

MB 1

MISS EMMA BURTON, sworn, testified:

EXAMINATION BY MR. DALY.

Q What position do you occupy?

A I am Head Resident of the Wesley House.

Q What is the Wesley House?

A The Wesley House is an institution of the Southern Methodist Church to do settlement work.

Q Where is it located?

A 70 S. Boulevard.

Q Where is that with respect to these mills?

A It is next to the Fulton Bag Mills.

Q Is it near the mill village?

A Right in the mill village.

Q How is that institution maintained?

A The building is owned by the Fulton Mill.

Q And their property is it?

A Their property. They furnish it free of rent to our work and keep up all repairs.

Q How large an institution is this?

A It is a building of 56 rooms.

Q How is it built? A brick building?

A Yes Sir, a brick building.

Q Was it originally built for the purpose of

settlement work?

A It was originally built for a hotel for the mill people. That was not a success and it was later taken up by this settlement work.

Q It was purchased by the mill, was it?

A It was built by the mill as I understand it for a hotel, for their employees. In addition to the keeping up of repairs they give \$50.00 a month regularly, the mills do.

Q Is that the whole expense?

A No, the workers are supported by the Methodist Churches of the city. There are six resident workers.

Q What departments has that house?

A It has a business department, a girls' department, a day nursery and kindergarten, a clinic and nurses, district nurses.

Q Is there a hospital connected with it?

A We have an infirmary who do minor operations and keep the patients as long as necessary.

Q What physicians are connected with that infirmary?

A You want the names?

Q Yes.

A Drs. R. M. Nelson, Charles Remsen, C. A. Rhodes, W. L. Ballenger, Roy Blosser, C. H. Paine, William Shellenberger, Dunn, Greer, Durr. I don't know the

initials of the last.

Q Are these all physicians of the city of Atlanta?

A All of the city of Atlanta.

Q Are they paid for their services?

A Nothing at all.

Q They give their services?

A They give their services.

Q Do you know, Miss Burton, what is the whole yearly expense of keeping that institution going?

A I think in round numbers about \$6,000. I could give you the exact amount if I had known you wanted it and could do so yet.

Q The Fulton Bag Mills contribute \$600?

A Yes Sir, in addition to the rent and water and repairs. They do many other things from time to time, but they do this regularly.

Q Now then the remainder of the \$6,000 will be contributed by your church?

A Yes Sir; I think they would besily average another \$30.00 a month.

Q Though that is just from time to time as they contribute?

A These additional contributions are, yes Sir.

Q Are they made upon request?

A They are from time to time, but not always.

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Q In some instances they volunteer their help do they?

A Yes Sir, very often.

Q You are paid by the Methodist Church?

A Yes Sir. all the workers are paid by the Methodist Church.

Q Now, this infirmary that is conducted there, what do the people who use that have to pay, if anything?

A When they come to the clinic for treatment we ask them to bring a nickel. If they don't have the nickel we treat them just the same but we ask them to do that to let them feel they are giving something in return for what they get.

Q How many people do you treat there in a year?

A We average 150 a month.

Q Are the people from the mill village treated there frequently?

A Yes Sir, most of them, the large majority are in the mill I suppose. We have some outside but the majority are from the mill village, men, women and children. When we have the persons and treat them in the clinic we let them pay what they feel like, if it is 25¢, 50¢, \$1.00; \$3.00, I think, is the most we ever had.

Q What do you think the accurate list of the year would be of the contributions of the people who were

treated there?

A It was less than \$100.

Q You treated 150 a month; would that be a pretty fair average?

A Yes Sir.

Q What are the general physical conditions of those people that come to that infirmary?

Note: Miss Burton here produces the annual report of the Wesley House and requests that it be made a part of her testimony marked as "Exhibit 1".

Q Do you personally visit the homes of these people?

A Yes Sir.

Q That is part of your work as settlement worker, is it?

A Yes Sir.

Q Have you in your visits observed the conditions of the homes?

A I have.

Q How do you find the conditions?

A I find the conditions just pretty much the same as you would ever find among any poor class of people. Some of the houses are very poorly kept; some are very well kept, just as is true in any class.

Q What proportion of them would you think are well kept?

What would be a fair estimate of the well-kept homes?

A I think I can say one-third?

Q Two-thirds are not so well-kept?

A Two-thirds are not so well-kept. Perhaps one-third are not so well-kept and the others not so poorly kept.

Q Are the cottages usually four rooms?

A There are some cottages with four rooms to the family, and then there are double houses where there are four families, two families up-stairs and two families down-stairs with a dividing hall.

Q How many rooms to each family?

