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Disability and the League of Nations: the Crippled Child's Bill of Rights and a call for an International Bureau of Information, 1931

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Disability and the League of Nations: the Crippled Child’s Bill of Rights and a call for an International Bureau of Information, 1931

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In Disability Studies the evolution of conceptual models is often portrayed as linear, with a nineteenth-century charity model shifting to the medical model that dominated disability discourse in the twentieth century. This is then assumed to be largely unchallenged until the 1970s, when an emergent Disability Rights Movement re-framed issues into the social model, from which evolved a rights-based model. This paper documents two early efforts to address disability issues submitted to the League of Nations: the Crippled Child’s Bill of Rights in 1931 and a ‘Memorial’ requesting the establishment of an International Bureau of Information on Crippled Children in 1929. Neither submission achieved its stated goals, yet both reflect early attempts to place disability within wider social contexts.

Keywords: UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; League of Nations; social model; conceptual models; history of disability

Points of interest

- The adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its ratification by an increasing number of countries reflects an important milestone in both disability rights and human rights, and was built on a series of advocacy campaigns over a number of years, producing documents that helped to clarify and define goals, aims and aspirations.
- This paper provides a brief history of two linked documents: the Crippled Child’s Bill of Rights (1931) and a ‘Memorial’ requesting the establishment of an International Bureau of Information for Children with Disabilities (1929).
- These documents, submitted to the League of Nations, foreshadow a number of key disability rights ideas – even showing gender awareness – that would only re-emerge in the past few decades.
- The progressive nature of these two documents indicates that the actual history of addressing disabilities issues was, in some cases, more complex and nuanced than is often assumed.

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Introduction

The adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its subsequent ratification by an increasing number of countries reflects an important milestone in both disability rights and human rights (United Nations 2006). Ratification of the CRPD is being accompanied by efforts throughout the United Nations system, as well as within bilateral agencies, national governments, and at local and regional levels to create an evidence base upon which disability rights can be monitored and evaluated (Enable 2012).

The CRPD did not come out of thin air, however – it was built on a series of advocacy campaigns that produced documents which helped to clarify and define goals, aims and aspirations. This is a brief history of two linked documents, both sponsored by the International Society for Crippled Children (today known as Rehabilitation International) that foreshadow ideas that would only re-emerge in the past few decades. These documents are now almost entirely forgotten, but both deserve a place in disability history. The forum was the League of Nations and the year was 1931.

The most comprehensive of these documents was the crippled Child's Bill of Rights (International Society for Crippled Children 1931a), which in its time was widely circulated. The culmination of what its promoters called a 'Crippled Child Movement', it was adopted by the International Society for Crippled Children at their Second World Conference in 1931, and then presented to the League of Nations, as well as being circulated widely to politicians, medical experts and leaders of civil society. Although clearly showing the strong medical/rehabilitative roots of those who drafted it, the Bill is nonetheless, surprisingly modern in tone, foreshadowing a number of key disability rights points – even showing gender awareness – issues that would not re-emerge as prominent concerns for another 40 years.

The second document, also promoted by the International Society, is equally interesting. Entitled 'Memorial to the League of Nations Requesting the Establishment within the Proper Section of the League of an International Bureau of Information for the Collection of Data Pertaining to the Care, Education and Treatment of the Crippled and of the Handicapped, and the Dissemination of such Information', it calls for the establishing of an evidence base on disability issues and can be seen as a precursor to the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. Perhaps the most interesting part of both these documents is that they represent early attempts to frame disability issues in social, economic and human rights terms.

This paper provides a brief discussion of these pioneering efforts. The progressive nature of these two documents indicates that while the 'medical model' of disability was dominant in the first part of the twentieth century, the actual history of addressing disabilities issues was, in some cases, more complex and nuanced than is often assumed.

Background

In April 1931, the International Society for Crippled Children, at their Tenth Annual Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, adopted The Crippled Child's Bill of Rights. Later that same year, the Bill was put before a committee at the Second World Conference on the Problem of the Crippled held in The Hague, Netherlands, where it was ratified, adopted unanimously by members of the Congress and then widely circulated.

