PRESENCE OF AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD

AS IT AFFECTS MARITAL ADJUSTMENT

A Thesis Presented for the Degree
of Master of Arts in
Social Administration

by

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The Ohio State University
1947

Approved by:
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to see how the marital adjustment is affected by having an "illegitimate" child in the home as a part of the family group when the mother is married to someone other than the father of the child. Mother, husband and child are considered.

HOW THE STUDY CAME TO BE MADE

As a beginning student worker at the Family and Children's Bureau, Columbus, Ohio, the writer noticed that out of twelve cases which she was carrying ten had the factor of illegitimacy that had affected in some way the marital adjustment. This aroused interest in knowing what problems were created when this factor was present. The writer also wanted to know other factors that contributed to the marriage.

The readings that followed as a result of this interest served as a basis for further thinking in this area. Some of these readings will be mentioned in the section on related studies.

During this time the writer carefully re-read her own case records and noted factors around which to formulate the study. These factors were:

- The husband and wife relationship
- The parent-child relationship
- The attitude of the husband as to his financial and other responsibilities for the child.

As the writer thought of and re-read case material it seemed that these relationships could be seen more clearly in those cases wherein the "illegitimate" child or children were present in the home as a part of the family group. As a result of this the writer decided to limit the study to cases wherein the child
was included as a member of the family group. This decision, too, naturally served as a basis for the selection of cases.

**WHAT IS INCLUDED**

This is a study of 13 cases having marital problems, wherein the factor of illegitimacy might be considered a contributing cause of the marital difficulty.

It includes only those cases where the children are kept in the home as a part of the family group and the mother is married to someone other than the father of the child. In four of the 13 cases the marriage ended in separation or divorce. In these cases the divorce or separation came after the case became known to the agency.

The plan was to see how the marital adjustment is affected by having these children in the home as a part of the family group in the area of:

A. The husband and wife relationship
B. The parent-child relationship
   (That is of the child to both his mother and her husband)
C. The relationship between legitimate and "illegitimate" siblings.
D. The attitudes of the husband as to his financial and other responsibilities for the child.

**METHODS USED IN THE STUDY**

Material was read in order to increase the writer's knowledge of illegitimacy, of parent-child relationships and of adjustment in marriage. Following this, the writer made a thorough study of her own cases in which illegitimacy was involved; then an effort was made to get cases in the desired classification from other workers. A request was made to the workers for all
cases active as of December 15, 1946 in which an "illegitimate" child was in
the home as a part of the family group, when the mother was married to someone
other than the father of the child.

Twelve cases were received from other workers.

Only active cases as of December 15, 1946 were requested as it was felt
this would prevent the writer from getting cases that were closed or that were
likely to be closed before that date. After December 15th the cases were again
checked to see if there had been an unexpected closing before the 15th.

As there were only sixteen cases falling in the classification needed
for the study, the writer did not find it necessary to limit them further.

Three of the sixteen cases had to be eliminated, one because the "illegitimate"
child had died at birth, the other because the mother having planned to marry
another man changed her mind and began plans to marry the father of the child,
the third because of incorrect data on the birth of the child.

The cases were read to see if additional factors might be included in
the study. In addition to the factors found in the writer's cases, the writer
added the effects upon the child of the husband-wife relationship and of the
parent-child relationship. The cases were then read regarding:

The husband and wife relationship
The effects upon the child
The parent-child relationship
The effects upon the child
The relationship between siblings
The attitude of the husband as to his financial and other
responsibilities for the child.

A summary was made of the history in order to furnish background material for
the reader.
Following the study of the case records interviews were held with each worker contributing cases. In these interviews the workers were asked their opinions as to how the presence of the "illegitimate" child affected the marital situation. They were asked what factors contributed to the marital adjustment or the marital difficulty as they saw it from their knowledge of the cases. These interviews were helpful in preventing the writer from overlooking factors other than that of the presence of the "illegitimate" child.

After the material was organized, the writer found that the cases fell into three groups in which the marital adjustment could be seen as good, as questionable, or as a failure. The cases were then studied according to these categories.

**RELATED STUDIES**

Much has been written on marital adjustment and on illegitimacy, but usually as quite apart from each other. However, many of these articles added to the writer's knowledge of adjustment in marriage and of illegitimacy.

Some of these readings served as a basis from which to study the relationships between the parent and child, the husband and wife and between siblings. Others helped the writer in understanding the personality patterns of the unmarried mother that might affect her later adjustment in marriage.

Dr. Percival Symond's book *The Psychology of the Parent-Child Relationship* did much to give the writer a basis for studying the parent-child relationship. This was in terms of basic concepts in regard to acceptance or rejection of the child. Dr. Symonds mentioned these factors as being indicative of parental rejection:

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The parent: sees mostly the child's shortcomings

Uses severe punishment
May continuously threaten to turn the child over to authority or may do so.
May desire to put the child in an institution or do so.
Does not provide financial support
Pays no attention to or takes little interest in the child's activities or plans
Criticizes the child and compares him unfavorably with others

Does not attempt to provide advantages for the child

On the other hand acceptance of the child might be seen by:

The parent: showing interest in the child - (That is his plans, ambitions, hobbies, etc.)
Giving the child care and protection
Providing financial support
Accepting the child in his own right
Recognizing the child's individual needs

Elizabeth B. Tyler states, "The basic importance of the parent-child relationship is recognized in casework. It is accepted that the emotional health and development of the child bears direct relationship to the security and care of the parent—The interacting forces in the parent-child relationship are basically the same for all people regardless of cultural, racial, or religious background."^2

In regard to the husband and wife relationship Baber points out that marriage is most often entered into due to a blending of four motivations—the desire for new experience, security, response and recognition. As the writer studied each case these four points were kept in mind, in order to see how the fulfillment or lack of fulfillment of these four motives affected the husband and wife relationship and the marital adjustment.