A Some, most of these double houses have three or four rooms. There are also some two-room cottages?

Q How many people have you seen in one house, for the most part? Have you noticed that, the largest number?

A I don't think over twelve. I speak now of the houses owned by the mill but the street just next, the street outside the village is where I recall finding nineteen in two rooms.

Q Were they working in the mill?

A Some few of them, but they are living in the mill houses.

Q You refer to the whole community?

A No, we do not confine our work to the mill people; we work in the whole community as well.

Q What kind of houses are there on the street that are in this village and not owned by the mills? What is the character of them?

A The character of the houses in this particular street of which I have just spoken is in very much worse condition than the houses of the mill community.

Q Do you ever visit these homes as well as those of the mill village?

A Yes Sir, I do, quite a often.

Q And in homes of people that do not work in the mills do you find the same condition?

A I do.

Q Do you find several families in one house?

A I do, equally as crowded up.

Q And hard working in their occupations?

A Yes Sir.

Q Do you find more illness among the mill village people than in these other surroundings?

A Not at all.

Q About the same conditions?

A About the same, yes Sir.

Q Where else have you done settlement work?

A This is my first settlement work.

Q Have you had experience in other mill villages in any way?

A No Sir, this is my first mill village. I was Church Deaconess before I came here, pastor's assistant, in Chattanooga five and a half years.

Q Then you have no other experiences in mill villages?

A No.

Q Does your work lead you out to the Exposition Mill village?

A Very little, that is so far away. I have had some little experience in Chattanooga with the knitting mill people.

Q In what condition did you find them?

A I found them in about the same condition that I found these people, or that I would find any poor class.

Q Have you paid any attention to the moral status of their lives in your work?

A Yes Sir.

Q Speaking generally what is the moral condition of these people? Are they a high grade of morals or not?

A I consider the morals among these people about as

you would find it, I might say I think, in any class. I have had a great deal of experience along that line among the middle and upper classes, especially in Chattanooga. I also worked in Kansas City, Mo., with an up-town church.

Q In what church in Kansas City?

A The Central Church?

Q The Central Methodist?

A Yes Sir.

Q Did you do settlement work in that church?

A I did parish visiting and my work was principally among the middle and higher classes. I find the morals here compare very favorably with the middle and higher class of people. The morals are not what could be wished for along any lines, but here, but that does not cover up the others.

Q Are these people church going people?

A Relatively, comparatively, I suppose they would compare with most classes. We have a Sunday School in connection with our work.

Q How large?

A An annual enrollment of 150.

Q Mostly from the mill village?

A Mostly, very few outside.

Q What education have these children as a rule?

A They are not, as a rule, educated.

Q Do a great number of them or not realize the value of an education?

A Just as is true in any city where they have no compulsory education.

Q Can many of them read and write?

A The ones who are now in school of course can. There are a great many out of school

Q What proportion do you think are out of school?

A I think I may almost say one-half.

Q How many children would you think are in this mill village for the population of it, as far as children are concerned?

A I think in a house to house canvass we made in the early fall we estimated about 1000 children.

Q In the mill village?

A Yes Sir.

Q Has Georgia compulsory education?

A It has not.

Q Have you any way in the Wesley House by which these children can obtain education?

A We have a night school where we take them from the first through the eighth grades?

Q Is that largely attended?

A Our attendance is something less than 100.
We have four nights a week.

Q Are they the children that work in the mills
in the daytime that come to school at night?

A Yes Sir.

Q What type of diseases are found in your infirmary
coming from this village?

A We have just ordinary diseases. We have a great
deal of throat trouble, tonsillitis and adenoids. We have had
the average of two persons per week since Christmas on
tonsillitis and adenoids. These are two of the principal
troubles we find. We have some hook-worm cases, not many
and we have got a few cases of pellagra.

Q Do the city physicians visit this village?

A Yes Sir.

Q Practice there much, do they?

A Yes Sir.

Q Do you know Dr. Garrett?

A Yes Sir. I have met him, I don't know him.

Q Do you know his professional standing in this
community?

A Yes Sir.

Q Is it high?

A It certainly is not. We have refused to work with

him at the Wesley House.

Q Do you mean the other physicians or the management?

A The management of the Wesley House; also the other physicians. Our staff of physicians do not.

Q The regular staff refuses to recognise him?

A Yes Sir.

Q Is he a man of any culture or training?

A Not at all.

Q Has no professional standing?

A No Sir.

Q How many cases of pellagra have you had? How long have you been with Wesley House?

A I will have been with Wesley House two years in October next.

Q How many cases of pellagra in that time?

A I think we have had something like twenty cases in the past year.

Q Is that a curable disease?