While the actual drafting of the Bill is poorly documented, it appears to have been the latest in a series of efforts made by the International Society for Crippled Children to bring attention to the needs and concerns of children with physical disabilities.

This International Society itself had only been founded 10 years earlier, the outgrowth of what was originally a local effort to improve care for children with physical disabilities in the rural American state of Ohio. The Society was founded by Edgar F. (Daddy) Allen, a respected middle-aged businessman, who initially had been active in establishing a local hospital. Once the hospital was functioning, a local doctor asked for Allen's help in addressing the needs of an unanticipated large number of children with physical disabilities in the surrounding communities whose medical, rehabilitative and educational needs were largely unmet.

In response, Allen, working with Rotary, the new civic organization founded in nearby Chicago in 1905, began a series of innovative regional outreach clinics, first covering Ohio as the Ohio Society for Crippled Children, then expanding to a number of other American states, and becoming the National Society for Crippled Children in 1921. In 1922 the society went international when they accepted the membership of a Canadian clinic in nearby Ontario, renaming themselves the International Society for Crippled Children in 1922 (Groce 2002).

The Society soon expanded to include representatives from England, France, Switzerland and beyond. Interestingly, in addition to offering clinical services for disabled children, a basic goal of the new Society was to serve as a clearinghouse for information on medical, social and educational issues as these affected children with physical disabilities, and also to serve as an advocate for legislative and policies that concerned these children. While the Society was focused specifically on children with disabilities, because there was no other organization that took a cross-disability, cross-disciplinary and international approach to disability, the Society was unique and it soon began to be called upon as a source of information for adults with disability as well.

Within the first year, the Society had begun to systematically collect and distribute information on the conditions and laws that existed throughout North America on behalf of disabled children. Correspondence had been also established with the Children's Bureau of the US Department of Labour and with the Rockefeller and Russell Sage Foundations (*The Crippled Child* 1926).

The international work of the organization had no single direction and issues were addressed as they arose: a packet of information on physically disabled children would be assembled and sent to California or New Jersey, Greece or Brazil. A letter requesting information from a teacher in Japan would be answered and a volunteer would give a lecture in Michigan to try to raise $500 for work with children with disabilities in Bulgaria (Groce 1993, 2002).

Much of the early success of the International Society was due to Edgar Allen's ability to articulate international concerns, and these are particularly striking given his small-town roots. His thinking may in part have been influenced by Rotary, with which he and other key members of the International Society were also deeply involved. Rotary had a local/global perspective that is also strikingly present in much of the early work of the International Society (Groce 2002). It may also have been a logical assumption on Allen's part to believe that if disabled children were underserved and in need in the heart of relatively affluent Ohio, their existence in other parts of the globe must have been at least as precarious.

Whatever the source, it is remarkable that even in the very earliest years of the Society, Allen and his associates were raising issues that remain significant today. For example, Allen insisted that individuals with disabilities are limited by social attitudes far more than by physical impairments (Allen 1923), He clearly articulated the argument heard throughout the subsequent decades that it made good economic sense for adults with disability to receive a solid education and job training, as they would return these expenditures may times over as taxpayers. Indeed, in an early interview with Allen in 1922 (Gregg 1922), it appears that Allen had even calculated the cost to society if children with physical disabilities did not receive education and training – foreshadowing the International Labor Organization study that recently attempted to do the same for the global economy (International Labor Organization 2009).[1] Finally, in an era in which almost all services for individuals with disabilities were still presented as 'noble' and 'charitable,' Allen strongly argued that individuals with disability had a 'right' to independence and equal opportunity (Allen 1923).

The emphasis of the Society was specifically on physical disabilities. Although occasionally in touch with deaf and blind advocacy groups, the International Society rarely joined forces with other disability organizations. Organizations for and by deaf and blind constituencies had already established circuits of schools and institutions with their own national and international networks. The International Society instead formed new links with medical facilities, civic organizations and prominent politicians that had not previously been involved with international disability efforts.

