chosen and delegated by the ministries, for which the training is being accomplished and which are responsible for covering the expenses of the training. In the expenses of professional training of young persons are included accommodation expenses, food and uniforms; young persons are benefiting also by free medical help organized within the scope of the universal organisation: „Service to Poland“.

Young persons called to discharge the duty of professional training (as well as in the period between the time they are called and the date training begins) cannot be dismissed from their employment nor can their employers terminate the contracts of employment on the ground of being called-up for service.

The organisation „Service to Poland“ by way of vocational and physical training draws large numbers of juveniles into the nationwide work of the reconstruction of the country; it prepares numerous groups of workers for industry, agriculture etc. and instils into the juveniles from a young age a zest for creative work in building up their own country.

„Service to Poland“ will heal wounds, inflicted by the German occupant to the Polish youth, and will create by way of labour discipline suitable conditions for the nationwide uplifting of the level of the workers' culture.

SOCIAL WELFARE

2002

M O T H E R A N D C H I L D C A R E

The care of the non-working mother and her child completes the social activity of protection of women.

The Government and society are taking care that the greatest possible number of children needing full or partial protection, and mothers who beside receiving material and moral assistance must also be trained to become self-supporting, should be included into the welfare activities.

One of the most needed forms of partial care is home help, the purpose of which is to improve the conditions of the family both in the material and moral aspects. This form helps to strengthen family ties by giving welfare benefits and by not severing the contact of mother and child.

A very important part of this form of help is given through the network of stations of help to mother and child created in the post-war period.

The aim of these stations is: to give advice concerning the conditions of a pregnant woman, nursing mother and child up to 3 years of age; to propagate proper nursing and education of children up to 3 years; to grant material help in the form of vitamins, food, allowances, clothing, pecuniary allowances and other kinds of assistance.

These stations are organized in the first place by the local government and voluntary organisations.

In 1947 there were in Poland 776 stations which took care of 170.000 children up to 3 years and of about 80.000 pregnant women and nursing mothers.

Other forms of assistance to mother and child are day nurseries, which become more and more popular.

In addition to nurseries in the factories municipal day nurseries are also being organized. In 1947 there were 96 municipal nurseries.

M O T H E R A N D C H I L D C A R E

The care of the non-working mother and her child completes the social activity of protection of women.

The Government and society are taking care that the greatest possible number of children needing full or partial protection, and mothers who beside receiving material and moral assistance must also be trained to become self-supporting, should be included into the welfare activities.

One of the most needed forms of partial care is home help, the purpose of which is to improve the conditions of the family both in the material and moral aspects. This form helps to strengthen family ties by giving welfare benefits and by not severing the contact of mother and child.

A very important part of this form of help is given through the network of stations of help to mother and child created in the post-war period.

The aim of these stations is: to give advice concerning the conditions of a pregnant woman, nursing mother and child up to 3 years of age; to propagate proper nursing and education of children up to 3 years; to grant material help in the form of vitamins, food, allowances, clothing, pecuniary allowances and other kinds of assistance.

These stations are organized in the first place by the local government and voluntary organisations.

In 1947 there were in Poland 776 stations which took care of 170.000 children up to 3 years and of about 80.000 pregnant women and nursing mothers.

Other forms of assistance to mother and child are day nurseries, which become more and more popular.

In addition to nurseries in the factories municipal day nurseries are also being organized. In 1947 there were 96 municipal nurseries.

In the country districts there are very few permanent day nurseries, but during the most intensive periods of field work temporary childrens' stations serve a similar purpose as the day nurseries.

Another feature of the partial care so important in the post-war period are the special rooms for mothers with children and for pregnant women at railway stations. There while waiting for the train the mother is able to take care of the baby and prepare its food. At the present moment there are such rooms at 63 of the larger railway stations, serving an average of 12,600 mothers and 25,600 children per month. There are specially reserved compartments for pregnant women and for those travelling with small children.

The full care of children consists of two forms: foster families and children homes.

The care in foster families is analogous to the care of older children: the orphan-child is placed in a family chosen from among those which have applied. The family takes full care of the child supervised by the authority or institution that entrusted the child to it.

In organizing Homes special stress is laid on the organisation of Homes for Small Children and Homes of Mother and Child.

The Homes for Small Children take care mostly of half-orphans whose parents are missing or are in very poor financial circumstances.

In 1947 there were over 4,000 children in 92 Homes for small children.

One of the important features in the activity protecting maternity are the Homes of Mother and Child. In these homes a special stress is laid on the professional training of mothers. The Homes are provided with workshops in which the mothers are trained in the profession they choose. The institution is co-operating with the Employment Office in securing employment for the mother when she leaves the Home.