A It is under control to a certain extent.

Q Are there any deaths from it?

A Yes Sir, we have had possibly four deaths and two cases of insanity.

Q Do the physicians understand the cause of this disease? Do they assign any reason for it?

A No Sir, that is still a questions on which the physicians differ very much as to the cause.

Q Do you know whether or not people in other sections of this community have pellagra as well as people in this mill village?

A Yes Sir, we have some cases out of the village as well.

Q Then this disease called pellagra is not wholly confined to this village, is that correct?

A Not at all. We are just now working on something that we think is going to prove interesting. These people use self-rising flour entirely and our doctor who has pellagra work is working on that line and has had it analysed and finds a great deal of alum and he thinks that is responsible for much of the trouble. We are planning a fight on the self-rising flour.

Q What physician is that

A Dr. Blosser.

Q Do you know Mr. Elsas very well?

A Yes Sir, very well indeed.

Q Has he shown any particular interest in the work out there besides giving money?

A He shows a great deal of interest.

Q Can you tell me about the nursery what that is

for and how it is used?

A While we are speaking about Mr. Elsas I would like to tell you one thing we do that we do not use his name in at all. I do not know that he has asked me not to. At Christmas time he furnished money for the community tree giving every man, woman and child in the entire community, whether they worked in the mill or not, a present in the name of the Wesley House. We have people connected with our work who are not in the Fulton mills and of course we did not feel we could make a distinction and he did not think it wise to make a distinction so everybody connected with the Wesley House or working in this community were included at his expense. He also pays a cook and any deficit in the grocery bill and so on for the ten cent luncheon to be served to the people that they may have all they want of a good substantial meal at the noon hour.

Q Speaking of the cooking part, during the strike were the meals cooked for the strikers at the Wesley House?

A Not for the strikers. We had this lunch room before the strike and at that time lunches were served free to the employees of the mill, paid for by the mill. We served these lunches from the 20th of May to the middle

of August to any employee of the mill who would take advantage of it, 500 or 600 a day.

Q Were they sent to the mill?

A Yes Sir, we prepared them and they went to the mill and Wesley House both.

Q Now about the nursery: what have you to say about that?

A Our nursery is where the children are kept during the day while the mothers work in the mill or any other place. We keep them at 5^s a day and give them two meals and their care and the clothing during the day; clothing them when necessary.

Q Are you familiar with the wages paid in the Fulton Mill?

A Yes Sir.

Q How do you consider that wage? Is that a living wage?

A I consider it a living wage for the people who are capable of earning a living wage. There are people who are really not capable of earning a living wage.

Q Have you observed in your work in the village the tendency that a great many people have to change?

A Yes Sir, it is a very drifting population.

Q Have you any reasons to give for such a condition?

A Just the roving nature of the people is the only

way I can account for it; constantly looking for something better. Yesterday I had one woman wanting me to send her to Gainsville, thinking she could make more in Gainsville than here, and not less than an hour ago I had an application for a woman to get a position in this mill; she had come from Gainsville to Atlanta. They are always thinking they can make more than the other people make; they can get more in this mill than anywhere else.

Q Do you think the conditions in the mill village have anything to do with the desire to make that change?

A I think not.

Q Have you had any complaints of that kind?

A Very few.

Q You have heard some, have you?

A I have heard some.

Q Have you heard, in your work, of the working conditions in the mills?

A None, except a few of the strikers. People who are in the mill as a rule are very well satisfied.

Q You do not hear complaints from the strikers?

A I hear complaints from the strikers.

Q Do you know of any cases that you recall where women were suffering because they could not get their money from the mill?

A I do not. At any time when a person is out in the mill because of sickness a statement from the doctor or from the nurse at the Wesley House to the paymaster here enables them to get their money.

Q Then if complaints are made about their not being able to obtain their money under such conditions, when complains are made of that kind, they have a way by which they can obtain their money when they are sick?

A Yes Sir, when they are sick they can obtain their money.

Q Would a statement from you be sufficient for them to obtain their monny?

A During the absence of the nurse they accept my statements as a rule, though as a rule we send the doctor or the nurse.

Q Do you know of any case since you have been there where a family actually suffered from conditions for any reason?

A Yes Sir, I do know of cases where they suffered.

Q You were called in some of these cases?

A Yes Sir.

Q What were the reasons for such complaints when you investigated?

A Mostly sickness.

Q Would Wesley House then provide for them in such cases?

A Yes Sir. I find a good deal of suffering particularly because of worthless husbands and fathers; poor management on the part of the mother, among other conditions.

Q Have you paid any attention to that situation in that mill village?

A Yes Sir.