As has been the case for many disability advocacy groups, almost from its earliest days, the International Society – although consistently working on a shoestring budget, and with a small staff made up largely of volunteers – came to wield influence greater than its size would indicate, particularly in the United States. Because the work was largely on children with disabilities and not adults, participation by disability advocates and professionals who were themselves disabled is relatively rare in the early annals of the International Society, although not unknown. (Groce 2002).

Allen, who always served as an unpaid volunteer, was the heart of the Society, and he seems to have been particularly good at strategic thinking. Within the first few years of the founding of the Society in 1921, Allen had covered thousands of miles by car, speaking anywhere he was invited – local Rotary Societies, civic organizations, political conventions, physicians' associations (Allen 1923). He recruited hundreds and then thousands of volunteers to help him. He used the press, the pulpit and even the new medium of radio to reach an increasingly interested public (Allen 1925).

Articles on Allen and the Society, such as a piece in the Rotarian in 1922, brought global attention (Gregg 1922; The Rotarian 1929). The Society published a newsletter (*The Crippled Child*) – which by 1926 had 3000 paid subscribers, but was sent 'free of charge' to at least 20,000 other medical experts, politicians and civic leaders in North America and Europe.

As part of these efforts, as early as 1924, Allen began to speak of 'The Crippled Child's Movement'[2] – his way of bringing together a broad array of civic and political leaders, medical, educational and social service providers and families of children with disabilities to advocate on behalf of improved care and services for physically disabled children. It is unclear what the exact nature of this 'Movement' was. Certainly, it is referred to regularly by the International Society and by Rotary

International, but the 'cause' was not taken up by other mainstream disability organizations from the Deaf or blind communities, and did not include many individuals who were themselves disabled. Its main effect seems to have been as an advocacy tool to present issues related to children with disabilities to medical, political and civic leaders. In this realm, the idea of a 'Crippled Child's Movement' seems to have gained some resonance.

Part of the reason why there was some success for this Crippled Child's Movement was that by 1926 or 1927 Allen had begun to court international publicity and to count national leaders and famous politicians in both the United States and Europe as personal friends. In his Annual Report to the International Society in 1926, Allen estimates that 'between one-half and three-quarters of all Americans were now familiar with the International Society and that firm contacts had been established with individuals or societies in New Zealand, Australia, England, Holland and Germany' (*The Crippled Child* 1926, 3, 6, 1). This seems to be a wild overestimate – it is hard to imagine that any group could have become so well known so quickly – but it is true that Rotary International had taken up the cause of the International Society with great vigor and a continual stream of articles in newspapers and magazines and radio programs helped bring attention both the needs of children with disabilities and to the International Society.

A reflection of the growing importance of the Society is reflected in the Society's Annual Conference in Memphis, Tennessee in 1928, which featured two keynote speakers: Arthur Sapp, President of Rotary International; and the governor of New York State, the Honourable Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who spoke on 'Why Bother with the Cripple' (Roosevelt 1929). Roosevelt remained in close touch with Allen. On 18 February 1931 Roosevelt gave a national radio address entitled 'Radio Address on a Program of Assistance for the Crippled,' in which he argues for better disability prevention efforts, but also for increased employment and better medical services for individuals with disability. Early in his speech Roosevelt states:

> … and I have a letter from my old friend Daddy Allen, whom a great many people all over the United States know as the man who started the International Society for Crippled Children which has branches in every civilized country of the world. He tells me that work is going on in every State in this Union. (Roosevelt 1931)

Given what is now known about Roosevelt's own disability following a bout of polio in 1921, support of Allen's work is particularly interesting (Gallagher 1985).

Content of the Bill

By the late 1920s, the ideas of Allen and his colleagues seem to have coalesced into the idea of a Bill of Rights (also referred to as The Crippled Children's Charter of Ten Rights) that summarized the central demands of the Crippled Child's Movement. The idea of a 'Bill of Rights' was almost undoubtedly influenced by the Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child that was submitted to the League of Nations in 1924 – and which itself served as a precursor to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF n.d.).

It is unclear who wrote the initial version of this Bill of Rights, but given the progressive views expressed in the Bill, as well as the lead that Allen took in all matters pertaining to the International Society at this period it time, it is probable that Allen was the key author or closely oversaw the drafting of the document.

