

is being offered locally by an existing agency. If there are several of these agencies the club may wish to appoint a subcommittee of the boys work committee to cooperate with each. On the other hand, if no such agency has been established locally, the club may take the leadership in creating a community-wide interest which will succeed in getting the needed organization started. Upon request the secretariat will provide a list of these organizations together with the addresses of the central or regional offices from which information can be obtained.

Types of Boys Work

Among the many aspects of boys work to which the committee might give attention are the following:

1. Opportunities in the community for healthy physical growth.
2. Opportunities for basic education, vocational training, etc.
3. Juvenile delinquency.
4. Occupational guidance and placement.
5. Appreciation of and training for citizenship.

Boys Work in Wartime

While we are giving all credit and every possible attention to the boys who are wearing the uniform of their country, let us not forget that there is another generation of boys, too young for military or naval service, who are also having their problems as a direct result of the war. They are living and growing up in an abnormal period and need the helpful cooperation and guidance of their elders more than ever before. Boys work by Rotary clubs, therefore, takes on a new and added significance and each Rotary club should re-survey

the local situation in the light of today's conditions and plan its work accordingly.

The period during and following a major war is usually marked by a serious increase in juvenile delinquency. This is due in part to a war psychology, but perhaps a great deal of this letting down in moral standards can be traced to a weakening of the institutions responsible for character building. This may be due to a loss of manpower (leadership), to a reduction in needed financial assistance, or because adult attention is focused on the broader field of world events. The Rotary club can do much to see that these important character building agencies—the home, the church, the school, and special community organizations—do not suffer for lack of adequate support and encouragement during this critical period.

The war psychology can even be used to advantage in developing a more efficient boys work program within a community. The excitement of war has appeal to the imagination of the average boy. He pictures himself as the hero if the fortunes of war should bring its horrors to his door. He is eager to prepare himself for any eventuality. If he can be shown, for example, that Scouting, with its training in first aid and its general program which leads to self reliance in any emergency, would help to fit him for service to his country, it is likely that he will enter into the spirit of Scout work with a renewed enthusiasm. Make the boy an active partner in any local plans for civilian defense and his natural enthusiasm can be directed into safe channels. Recreational facilities should be maintained—even improved. School standards should not be lowered. Boys need help in selecting careers. Through friendly interest the boy should be made to feel he is an important citizen of the community.