Baber points out further that "men and women are not born good husbands and wives, nor are they magically transformed into such by the sheer accident of meeting the 'right person.' They become good husbands and wives only by patience, restraint, and sacrificial devotion to common interest and values which they have together deliberately chosen as most worthwhile for their lives."

This would suggest that those cases in which there was little common interest and sense of values should be observed carefully for signs of marital discord as a result of factors other than that of illegitimacy.

Joanna C. Colcord in her article "The Need of Adequate Case Work with the Unmarried Mother" points out the folly of a marriage simply to give the baby a name or to make the girl more respectable. She emphasized instead the importance of a real attachment between the two people to promise stability in marriage and qualities which would make them fit parents.

Leontine Young, Ruth Brenner, Florence Clothier, and other writing on

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the unmarried mother point out the emotional starvation of the unmarried mother
and her need for a close, and deep affectionate relationship. The unmarried
mother due to this emotional starvation has a tremendous need for security.
From this one might assume that any later marital adjustment will correspond
somewhat to the amount of emotional security she is able to achieve.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are to aid in clarifying the meanings of
certain terms as used by the writer throughout the study.

An "illegitimate" child is one who is conceived and/or born out of wed-
lock. For the purpose of the study in those cases where the mother was married
the child was considered "illegitimate" when the mother admitted that her
husband was not the father of the child.

As the word illegitimate is considered offensive when applied to the
child, it is enclosed in quotation marks throughout the study.

The rejected child is one who is unwanted by either mother or father.
This may be seen by the parents' attitude toward him.

The accepted child is one whose parents show predominantly feelings of
loving and wanting him, although there may be negative feelings toward him.

Maturity is used to refer to emotional maturity. It is a relative quality
and depends on the ability or limitations of the individual to grow, in the
way of taking responsibilities, accepting limitations and planning for himself.

Immaturity is used to refer to emotional immaturity. When an individual
has not been able to take responsibilities, to accept limitations and to
plan for himself although it is within his range of ability, he is said to be
immature.

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8 See Page 5 of Thesis - on parental acceptance or rejection of child.
Relationship is used to show the feeling of one person for another or the connection between them.

The Agency Setting

The Family and Children's Bureau is a private agency supported by the Community Fund. It was formed in 1938 from a merger of the Family Bureau and the Children's Bureau. Its function is to provide family and children's services, including child placement, adoption and unmarried mother work.

The case workers' training is varied, but all those interviewed as a part of the study were persons with a Master's degree from an accredited school of Social Work, with the exception of one who had completed her academic work, but not her thesis required for a professional degree. With the exception of the Douglas case which only went a month beyond the intake interview all of the workers had known the families for from 5 months to one year.
CHAPTER II
THE STUDY

The cases are divided into three groups. Those cases where there is a real concern and attachment for the marital partner and the child, and where a seemingly satisfactory relationship exists, were classified in Group I—"Adjustment Good." Cases in which the adjustment is of a questionable nature and where the marriage is maintained for reasons other than attachment and concern for the marital partner make up Group II. Those cases wherein the husband and wife were unable to make a satisfactory adjustment in marriage and which ended in divorce or separation are found in Group III.

Throughout the study the writer was aware of other factors affecting the marital adjustment in order to avoid attributing the failure to adjust satisfactorily in these marriages solely to the factor of having an "illegitimate" child in the family group.

As the cases in Group I are presented an effort will be made to analyze why these cases were able to work out, just as in the other two groups. Attempts will be made to point out why they are of a questionable nature and what factors are holding the marriage together, or why the marriage failed.

For each case there will be a summary of background material taken from the record and Worker's comments during interviews with her. Following the summary will be material showing what is known regarding the following points:

- Effects upon the husband-wife relationship
- How this affects the child
- Parent-child relationships
- Effects on the child
- The relationship between "legitimate" and "illegitimate" siblings.
- The attitudes of the husband as to his financial and other
responsibilities for the child.

Group I

Three cases are presented in this group, as representing good adjustment within the family. There has been acceptance of the "illegitimate" child by all the family and a harmonious relationship exists.

The Stewart Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members of Family</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stewart, James</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewart, Gertrude</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright, Donald</td>
<td>12</td>
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SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL

The Stewarts, a Negro family, were referred to the agency by the District Nursing Association 8-7-46. Mrs. S., having been sick for a few months found that she had Tuberculosis and was making plans for going to the sanitarium. She refused to go until some plan could be made for Donald's care.

Mrs. S. explained that due to the housing situation they had been living in one room. The people with whom they were living were not responsible enough to keep Donald. Her husband's work hours were very long and irregular (from 7:00 A. M. to 5:00 or as late as 10 P. M.) It would be impossible to leave Donald with him. Therefore.

Mrs. S. said Donald was an "illegitimate" child born prior to her marriage to Mr. S. Mr. and Mrs. S. were married 8-16-42. Donald was eight years old at the time of his mother's marriage. The father of Donald never gave any support with the exception of ten dollars paid once. His whereabouts were unknown.

Donald is a tall boy for his age. He is well mannered and quiet with normal interests. With his parents' help Donald has been able to accept a rheumatic heart condition without any indications of invalidism, as his mother encouraged his doing things within his limitations.

Placement for Donald was requested and arranged.

EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP

The adjustment here seems to be a good one. This assumption was based on the following facts. Mr. S. visits his wife regularly while she is in the
Sanitarium in spite of his irregular hours of work. Mrs. S. stated that she was sure Mr. S. would keep up with Donald's needs and help make their separation less painful. She told the worker that Mr. S. had always been a kind and considerate husband and since she has been ill he has made every effort to help her accept the need for hospitalization and to relieve her of worry. Mrs. S. said Mr. S. accepts Donald as his own. Apparently Donald makes no difference in the relationship between Mr. and Mrs. S.