The Bill itself is certainly striking. It contains 10 rights. Beginning with the need for good prenatal, perinatal and newborn care to prevent disability where possible, the Bill then goes on to acknowledge that disability is not always preventable and to advocate for the right of children with disabilities to adequate medical care, education and vocational training that would allow them to become 'independent adults.' It also calls for the right to self-determination and to 'considerate treatment' (what today would be social inclusion), as well as the right to spiritual, physical and intellectual development.

Specifically, the Bill itself states:

> I. Every child has the right to be well born; that is to say, the right to a sound body, complete in its members, physically whole. In the securing of this right we pledge ourselves to use our influence that proper pre-natal, intra-natal and post-natal care be provided to the end that congenital deformity, insofar as it is humanly and scientifically possible, be prevented.
>
> II. Every child has the right to develop under clean, wholesome, healthful conditions. In declaring this right, this Society undertakes to use its influence to the end that children everywhere, through proper legislation, both local and general, and through proper supervision and protection, may grow to manhood and womanhood free from crippling conditions caused by insufficient nourishment, improver food, or unsanitary environment, and free, so far as possible from the danger of accident, wounding or maiming.
>
> III. Notwithstanding the rights of children to be well born and to protected throughout childhood, it is recognized that in spite of all human precautions there will be, unfortunately, some crippled children. These we declare to have the right to the earliest possible examination, diagnosis and treatment, recognizing as we do, the fact that many thousand cases of permanent crippling may be eliminated by early and effective care.
>
> IV. Every crippled child has the right, not only to the earliest possible treatment, but to the most effective continuing care, treatment and nursing, including the use of such appliances as are best calculated to assist in remedying or ameliorating its condition.
>
> V. Every crippled child has the right to an education. Without this, all other provisions unless for the relief of actual suffering, are in vain.
>
> VI. Every crippled child has the right not only to care, treatment and education, but to such treatment as will fit him or her for self-support, either wholly or partially, as the conditions may dictate. Without such practical application education is likewise purposeless.
>
> VII. Every crippled child has the right to vocational placement, for unless the child – boy or girl – after having been given physical care and treatment, and after being educated and trained, is actually placed in a proper position in the life of the World, all that has gone before is of no avail.
>
> VIII. Every crippled child has the right to considerate treatment, not only for those responsible for its being and for its care, treatment, education, training and placement, but from those with whom it is thrown into daily contact, and every possible influence should be exerted by this and affiliated organizations to secure this right, in order that, so far as possible, the crippled child may be spared the stinging jibe or the bitter taunt, or, worse still, the demoralizing pity of its associates.

> IX. Every crippled child has the right to spiritual, as well as bodily development, and, without regard to particular religious or denominational beliefs, is entitled to have nourishment for soul-growth.
>
> X. In brief, not only for its own sake, but for the benefit of Society as a whole, every crippled child has the right to the best body which modern science can help it to secure; the best mind which modern education can provide; the best training which modern vocational guidance can give; the best position in life which his physical condition, perfected as best it may be, will permit, and the best opportunity for spiritual development which its environment afford.

Certainly, the language is often antiquated. And because this is an effort by adults on behalf of children, the idea of the right of children to their own voices, is not strongly reflected, which is not surprising as this was not a major issue earlier in the twentieth century. Nor is the role of the family clearly articulated. Nonetheless, the range of issues raised go far beyond the medical/rehabilitative realm to speak of social, cultural, economic and human rights issues that would appear decades later in the CRPD. All in all, it is not bad for 1931.

Ratification and circulation

Whatever the date of its initial drafting, the first roll out of the Bill seems to have taken place in April 1931 at the Tenth Annual Convention of the International Society in Cleveland, Ohio, where it was presented and ratified by a small but enthusiastic group of attendees.

Later that same year, the Bill was presented to a Committee at the Second World Conference on the Problem of the Cripple, organized by the International Society in late June.[3] Participants hailed from 23 countries – throughout Europe and North America, but also from Japan, Egypt, Colombia and Chile. The Bill was presented as a Resolution for consideration from a Committee chaired by Paul H. King, the new President of the International Society; the Resolution was moved by Edgar F. Allen, then President Emeritus of the International Society, and seconded by Paul P. Harris, founder of Rotary International. The Bill was then presented to the Conference delegates and unanimously carried (International Society for Crippled Children 1931a).