In 1947 there were 36 Homes with 1,287 mothers and 1,777 children.

The training of mothers is not limited to their training while in the Home. Mothers who for different reasons cannot be trained in the Homes and cannot work in factories or other undertakings

are trained at special courses, and later by receiving special allowances they are assisted to establish their own workshops.

First Aid stations for Mothers and Children are a form of assistance supplementary to the activity described above; these stations are used for observation and distribution. The mothers and children receive there immediate help and stay there until they are placed in a Home.

The purpose of these stations is to have the children, pregnant women or mothers undergo a medical examination as well as an examination as to their capabilities. After having observed their personal character, capabilities and health they are placed in a suitable Home. These examinations are made by fully qualified personnel: doctors, psychologists, hygienists and social workers.

A new form of assistance to mothers and children was initiated recently, i. e. rest homes for mothers who are overworked with home work or need better conditions for convalescence. Spending there a month or more, in a different atmosphere, the mothers acquire new strength and knowledge for further work in bringing up their children.

In the protection of mothers and children there are a number of other emergency activities; among them the most important is that of the International Children Emergency Fund.

The activity of United Nations I. C. E. F. consists in supplying food and other necessities. In Poland it takes care of over 200.000 children up to 3 years and of over 40.000 mothers and pregnant women.

Out of 128 Homes for mothers and children: 22 are run by state authorities, 52 by local government associations, 22 by social organisations, 3 by foundations, 20 by nuns or monks, 9 by religious societies.

General characteristics of the protection of mothers and children are expressed in the application of the principle of making this help widespread both in full and in partial care.

SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CARE OF CHILDREN AND JUVENILES

The German policy of extermination of the Polish people had a special effect on the children and there has been a considerable decrease of the number of children and young people in proportion to the total number of the population. While before the war the children and young people numbered 42% of the total population, at present they barely reach 33%.

The number of full orphans and children both of whose parents are still missing is estimated at about 140,000; half-orphans — at about 1,400,000.

Hundreds of thousands of children, especially in towns, are morally wrecked due to the war conditions: to the purposeful limitation and desorganisation of the public school system and the complete closing up of junior and senior high schools, and also due to the difficult material situation, the mothers being compelled to work, and the children having to start to work too early etc.

The health condition of children and young people was catastrophic due to the hard material conditions and the lack of medical help.

Most of the units taking care of children were destroyed, and all of them were without a proper financial basis when the war ended. Moreover the authorities which should have been responsible for their organisation had to be formed anew.

The task of the moment was to take care of all abandoned children by foster families and childrens' Homes (educational establishments) and to organize help to children of poor families, especially of families where one of the parents was missing. At the same time the demoralisation of masses of children and young people required a much stronger emphasis than before on the intensive educational influence on children and young people who had suffered most.

The people and the State organized help for children and young people on a scale never before attempted in Poland.

At first the Ministry of Labour and Public Welfare directed this activity, but since January 1st, 1946 the care for children from 3 years to 18 years of age has been given over to the Ministry of Education.

The Ministry of Education operates through the Curatoriums of the School Regions the territory of which is the same as that of the voievodships.

The Curatoriums have sections for child welfare. Their competence includes direct supervision over childrens' Homes and the direction of the work of School Inspectorates whose activity covers the territory of a district. Every Inspectorate has a special section of child welfare, which supervises and directs the care for children in Homes and in foster homes.

The results of their activity are as follows:

73,000 orphans have been registered and are taken care of in foster homes. These families receive not only financial help from the Government but also 9,100 teachers supervise the home conditions of those children and help the families in educating them.

Children who are not properly taken care of by their guardians, at the motion of these teachers are placed in childrens' Homes, and the young people from foster families are directed to boarding establishments and boarding schools at the expense of the State.

The youngest orphans in childrens' Homes are given to families who apply for children. Usually it leads to the adoption of these children by the foster family.

After the war 354 Homes for children and young people were established, which together with the Homes remaining after the war make a total of 701 Homes. 136 Homes are run by the State, 92 by local government authorities, the rest by social and religious organisations. These Homes take care of about 41,000 pupils, orphans and half-orphans from numerous families. The pupils of the Homes belonging to the State are fully maintained by the State; local government Homes and social organisations' Homes receive from the State a uniform allowance for food and clothing per pupil. The remaining expenses are covered by the institution which runs the Home. 62 of these establishments are special Homes for deaf and dumb, blind, mentally deficient or delinquent children.

Orphans, half-orphans, young people from poor families and many youths from rural areas to whom the access to secondary schools was closed until recently, are taken care of in boarding establishments and boarding schools. There are 839 of such establishments; (of these 620 belong to the State). The number of pupils therein exceeds 52.000. The State helps them in various degrees up to full maintenance.