**EFFECTS ON THE CHILD**

Donald has been able to accept foster home placement quite well because he considers it temporary. Donald said when his mother gets well, his father is going to get a house where they can all be together. He often speaks of things they used to do together, such as attending movies, playing games, etc. These statements made by Donald about his parents and the fun they have together might be an indication that Donald feels he is wanted by his parents and is an accepted member of the family. That Donald thinks a lot of both his mother and her husband is evidenced by the manner in which he speaks of them. He is considered by the worker to be a normal boy with no unusual behavior patterns.

**PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS**

A. **CHILD AND MOTHER**

Mrs. S. is concerned about and interested in Donald's welfare. She refused to go to the Sanitarium before she saw what plans could be made for Donald. There seemed to be a good healthy relationship between the two. By this the writer means that Mrs. S.'s interest in him is of such a nature that the child has a feeling of security while being free to have interests of his own. After finding out about Donald's heart condition she was interested in
seeing that he got the proper care, yet encouraged his interest in doing things within his limitations.

Donald was very cooperative in working around the house and in waiting on his mother when he was home. He mentioned that by doing nicely in the boarding home he could help his mother get well, as she wouldn't worry about him.

B. CHILD AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND

Mr. S. is quite fond of Donald and most people think he is Donald's father although he hasn't been legally adopted by Mr. S. Many people call him by Mr. S.'s name. He has expressed an interest in legally adopting Donald and it seems that he will follow through with this. Mr. S. visits Donald regularly in the boarding home, although his time is well taken up with his other duties, and also finds time to take Donald to the movies, etc.

An example of the relationship might be seen in the following:
In the boarding home Donald was once told that they didn't think they could keep him any longer. He replied that he could always go back to his father, and proceeded to pack his bag.

C. EFFECTS ON THE CHILD

Donald's ability to accept placement although he is looking forward to being back with his parents might indicate that he feels he has a place with his parents and is wanted by them. As his past experiences with his parents have been pleasing to him, he does not feel threatened by a temporary separation from them. In view of this, it might be said that Donald feels secure as to his place in the family.

D. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLINGS

Donald is an only child.
E. ATTITUDES OF HUSBAND TOWARD FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. S. takes full financial responsibility and quite willingly pays board and sees that Donald has clothing on his own initiative. His sense of responsibility in other areas is seen in his interest in Donald and in such things as taking him to the movies, etc.

The Carter Family

<table>
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<td>Carter, Mary</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children----------</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sammy</td>
<td>3</td>
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SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL

The Carter's, a white family, came to the attention of the agency 9/23/44 as they were experiencing financial difficulty. They had had difficulty in living together in the past because of their youthful immaturity and family interference. Mrs. C. was very dependent on Mr. C.; this and the insufficient income added to their troubles.

They were married 3-25-38 and Charles had been born 7-15-37. Mr. C. had not known about him until after his marriage to Mrs. C. However, after Mr. C. found out about Charles he accepted him as a member of the family group.

The worker thought Mrs. C. to be feebleminded, due to her lack of understanding and concern regarding her problems. She is always happy, never seeming to worry about a thing. The house and children are always filthy.

Mrs. C. is a pretty person and very likeable. Charles is considered an intelligent and good looking boy by his mother. The worker thought him to be normal.

The agency is working with them now in an effort to get them to accept an institutional placement for the epileptic child, William, who requires all their time and attention.
EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP

Charles doesn't seem to affect adversely the relationship between his parents. He is treated the same as the other children. The husband recognizes and accepts his wife's limitations in the way of taking a wife's responsibility, and therefore takes over where she leaves off. He has become more mature and as they have gotten away from her family's interference their marriage is working out to the satisfaction of both husband and wife.

He shows real interest and affection for his wife; this she seems to return. His drinking has been something of a problem but is attributed by the worker and Mr. C. largely to his inability to work regularly. He is of slender build and unable to do labor and has no training for anything else.

EFFECTS ON THE CHILD

The effects on the child are not known specifically, but as no difference is made between the children, it may be assumed that he considers himself as one of them.

PARENT AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP
A. THE CHILD AND MOTHER

The worker thought Mrs. C. showed no signs of rejection, as she considers the child's birth no reflection on her or the child.

B. THE CHILD AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND

He accepts Charles as one of his own and makes no difference between him and the other children.

C. EFFECTS ON THE CHILD

The social worker does not believe that Charles suffered in the family, because of his illegitimacy, but she thinks that all of the children need more
attention from the parents. She thinks that the children are without this, because the mother feels that she must give all of her attention to William because of his condition (he does require constant supervision). The mother does not consider this rejection of the other children, but thinks that she must "make it up to Billy for his condition and the other children will understand."

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLINGS

The worker thinks the children may have some hostile feelings toward William, as he gets most of the parents' attention. Some of the younger children have been physically hurt by William, who is quite strong. However they have not openly expressed feelings against William.

As for the relationship between Charles and the other children there is apparent acceptance of each other. There is no evidence that Charles or the other children know of any difference in their parentage.

ATTITUDES OF THE HUSBAND AS TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CHILD

The husband takes all responsibilities usually expected of a father to his child.

The Molotoe Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members of Family</th>
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<td>Molotoe, Howard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Johnny</td>
<td>1½</td>
</tr>
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SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL

Mrs. Molotoe, a white girl, recently divorced from Mr. Bakely, was referred to the agency by University Hospital, in which she was confined. She wanted to have the baby placed for adoption as she thought it would be impossible
to take the baby home with her. She expressed no desire to get in touch with the alleged father. The baby was placed in a boarding home. About two months later she said her mother wanted her to take the baby although she had no real desire to do so herself.