The Bill of Rights was widely distributed (including copies designed to be framed and hung) (Appendix 1). Establishing a pattern that would be followed in the post-World War II era by many disability advocacy groups, the International Society leaders immediately began to arrange formal presentation of the new Crippled Child's Bill to members of the League of Nations and to leading political and civic leaders around the world.

League of Nations and Memorial on an International Bureau of Information

Contact with the League of Nations on behalf of the Crippled Child's Bill was a natural extension of the links to the League that had been established three years earlier when the International Society had held its first World Conference on the League of Nations' doorstep in Geneva in 1929. Although organized under the auspices of the Americans, some 50 people attended this Congress from 12 countries including France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy and Uruguay (International Society for Crippled Children 1929). Few of those attending were themselves disabled, but there was a mix of educators, administrators of rehabilitation centers and other social support services, in addition to medical experts.

At this Conference, the International Society broke new ground by submitting a petition to the League of Nations. Entitled 'Memorial to the League of Nations Requesting the Establishment within the Proper Section of the League of an International Bureau of Information for the Collection of Data Pertaining to the Care, Education and Treatment of the Crippled and of the Handicapped, and the Dissemination of such Information', it requested the 'establishment of a Central Bureau on the collection of all valuable information, literature, reprints and records of accomplishments of different countries on the care, education and training of handicapped children' (International Society for Crippled Children 1931b).

The exact wording of the Memorial itself is unknown because no copy survives in the Rehabilitation International archives and a copy has yet to be located in documents from the League of Nations. Based on existing memoranda, it would appear that the Memorial argued that there was a need for bringing together all existing information, as well as the need for enumerating the number of children and adults with disabilities in all countries, in order for effective policy and programming to take place. We know this because a follow-up Resolution by the Society during their Second World Congress at The Hague in 1931 thanks the League of Nations for accepting the proposal 'in principal' and placing it on its Agenda for consideration (Appendix 2).

To this earlier contact was now added the Child's Bill of Rights, which was sent to League of Nations delegates and circulated to League of Nations committees, in addition to the presentations at national levels to political and civil leaders noted above in 1931.

Where did it go?

Given the progressive nature of both the Bill and the Memorial, the question of what happened next is an intriguing one.

The Bill itself seems to have circulated widely for at least two or three years after 1931, with presentations to political and civic leaders, and with copies being widely distributed in publications from both the International Society with its extensive network of experts in disability, rehabilitation and vocational service provision, as well as through Rotary International's publications and networks. It was regularly mentioned in public presentations given by Allen and others in both North America and Europe (i.e. *Montreal Gazette* 1931).

The idea of an Information Bureau does not seem to have been carried forward within the League of Nations, as is evidenced by the fact that four years later the question of estimating the actual number of children with disabilities worldwide and collecting useful information on this population was revisited at the Third World Congress, held in Budapest in 1936, when the Society's President Paul King, in an opening address entitled 'Nature and Extent of Problem,' again called for 'some estimate, however crude of the scope of the entire problem' (King 1936).

The best that might be said of the lasting effects of promoting both the Bill of Rights and the International Bureau of Information is that the strong emphasis on 'non-medical' components of providing support and services for children with physical disabilities may have helped to frame the thinking of some experts and advocates on the non-medical needs of children with disabilities in the years leading up to World War II.

Two key reasons seem to help explain why efforts to promote the Bill and the International Bureau of Information stalled and then disappeared. The first barrier appears to have been the League of Nations itself, which lacked the funding and true collaboration to move forward in efforts to address the needs of marginalized populations. As political issues came to dominate the League's attention when World War II began to loom ever closer and national delegations pulled out of the League, interest in and commitment to addressing disability issues (never a serious focus) moved ever lower on the League's list of priorities.