Children having parents or one parent receive different types of partial help.

The time when mothers are at work and out of home may be spent by the children in recreational rooms, which number 981. About 86.000 children attend such.

Somewhat similar to the recreational rooms, but much better are the „Jordan“ gardens and playgrounds, where in the open air or in case of bad weather in suitable buildings, several hundred children are grouped. These units completely destroyed during the war are being reconstructed. 53 are already in operation and 125 are being rebuilt.

A post-war novelty are rest-homes for the weak children or those threatened with T. B., run by the State or social organisations. There are 55 in operation now, of these 22 belonging to the State. There are 4.700 places in them. During their stay in the rest-homes the children have lessons so that they do not lose touch with their schooling.

The broadest activity is that of supplementary feeding by the schools, pre-schools and recreation-rooms. It covers 1,493.000 children and young people, as compared with the pre-war figure of 830.000.

The second broad activity is that of summer vacations. In 1947 7,771.200 children attended summer-camps, half-day camps and playgrounds for country children.

In spite of the fact that according to the law the local government authorities are responsible for childrens' welfare, the State takes a very active part in it, both by having its own welfare units and by granting subventions to the local government and social units.

For the care of children and young people from 3 to 18 years of age the State spent in 1947 through the Ministry of Education alone — 4,710.563 zlotys.

In addition to the large numbers of children and young people cared for, time was found for an important reform of the conduct of children's Homes taking care of full orphans, which were together with foster families the first organized sector of welfare activity taken over by the State.

The fundamental change in the character of children's Homes had two features:

The change from Homes of a type similar to military barracks, with groups of children chosen according to their age and sex, with a military type of life, with all pupils doing the same thing at the same time at the command of the teacher, where life was passed in big bedrooms and big classes, into Homes where life is made as much as possible like family life, grouping the pupils of different age (in the country from 3 to 14, and in towns from 3 to 18), with a programme much more free and varied, allowing a better development of the child, its self-dependence, initiative, resourcefulness and responsibility.

The change from closed Homes, isolated from the world, having often even their own schools, into open Homes, having close contacts with society, school friends, schools, youth organisations, adults, led to the pupils taking an active part in the life outside of the Home.

At the present time the problem is being worked out of how to use the summer-camps not only for their health value but also for their educational value.

That section of the Polish Red Cross having for its aim the re-uniting of families dispersed through the war has had to be specially supported. This because of the fact that finding the members of a dispersed family was in many cases a very important factor not only in the health condition of the persons involved, but also in the financial conditions of the individuals taken care of by the State.

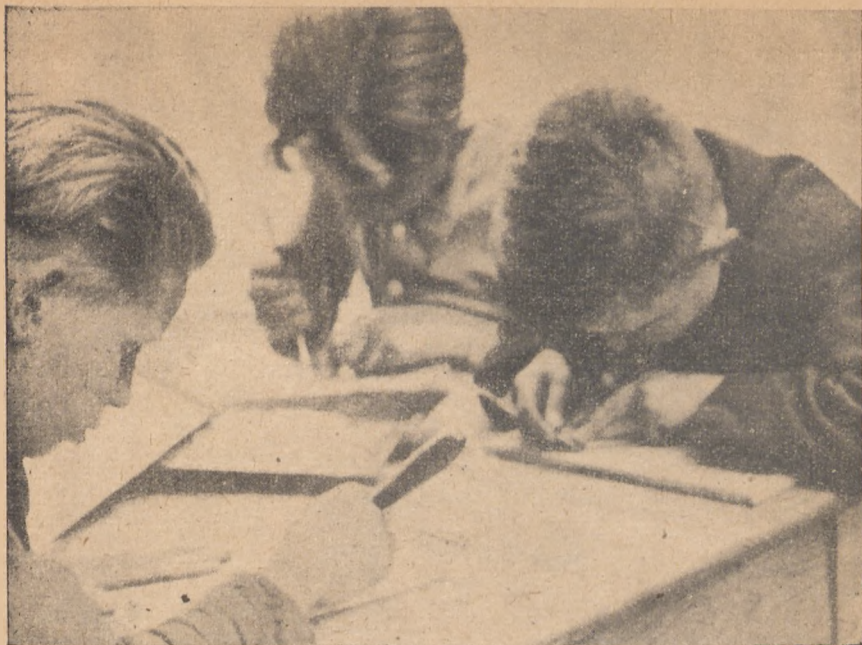
The State took up the very difficult activity of recovering Polish children from Germany, deported during the occupation to be germanized.

The methods applied by the Germans aiming to erase all traces showing the Polish origin of the child, compelled the units of social welfare to start a special activity both at home and in Germany. At home they try to get all possible informations relating to the

address of the Polish child in Germany. The Plenipotentiary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for the Recovery of Children seeks to identify the child and bring it home.