Three months after she had the baby, she called, saying that she had married and things were not going well. Mrs. Molotoe stated that Mr. Molotoe was a Japanese-American whom she had known for about three years; he was not the father of the baby.

Mrs. M. was very young and immature. She was not at all ready to accept responsibilities. Mrs. M. only wanted to talk over the situation at this time before deciding what to do. Then for five months she again lost contact with the agency. After five months she again wanted placement for Johnny, stating that she and her husband were separated "because of her parents." Johnny was then with her family but she wanted to have him adopted. The agency agreed to help with boarding plans as the mother of Mrs. M. was refusing to keep the baby.

Mr. M. came to the office objecting to the adoptive placement of Johnny, as he was not considering a permanent separation from Mrs. M. He was able to get an apartment and prevailed upon his wife to get Johnny. After a number of months Mrs. M. wrote the agency saying that things were working out satisfactorily for them. At this time she was expecting another baby.

**EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND AND WIFE RELATIONSHIP**

Mrs. M. thought for a time that the baby was too much responsibility and interfered with the marriage. Mr. M. thought that a temporary period of boarding care would give his wife a chance to have her fling and get it out of her system. Afterwards they could perhaps patch up their differences; this was to allow her a chance to know what she wanted. Mr. M. seemed to be devoted to his wife and sincere in wanting the marriage to succeed. The worker thought this was manifested in his desire to secure a home for Mrs. M. and the child.

Mrs. M.'s inability to take responsibilities affected the adjustment; she probably had unrecognized affections for Mr. M. and with his understanding and help the relationship between them became a satisfactory one.

**EFFECTS ON THE CHILD**

As the relationship worked out for the husband and wife, Johnny was able to have a permanent home, and with it the security which it entails.
PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

A. CHILD AND MOTHER

At the beginning of the agency's contact the mother was very "flip" in her attitude toward him, and took no responsibility for him when she and the baby were in her parents' home. She told her husband if they should separate he could have the baby. Mrs. M. explained her attitude to the worker by saying "She guessed she wasn't made to like babies." She considered herself tied down with his care and admitted that she never wanted the baby anyway.

When Johnny was left in the boarding home she showed no concern over leaving him. He in turn was not upset by her going. Later as she and her husband got away from parental influence the relationship between them improved. Mrs. M. was then able to accept the baby and other responsibilities.

B. CHILD AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND

Mr. M.'s attachment to Johnny is shown by his insistence that Johnny be brought to live with them after they had a short period to themselves in the new home. He said he could never give up the child, although he realized that there was some question as to his legal right to it. Mr. M. took it upon himself to sign papers at the Bureau of Vital Statistics stating that he was the natural father of Johnny.

According to the worker when the M's. visited Johnny in the boarding home, he responded by playing more readily with Mr. M. than with Mrs. M. This might mean the attachment for Mr. M. was stronger than for his mother.

C. EFFECTS ON THE CHILD

Definite effects cannot be stated but it does seem that Johnny's "stepfather" will provide an understanding father-person and do much to see
that Johnny has the advantage of a stable home life and at least one interested parent. Since his mother is now accepting him because of Mr. M's attitude it is possible that Johnny will get the security and affection he needs.

D. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLINGS

Johnny is an only child to date.

E. ATTITUDES OF THE HUSBAND TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CHILD

Mr. M. gave generously to his wife for herself and the child. He took responsibility for the child in other areas as can be seen by his part in seeing that the child had a permanent home.

SUMMARY OF GROUP I

In reviewing the cases in Group I the writer observed that all of these families were able to accept the child without considering the factor of his "illegitimate" birth as something to be hidden and never mentioned.

There was no evidence of the mother marrying only for reasons of giving the child a name, or to provide financial support. There was evidence that both the husband and wife had real affection for each other and the child.

All of the men showed considerable maturity in the way in which they dealt with financial and emotional problems in the marital situation.

In the Stewart case we find that both Mr. and Mrs. S. were able to clarify their feelings as to how Donald would affect their marriage and to understand their responsibilities to him. This seems to indicate the ability of Mr. and Mrs. S. to plan for the future while accepting the reality of the present.

Mr. Carter is able to accept his wife's limitations and to take on many of her responsibilities in order to enhance the marriage relationship.
Mr. Molotoe’s patience and understanding in helping his wife accept her responsibilities in regard to her child and the making of a home seem indicative of his ability to take responsibility.

GROUP II

Six cases are presented in this group as representing adjustment that is open to question. There seem to be signs of conflict in the relationship between the parents and there are indications of rejection of the child.

The Davis Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member(s) of Family</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Davis, Sam</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janie</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#Jimmie</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL

The Davis case was first opened upon referral from the Urban League. They thought Jimmie, a Negro boy, was not cared for by his family, and that he was in need of supervision and a home.

Jimmie was living with his mother and her husband but was ill-treated. He often went hungry, was severely beaten, and was expected to work nights in order to pay for his care. Neither his mother nor his stepfather took any interest in him. He then went to stay with his own father, and his wife but this was for a short period of time as his father had to move and their new quarters were overcrowded. Jimmie then went to live with a woman whom he considered his friend, as she had often given him food when he was hungry.

His father contributed as much as his limited income would permit while Jimmie was in the boarding home. After a time this home was found to be unsuitable for Jimmie. He was then made a ward of the State and sent to the Childrens' Home.

Jimmie's mother was considered unfit to care for him.

EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND AND WIFE RELATIONSHIP

In talking with the worker she stated the opinion that Jimmie's being "illegitimate" really had little to do with how the parents got along. She explained this by saying that the mother was prostituting; therefore, neither her husband nor she really knew who was the father of the other children.
Jimmie affected the relationship not because he was "illegitimate" but because all children were unwanted by the parents.