Q Are there many fathers who do not work?

A There are quite a number.

Q Are they able to work?

A Some of them are, many of them are.

Q Do the mothers work in these cases?

A Very often.

Q And the children?

A Yes Sir. I find that true in other walks of life.

Q You find this is not confined to the mill village?

A Yes Sir, I find it is not confined to the mill village, I come in touch with such cases in other walks in life where the same conditions obtain.

Q Is that a condition brought about by physical defects or constitutional defects or from loss of influence?

A I would say the latter.

A To what extent do you think - I would like to hear

what you have to say on it -- to what extent if any do you attribute this roving nature to the actual degeneracy or lack of vitality?

A I don't know that I will be willing to say to what extent. I don't think I could say anything on that.

Q Do you think that enters into it?

A It does.

Q Have you a cooking school in the Wesley House?

A Yes Sir.

Q Please tell about the school and its activities.

A We teach the girls to prepare and serve a meal. We have classes, seven in a class. I think it is five or six classes. I don't recollect. I think that will come in my annual report.

Q Do the people of the mill village take advantage of that department, the girls?

A Most of the cooking school girls are in the mill.

Q Is there anything else you would like to speak about?

A It will all come in my annual report. Saturday evenings we furnish a concert and try to give them profitable amusement.

Q Every Saturday evening.

A Yes Sir.

Q Will your report cover the boys' club?

A Yes Sir.

Q Have you a boys' club in connection with that?

A Yes Sir.

Q How long has that club been established there?

A About fifteen years.

Q Is this boys' club, connected with the Wesley House, been established all that time?

A The first was the day nursery, then the clinic, then the girls' work and then the boys' work. One followed the other with just a few months lapsing between.

Q Are the boys in that club mostly connected with the mill?

A The larger percentage of them are.

Q What is the membership of that club?

A We have about six different boys' clubs.

Q In the aggregate how many young men have you?

A About 100.

Q Do you have religious services at the Wesley House each Sunday?

A We have Sunday School every Sunday afternoon.

Q Did I ask you what the attendance of that Sunday School is?

A About 150.

Q How many workers are there in connection with the Wesley House?

A Six resident workers.

Q You are the head resident?

A Yes Sir, the superintendent.

Q Do you receive other contributions from the community for the assistance of that work besides the mill's and besides your church?

A No. Well I don't know about that; I may be wrong about that. We do from time to time receive other contributions from other interested people. Just yesterday, I think it was, I had a check from the Children's Welfare Community of the Women's Club to be used for millinery for the school children, the children of the village.

Q How does the work in the Wesley House compare with other institutions of that kind you have seen or been interested in?

A Our work is annexed to the churches of the Southern Methodist Church, just as in St. Louis.

Q Were you familiar with the sanitary conditions of this community prior to the strike?

A Yes Sir.

Q What were they?

A They were not ideal but they seldom are among the working class people, among the poorer class of people.

Q Have you observed the conditions since the strike?

A Yes Sir.

Q Have there been any improvements made?

A Some improvements have been made as to the sewerage.

Q In what condition is the sewerage there now?

A The sewerage system is in fairly good condition.

It is not kept as it should be by the tenants many times, but the mill furnishes men who go through the village every day and clean up. Only a few days ago I heard a woman remark, "If the people would do as much to keep things sanitary as the mill they would be ideal".

Q Do you know of any way by which people could be required to take care of their homes and make them more cleanly?

A It seems to me that would be more for the city than for the mill.

Q Are the toilets now connected with the sewer?

A Yes Sir.

Q There had been troughs prior to the strike, weren't there?

A Well, there were sewer connection.

Q But these open troughs were flushed out?

A Yes Sir.

Q What is the general character of these people from a workman's standpoint? Are they industrious, these

people in the mill village except those you have mentioned?

A Yes Sir, a great many of them are industrious.

Q Do you know of any cases where small children from this village are worked in the mill?

A I do not, I think many times the age has been misrepresented. I know of 100 cases where there have been sworn statements that they were of the proper age to work. That is, what the ^{law} allowed. The parents misrepresent in many cases and are still doing it.

Q You think nearly 100 children of lower age have worked in the mill?

A I think so.

Q About how often does that happen?

A I don't know that I could say, it happens so very often, but quite frequently.

Q You have seen cases?

A Yes Sir, when it is brought to the attention of the mill owners we look into it and the child goes.

Q Has that happened in your observation since the passage of the last child labor law passed here last summer by the legislature?

A I believe, I have not the proof, but I believe there are children under age though their parents have sworn that they are fourteen and a half to fifteen; but there is a very great doubt in my mind about their age.