The secret German documents, orders and correspondence which have been found, the statements of older children who realized their nationality and returned to Poland as soon as the war was over, the appeals of persons inquiring for their children, clearly indicate Poland's losses due to the germanizing activity at nearly one hundred thousand children.

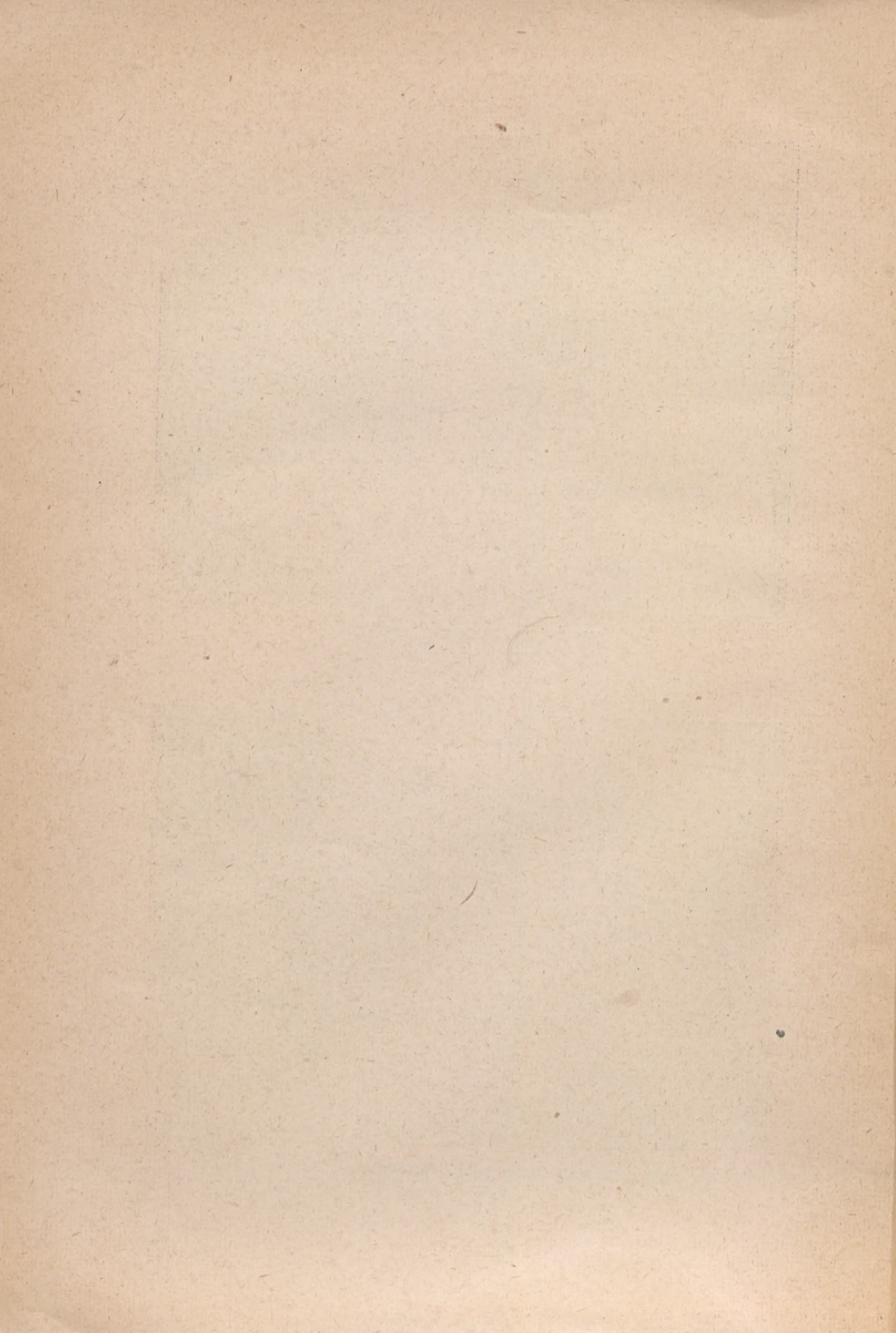




YOUNG SCULPTORS AT WORK
(Social Welfare Centre in Łódź)



HEALTH AND RECREATION RESORT BUKOWIEC
(Lower Silesia)



CONTENTS

LABOUR PROTECTION

	Page
Labour protection of women	7
Labour protection of young persons	16
Vocational training	18

SOCIAL WELFARE

	Page
Mother and child care	25
Social and educational care of children and juveniles	28

3296 KPiP



1 1 0 3 2 9 6

1103296

3