**EFFECTS UPON THE CHILD**

Jimmie left home because his step-father told him he would have to work or leave home. He was beginning to think he had to take all responsibility for himself. This attitude could be seen in his statement to the worker, that it was up to him to find a good job and a place to live.

**PARENT AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP**

A. **CHILD AND MOTHER**

The mother's rejection of Jimmie is apparent in her attitude and treatment of him. She told the worker she considered Jimmie ungrateful; therefore she did not care where or with whom he stayed. She admitted that she was not interested in Jimmie and had not wanted him in the first place. When talking with the worker about Jimmie she constantly referred to him as "Bastard."

According to Jimmie, his mother laughed when he was ill-treated by her husband and only controlled this when she was herself angry with her husband. Jimmie knows that he is rejected by his mother and expressed his dislike for staying with her.

B. **CHILD AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND**

The husband told Jimmie he couldn't stay there unless he worked; otherwise he was just in the way. Therefore as Jimmie hadn't always been able to make the money his step-father expected to receive from him, his step-father was glad to have him out of the home. When Jimmie was working he wasn't allowed to keep any of the money for himself. He was often beaten severely by his step-father. The foregoing statements seem to the writer to be proof of the step-father's rejection of Jimmie.
C. **EFFECTS ON THE CHILD**

Due to the parents lack of concern about where or with whom he lived, one might expect Jimmie to feel neglected and unloved. Jimmie's attitude that no one was responsible for him would suggest that he had no feeling of belonging to anyone.

Just what effects the very poor environment of having an alcoholic for a step-father and a prostitute for a mother, together with all the other detriments will have on Jimmie cannot be clearly seen now.

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLINGS**

The mother's other children talked against Jimmie and agreed with everything the mother said about him; this was noted by the worker in a home visit. As for Jimmie's attitude toward them, nothing was known.

**ATTITUDES OF HUSBAND AS TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CHILD**

The husband told his wife that he was not responsible for Jimmie's care, and that Jimmie would have to provide for his own needs.

**The Johnson Family**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members of Family</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Andrew</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carol Ann</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>*Phillip</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Mary</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Arnold</td>
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**SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL**

Mrs. Johnson, a Negro woman, came to the agency in 1943. At that time she was interested in divorce from her second husband, placement of the children,
and a job for herself.

Julia was born to Mrs. J. during her separation from her first husband, Mr. A. Phillip was conceived just before Mr. A's remarriage. Mrs. J. had continued to see him throughout the separation and divorce, even until the day he married. Mrs. J. then married Mr. J. while pregnant with Phillip; she said she thought it was necessary to be married when she had this baby as there was no question of her status with her first husband since he had remarried.

Until the day he married, Mrs. J. said she had hoped to get him back. Mr. J. had agreed to accept the children as his own, after she explained the circumstances to him.

Mrs. J. said she was not in love with Mr. J. but was afraid of what people would say if she had this baby without being married.

Until the present date, Mrs. J. has been undecided about her plans for herself. She has been using agency help for a long period of time, breaking off and later returning. She still has not decided to divorce her husband, because of financial and physical reasons, she says. However, occasionally she leaves him for a month or two.

EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP

Mrs. J. admits that she hasn't given Mr. J. a fair chance as she is still in love with her first husband. She says she married him largely because of Phillip, and this is reflected in poor marital adjustment. The poor adjustment between Mr. and Mrs. J. can be seen in Mrs. J.'s comparison of Mr. J. with her first husband in an unfavorable manner. She complains that he does not support the family well, regardless of how much he contributes.

Since his marriage Mr. J. drinks and gambles heavily. That is a possible indication that he feels he is not getting what he should out of marriage. He expressed the feeling that his wife was not really interested in him and in making the marriage a success, as she continuously threatens to divorce him. The worker had no way of knowing how much Mr. J. thought Phillip was responsible for this.

EFFECTS UPON THE CHILD

Because of the mother's frequent separations from Mr. J. and the fact
that Phillip is then moved about it might be said that he has a very poor home life. The mother has said she prefers working to caring for Phillip or the other children. Her rejection of the children is also seen in her many requests for placement. Mrs. J. has made a few independent placements, saying that perhaps this would help her work things out. She often leaves the children with other people in order to be rid of the responsibility, as she says they wear her out.

Mr. J. refuses to do anything for the children that he considers Mrs. J.'s responsibility, such as helping to dress the children, or to bathe them.

PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS

A. CHILD AND MOTHER

Mrs. J. appears to be rejecting Phillip when she speaks of placing just him. The worker was not able to clarify with Mrs. J. her reasons for placement of Phillip alone. However, as Mrs. J. speaks of him as looking exactly like his father, she may find him to be a constant reminder of her first husband. Mrs. J. admits that her husband's leaving her for another woman was painful to her. It is possible that Phillip reminds her of this experience.

She often protects Phillip from spankings from Mr. J., although she says it is because Mr. J. whips him for nothing or when he is drunk.

B. CHILD AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND

Mrs. J. says Mr. J. treats the child as his own and makes no difference between him and the other children, yet she says he beats him often and unnecessarily more than the other children. At other times she says the child is "crazy" about Mr. J. and enjoys playing with him.
C. EFFECTS ON THE CHILD

The effects on Phillip are not known because of the inadequate information available to the writer. As Phillip has been in a number of boarding homes and in his own home been cared for by persons other than his mother, it is possible that he feels unwanted.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLINGS

Due to the age of the children and lack of available information the relationship between them can not be ascertained. Mrs. J. has mentioned no conflicts between the children. The children have not been told of the difference in parentage. Mrs. J. said she will tell them when they are older.

ATTITUDES OF THE HUSBAND AS TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CHILD

Mr. J. provides for Phillip as he does for the others. He buys the food and clothing, but little physical comfort for his wife and children.