The second barrier was economic. The deepening Depression on both sides of the Atlantic drastically limited the work of the International Society, as funding for travel and international advocacy shrank. The years leading up to and through World War II almost ended the International Society itself. It first split in two, with the component of the International Society that provided services in the United States (and which received the bulk of the funding) splitting to become what is today Easter Seals and the broader International Society becoming almost dormant (Groce 2002).

In the years following World War II, however, a new United Nations replaced the earlier League of Nations. The International Society revived and, beginning in the early 1950s, played a key role in early disability activities within the new United Nations.[4]

By the early 1950s, however, the medical model had come to dominate global disability and rehabilitation work. The advances in modern medicine were a dominant theme in the era itself, and within the disability realm new advances in rehabilitative surgery and major advances in disability prevention such as the success of the polio vaccine overshadowed earlier and more balanced approaches to persons with disability and to rehabilitation. There were articulate disability advocates who did not lose sight of broader disability concerns (Groce 1992), but their ability to reach and effect national and international policies were severely limited and they found themselves significantly marginalized as proponents of the medical model dominated the national and international arenas. It would take years for a broader model of disability to return and years more before disability begin to receive more focused attention within the United Nations system.

Conclusion

In Disability Studies, the conceptual models of disability are often portrayed in terms of a continuing forward march. A nineteenth-century charity model is replaced in the twentieth century by a medical model that increasingly came to dominate disability discourse (Oliver 2009). In the 1970s and 1980s, an emergent global Disability Rights Movement reframed the discourse with a social model, from which a new rights-based model has emerged. This is, in good measure, true. However, the evolution of ideas is rarely as straightforward as in real life. This paper has documented two early and little known examples of early advocacy work on disability.

The Crippled Child's Bill of Rights and the Memorial requesting a Bureau of Information were not successful efforts, but they both reflect innovative thinking and creative leadership. There are significant differences between these early efforts and more recent disability advocacy efforts. For one thing, much of this work was specifically for children with physical disabilities and did not extend to children or adults with other types of disabilities. Nor did these efforts include other long-established groups that represented various parts of the disability community (organizations that represented the Deaf community, for example, or the strong advocacy groups for the blind). Moreover, the Bill and the Bureau were both efforts run on behalf of, but not by, representatives of the disability community.

Nonetheless, the Crippled Child's Bill and the Memorial to create a Bureau of Information within the League of Nations were both the focus of an international campaign; these efforts were brought to the floor of the League of Nations and these calls for action were widely circulated internationally. Many of the ideas and recommendations they present are found again in the United Nations CRPD and in calls for strengthening the evidence base on disability. As such, these documents represent a moment – and a lost opportunity – in disability history. They present important ideas that would not reappear for another half-century.

History is often framed in terms of a gradual progression of ideas and movement. But this progression is not always straightforward and ideas and policies can move backwards as well as forwards. As such, the documents presented here are interesting not only because they reflect significant advances in thinking but also because they serve as a warning to how quickly advances can be lost without consistent vigilance and adequate follow through.

Notes

1. In the interview, Allen calculated the average American worker would earn $7000 in a lifetime. Assuming that 200,000 children with physical disabilities in the United States were currently not receiving the medical and educational support they needed to become independent adults, Allen calculated a loss to the American economy of $1,400,000,000 (Gregg 1922, 183). The accuracy of the number of children affected and the earnings assumed over a lifetime aside, the attempt to put a price tag on withholding needed resources and support for children with disabilities is still an interesting and innovative approach and foreshadows the recent International Labor Organization (2009) report, which takes a similar approach.
2. Sometimes referred to instead as 'The Crippled *Children's* Movement.'
3. The International Society had begun a practice of holding international conferences every three or four years, the first taking place in Geneva in 1929. These international conferences continue, the most recent being the 22nd Rehabilitation World Congress, in Inchon, Korea in October 2012.
4. The first United Nations publication on disability, *Social Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped*, was authored by Rehabilitation International Secretary General Norman Acton in 1950 (United Nations 1950), and Rehabilitation International went on to play a key role in United Nations activities throughout the following decades. Today, as Rehabilitation International, it remains an important player both at the United Nations level and in a number of countries worldwide.