The Smith Family

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Members of Family</th>
<th>Age</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Betty</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL

Mrs. Smith, a Negro woman, came to the agency 7-31-46 requesting placement in a boarding school for her daughter, Betty. She had tried to get her in a convent, but had been referred by it to the agency.

Mrs. S. said that Betty was difficult to manage. She "plays hookey" brings children of both sexes into the home during the mother's absence, and stays out late at night.

Betty was born many years prior to Mrs. S.'s marriage to Mr. S. in August of 1939. Betty had lived with her maternal grandmother until three years ago, when the mother took her to live with herself and her husband.

Betty's father was married at the time of Betty's conception. According to
Mrs. S. he had planned to divorce his wife and marry her, but his wife had gotten pregnant about the same time, so this didn't work out.

Betty receives no regular support from her own father, although she received an allotment while he was in the army. He does give her money on special occasions.

EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP

Mrs. S. admits having married Mr. S. for a home; she says she is staying with him only because she is trying to make a home for Betty. Mrs. S. felt that this would be all right because Mr. S. was a number of years older than she, but did not discuss it with him. Mrs. S. says she now feels that Mr. S. is getting back at her when he tells her of Betty's behavior, instead of correcting the child himself. Mr. S. says he does not believe that Betty is as bad as Mrs. S. says she is, but Mrs. S. answers that she does not tell Mr. S. everything Betty does. They disagree about schooling for Betty because Mr. S. thinks that Betty does not need to be sent away to boarding school.

The foregoing statements give some indication that Betty's presence in the home does cause considerable disagreement between Mr. and Mrs. S.

Other indications of the poor adjustment between the parents are shown in Mrs. S.'s statement that she and her husband have nothing in common, and talk or engage in activities together very seldom. Mrs. S. says she is ashamed of her husband because he boldly goes around with other women, and will not speak to her on the street if he is with friends.

EFFECTS UPON THE CHILD

Betty says she thinks her mother is unhappy because she (Betty) is in the home and believes that her mother might be staying with Mr. S. to give her a home. Therefore, she thinks she might be better out of the home. Betty is aware of the fact that her step-father goes around with other women, and has spoken to the worker about it. Betty said she would never marry as it only led to unhappiness. This seems to be based on her parents'
poor adjustment. Betty says her home life is different from other girls because her family never enter into activities together.

PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

A. CHILD AND MOTHER

Betty said that she and her mother are always disagreeing, that she feels her mother is unhappy about having to make a home for her, and that she would rather stay with her own father.

Mrs. S. expressed the opinion that Betty loves her own father better than her. In explaining her desire for placement of Betty, Mrs. S. said she thinks Betty is bad and will get into trouble as she did. Mrs. S. does all of the disciplining of Betty and lectures to her for hours on sex and on her behavior.

Mrs. S.'s constant worry that Betty will get into trouble seems to be based on her own experience of having an "illegitimate" child when she was about Betty's age.

B. CHILD AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND

Betty's feeling that Mr. S. does not reach her standards of being a good father appears in her statement that she never had someone to be a real father to her. She said Mr. S. would be more a real father if he spent more time with her by talking with her on various matters and by showing interest in some of her activities, also by correcting her behavior when he feels it is wrong, instead of reporting to her mother. Betty mentioned that other girls' fathers corrected them and shared in their disciplining. She is ashamed of his actions with other women as it embarrasses her with her friends.

From lack of available information as to Mr. S.'s feelings, it is difficult to say why he doesn't take more interest in Betty. Betty recalled
a few special occasions when he did show interest in her, by bringing her candy or something he knew she wanted. He had usually remembered her birthday until recently. The writer thinks Mrs. S. may discourage Mr. S.'s interest in Betty as his ideas for proper training differ from her own. Mrs. S. is also careful never to leave them alone together. Upon leaving for work in the morning she makes Betty go to her grandmother's.

It is difficult to determine how much the factor of Betty's illegitimacy affects the relationship between Mr. and Mrs. S., but it does seem that Mrs. S.'s attitude prevents a better relationship from developing.

C. EFFECTS ON THE CHILD

Betty's statement that she would do better out of the home, as she only makes her mother unhappy suggests that Betty feels rejected. Betty believes she is a bad girl because her mother tells her this so often. It is possible that the mother's attitude may lead Betty into the very trouble her mother fears.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLINGS

There are no children in her present home; however, her own father has children whom Betty likes to visit. One of these is a daughter about Betty's age. Betty says she likes her very much.

THE ATTITUDES OF THE HUSBAND AS TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CHILD

Mrs. S. states that Mr. S. recognizes no responsibility for Betty, other than providing a house. She does say that he would support Betty as his own, but she (Mrs. S.) doesn't feel that it is his responsibility so she works in order to support Betty herself.
The Bergman Family

Members of Family                Age
Bergman, Adolph                  ?
Helen                              ?
John                               16
*Jo Ann                            12
Margaret                          5

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL

This case was known to the agency off and on since 1941 with interested persons making the referral and the family failing to respond to agency interest. The family was a very under-privileged one in many areas. They were limited in education and mentality and suffered from economic and social deprivation.

The case was last opened 2-15-46 by referral from a settlement house. At this time, Jo Ann, a white girl, was complaining about her unhappy home life and her periodically alcoholic step-father. Jo Ann lost all interest in the agency’s help after the manager of the settlement house left town, which was shortly after the referral. She also lost contact with the settlement.

Mrs. B. was thought to be limited mentally, on the basis of the worker’s observation of her lack of any facial expression, and of the dull, flat way in which she spoke.

Jo Ann was born during Mrs. B.’s first marriage. Her first husband deserted her a few months later, as the child was not his own.

EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP

Shortly after Jo Ann’s birth Mrs. B.’s first husband deserted her, but how much difficulty they had before the child’s birth is not known. It is probable that her birth only aggravated an already difficult situation.