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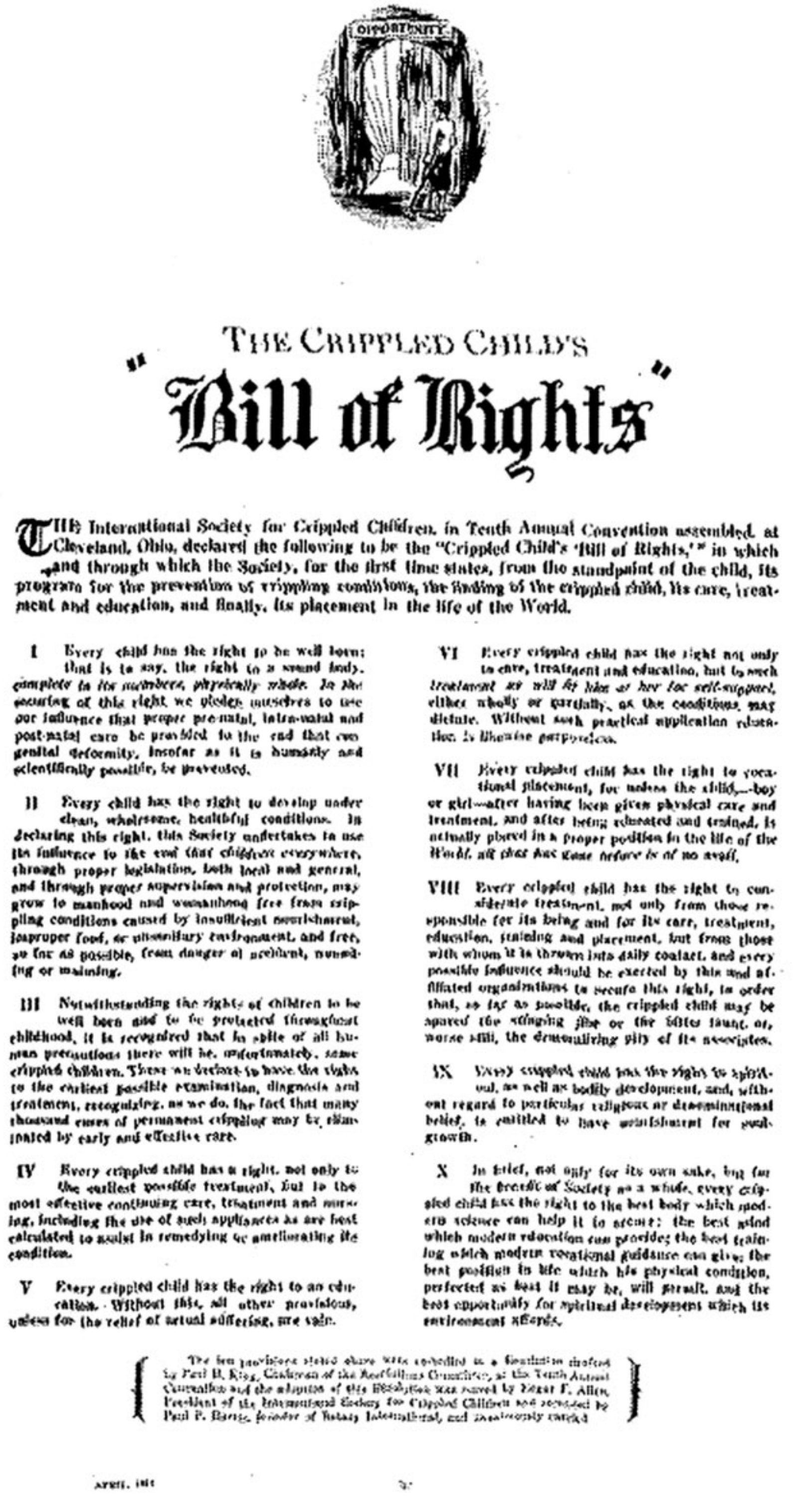
Appendix 1



THE CRIPPLED CHILD'S
"Bill of Rights"

THE International Society for Crippled Children, in Tenth Annual Convention assembled at Cleveland, Ohio, declared the following to be the "Crippled Child's 'Bill of Rights,'"* in which and through which the Society, for the first time states, from the standpoint of the child, its program for the prevention of crippling conditions, the finding of the crippled child, its care, treatment and education, and finally, its placement in the life of the World.

I Every child has the right to be well born; that is to say, the right to a sound body, complete in its members, physically whole. In the securing of this right we pledge ourselves to use our influence that proper pre-natal, intra-natal and post-natal care be provided to the end that congenital deformity, insofar as it is humanly and scientifically possible, be prevented.

II Every child has the right to develop under clean, wholesome, healthful conditions. In declaring this right, this Society undertakes to use its influence to the end that children everywhere, through proper legislation, both local and general, and through proper supervision and protection, may grow to manhood and womanhood free from crippling conditions caused by insufficient nourishment, improper food, or unsanitary environment, and free, so far as possible, from danger of accident, wounding or maiming.

III Notwithstanding the rights of children to be well born and to be protected throughout childhood, it is recognized that in spite of all human precautions there will be, unfortunately, some crippled children. These we declare to have the rights to the earliest possible examination, diagnosis and treatment, recognizing, as we do, the fact that many thousand cases of permanent crippling may be eliminated by early and effective care.

IV Every crippled child has a right, not only to the earliest possible treatment, but to the most effective continuing care, treatment and nursing, including the use of such appliances as are best calculated to assist in remedying or ameliorating its condition.

V Every crippled child has the right to an education. Without this, all other provisions, unless for the relief of actual suffering, are vain.

VI Every crippled child has the right not only to care, treatment and education, but to such treatment as will fit him or her for self-support, either wholly or partially, as the conditions may dictate. Without such practical application education is likewise purposeless.

VII Every crippled child has the right to vocational placement, for unless the child,—boy or girl—after having been given physical care and treatment, and after being educated and trained, is actually placed in a proper position in the life of the World, all that has gone before is of no avail.

VIII Every crippled child has the right to considerate treatment, not only from those responsible for its being and for its care, treatment, education, training and placement, but from those with whom it is thrown into daily contact, and every possible influence should be exerted by this and affiliated organizations to secure this right, in order that, so far as possible, the crippled child may be spared the stinging jibe or the idler taunt, or, worse still, the demoralizing pity of its associates.

IX Every crippled child has the right to spiritual, as well as bodily development, and, without regard to particular religious or denominational belief, is entitled to have nourishment for soul growth.

X In brief, not only for its own sake, but for the benefit of Society as a whole, every crippled child has the right to the best body which modern science can help it to secure; the best mind which modern education can provide; the best training which modern vocational guidance can give; the best position in life which his physical condition, perfected as best it may be, will permit, and the best opportunity for spiritual development which its environment affords.

*The ten provisions stated above were embodied in a Resolution drafted by Paul H. King, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, at the Tenth Annual Convention and the adoption of this Resolution was moved by Edgar F. Allen, President of the International Society for Crippled Children and seconded by Paul P. Harris, founder of Rotary International, and unanimously carried.

APRIL, [illegible]

Appendix 2

Resolution No. 12: Expressing Appreciation to the League of Nations

WHEREAS, pursuant to the action of the First World Conference on the Problem of the Crippled, held in Geneva, Switzerland, August, 1929, there has been presented to the League of Nations a memorial entitled:
"Memorial to the League of Nations requesting the establishment within the proper section of the league of an International Bureau of Information for the collection of data pertaining to the care, education and treatment of the crippled and of the handicapped, and the dissemination of such information"; and

WHEREAS, such memorial has been most graciously received and considered and the proposals contained therein accepted in principle and placed on the Agenda of the League for consideration at the session this Autumn; therefore, be it.

RESOLVED, by the Second World Conference of Workers for the Crippled, assembled in the City of The Hague, their third day of July, 1931, that we express to the League of Nations our most cordial appreciation of the consideration already accorded the memorial and our earnest hope that its appeal may find further favorable action as soon as it can consistently be taken; and be it.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of these Resolutions properly attested, be presented to the League of Nations as an evidence of our great appreciation and keen and continued interest.