Due to lack of information it is hard to ascertain how much Jo Ann affected the relationship in the second-marriage.

The worker expressed the opinion that the relationship between Mr. and Mrs. B. was poor, and that Mrs. B. stayed with Mr. B. largely because she was determined to make this marriage work. Mrs. B. said that she was too old and crippled to be without a husband or to get another one, and Mr. B. did
work and supply food.

Mr. B. was physically abusive to Mrs. B. and the children, especially Jo Ann and John (Mrs. B.'s son by her former marriage.)

EFFECTS UPON THE CHILD

Jo Ann complained of being unhappy and stayed away from home as much as possible. She was developing behavior problems, such as lying, staying away from home, etc.

PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

A. CHILD AND MOTHER

Mrs. B. usually denied that the child was any problem and emphasized how "right" everything in their home was. She said there was no cause for the community to be concerned. Later when asked directly why Jo Ann told other people of her feelings about her home, Mrs. B. said she was having "trouble" with Jo Ann, as the child was rebellious, refusing to do anything around home, and staying away from home as much as possible.

The real relationship between the child and her mother is hard to determine as the family did not respond well to the agency's interest in them. Mrs. S. seemed fearful that any help from outside would disrupt her marriage.

B. CHILD AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND

Jo Ann said she was afraid of Mr. B. for his frequent beatings. She said he often sent her and her younger sister out to beg, and if they didn't bring in enough money he would beat them severely.

Mrs. B. maintained that Mr. B. was fond of Jo Ann and good to her in every way.

The worker thought Mr. B. was probably abusive to Jo Ann as John had left home, because of getting into a fight with Mr. B. about beating his sister.
C. EFFECTS ON THE CHILD

Jo Ann was rebellious, she lied, kept late hours, and stayed away from home. She said she was abused and misunderstood at home, and would like to be placed in a boarding home.

Jo Ann was in court a few times for her "indecent" behavior with other children. It seems that the parents were responsible for this, as they had been in court a number of times for neglect and immoral relations in the neighborhood.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLINGS

The relationship between Jo Ann and her brother John seemed to be good. They went to the settlement house together and spent most of their time there. John left home because he had a fight with his step-father and felt that he might kill him if he remained in the home and saw him abuse his sister and mother.

Jo Ann said she wanted to be placed, provided her younger sister could go with her. From the above statement Jo Ann's "illegitimate" birth does not seem to affect the relationship between the siblings.

ATTITUDES OF THE HUSBAND AS TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. B. provided food and clothing for Jo Ann the same as he did for the other members of the family.
The Douglas Family

Members of Family       Age
Douglas, Alfred         ?
Julia                  ?
William                3
Priscilla              5 Mo.

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL

The Douglas, a white family, came to the attention of the agency 11-26-46, when Mr. D. was afraid that his wife was filing for separate maintenance and custody of the baby Priscilla.

He has been married seventeen months and considered the first three months "heaven." Since then he had nothing but trouble. He believed that he had made a mistake in marrying Mrs. D. because the oldest child was not his, but was "illegitimate." At this time he was afraid that Mrs. D. would get his child and he did not feel that she would give it the proper care.

The case was held open but there was only one contact following the intake interview.

EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP

It might be inferred that William's presence in the home affects adversely the relationship between Mr. and Mrs. D., as Mr. D. admits that he refers to William's "illegitimacy" when angry with his wife.

Further evidence of a poor adjustment is seen in Mr. D.'s constant worry that the marriage will fail. He says his wife refuses to have intercourse with him unless she happens to be interested. Otherwise, she laughs at him.

He says she refuses to come halfway with him in anything and spends all of her time in bed or reading magazines. She refuses to do any housework.

EFFECTS UPON THE CHILD

William probably feels rejected, since he receives no attention from
his mother, and Mr. D. is not able to forget that he is "illegitimate."

PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

A. CHILD AND MOTHER

According to Mr. D. Mrs. D. shows no interest in William. If this is true, William wouldn't be expected to have a strong attachment for her.

B. CHILD AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND

Mr. D. says he loves the child as his own, yet admits not being able to forget the circumstances surrounding his birth. In view of this Mr. D. is probably rejecting William.

C. EFFECTS ON THE CHILD

We know nothing of the child's behavior as this case did not go far beyond intake. Mr. D. called in to say that all of his difficulties had been smoothed out.

ATTITUDES OF THE HUSBAND AS TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE CHILD

Mr. D. gave the worker the impression of wanting to avoid masculine responsibilities. He worked irregularly, and often suggested that he would stay at home and take care of things there, if his wife would go out and work.
Mr. H., a white woman, was sixteen years old when Dorothy was born. She had come to Columbus a year previous to this and had met a man of thirty with whom she fell in love. She had assumed they were engaged to be married. On learning that she was pregnant she found that he had just married another girl. Although paternity was never established, this man contributed to Dorothy's support until the mother married Mr. H.

Mr. and Mrs. H. went together for four years before marrying. When Mr. H. proposed marriage to Mrs. H. she told him the entire story about Dorothy.

Dorothy stayed with grandparents or her mother until her mother's marriage, depending on her mother's employment.

As soon as Mr. and Mrs. H. were married they took Dorothy to live with them assuming that Dorothy would accept Mr. H. as her real father. She was then five years old. She has never been told of her status.

Dorothy was referred to the court in the fall of 1944 by Mrs. H. after she discovered that Dorothy was having sexual experiences with a 16 year old neighbor. Dorothy was also considered a problem around home and at school. After being tested at the B. J. R. and found to be of good average intelligence she was referred to the Family and Children's Bureau and returned home.

There was little contact with the Bureau until Dorothy ran away from home about nine months later. A number of placements followed and later the parents decided to have her back in the home. They are now attempting to work out an adjustment.

EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP

The worker thinks that on the surface the relationship between this couple is good but that Dorothy creates tension between them. This assumption
was based on the fact that both of the parents consider Dorothy's presence in the home a reminder of the past. Mrs. H. says she and her husband are not able to talk together of Dorothy's problems; neither are they able to talk about the circumstances around her birth as they consider them "unmentionable."

EFFECTS UPON THE CHILD

In view of the fact that Dorothy has been in a number of boarding placements, and her parents failed to visit regularly, it is likely that Dorothy feels rejected. Her behavior such as running away seems to indicate that Dorothy does feel unwanted and in need of attention.

PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

A. CHILD AND MOTHER

There has always been a barrier between Mrs. H. and Dorothy because of things that Dorothy has been afraid to ask in regard to her place in the family. When Dorothy became aware of the discrepancy between her birth and her parents' wedding anniversary the consequent doubts further separated them. The above were the worker's opinions formulated as a result of Dorothy's statement that she wanted to know about her parentage but was afraid to ask her mother. The worker was also aware of the mother's unwillingness to discuss these matters.

Dorothy talks of her mother's youth and attractiveness, and seems proud of resemblance to her.

The writer thinks it is probably difficult for Mrs. H. to accept Dorothy because Dorothy represents her past.

B. CHILD AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND

Mr. H.'s rejection of Dorothy is manifest in his statement that the child's behavior is impossible. Mr. H. does not allow Dorothy to play around
the house or to bring her friends home.

Dorothy said Mr. H. cares more for the other children than for her, as he always gets them what they want. When she wants something and he does not get it for her, she says it is because he doesn't care for her.

EFFECTS ON THE CHILD

Dorothy is showing symptoms of a serious emotional problem in her running away, her sexual curiosity and behavior, along with her being difficult to manage. She seems to be trying to get attention and is trying to get some understanding about her own father, etc. She thinks there is something irregular about her relationship in the family.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLINGS

Dorothy expressed the opinion that things were much better for her before the arrival of the other children. Now she feels that the other children get all of the attention.

Dorothy said her father allows her sister to do things she can't do, and sometimes she thinks she would rather have a dog than a sister.

The feelings expressed by Dorothy indicate that she is jealous of the other children for the attention they receive.

ATTITUDES OF THE HUSBAND AS TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. H. does take financial responsibility for Dorothy. Mr. H.'s attempt to accept Dorothy as his own is evident in his beginning to share in plans for her. Recently he verbalized that he was now interested in trying to understand Dorothy's point of view and her feelings around him as a step-father and how he can help her.
SUMMARY OF GROUP II

In the six cases presented in Group II the inability of the marriage partners to achieve a satisfactory adjustment can be attributed in part to their being unable to arrive at common aims and interest in planning for themselves, as to the goals in marriage.

Four out of the six cases in this group indicate clearly marriage for selfish aims, such as for homes or financial reasons, or to give the baby a name. The reasons for the other two marriages are not as clearly stated, but there seems to be little indication of common aims and interest.

Rejection of the child can be seen in the fact that all of the parents at some time expressed a desire for placement of the "illegitimate" child other than the Davis family who succeeded in getting Jimmie out of the home through other methods.

In the cases where the "illegitimate" children were adolescent girls the mothers complained of their behavior and considered them to be bad girls. This behavior consisted of staying out late, lying, sexual behavior, etc. Cases showing this are Hamilton, Bergman, and Smith. The three girls in these cases thought they were misunderstood by their parents, expressed a desire to be out of the home, and a desire for more attention from the father.

With the exception of these and the Davis case, the children are all of pre-school age and it is more difficult to determine how the factor of their "illegitimate" birth will affect them.

In each of the cases there was some indication that the child was a constant reminder of the past.

None of the women in this group showed any special interest in caring for the home.
GROUP III

Four cases are presented in this group as representing definite failure to adjust in the marital situation. These cases ended in divorce or separation after they became known to the agency. The husbands show definite signs of rejecting the children.

The Jones Family

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<td>Jane</td>
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<td>*Mary</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>John</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan</td>
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SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL

Mrs. Jones, a white woman, and her two older children are living with Mrs. J.'s mother as her husband has not provided a home for her since he returned from the army.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones had difficulty before he went to the army as he hadn't wanted any children and Mrs. J. had refused to have an abortion. Mr. J. had been described by the social worker as a very irresponsible person, one who thinks only of himself.

Mary was not Mr. J.'s child as she was conceived while he was overseas. As has been noted there was marital conflict before her birth, but she may have aggravated the situation since he did not like children.

The conditions in Mrs. J.'s home are deplorable as far as raising children is concerned. There is excessive drinking and Mrs. J.'s mother and sister constantly have boy friends in for a few days.

EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP

As Mr. J. said he didn't know why he married Mrs. J. and that he had no feeling about the illegitimate child, it might be assumed that the birth of Mary and her presence only aggravated existing difficulties. It seems that Mr. J. took Mary's birth as a way out of his responsibility for any of the
children.

When Mrs. J. approached Mr. J. for support for his own children he would laugh and say he certainly had her over a barrel as she couldn't do a thing; if she did, he would file a contributing charge against her.

Later Mrs. J. filed for support and Mr. J. for a divorce. In filing for a divorce he denied that any of the children were his, but Mrs. J. was able to prove that two of the children were his.

EFFECTS UPON THE CHILD

Due to the lack of an understanding father-person, and the conditions of immorality existing in the grandmother's house, it can be said that the child has a poor home life. So far, no specific ill effects have been noted because of Mary's age and the agency's lack of information.

PARENT AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP

A. CHILD AND MOTHER

The social worker thinks the mother's relationship with the child is excellent. She does carry out her responsibilities to the child by giving her attention and care, and financial support.

B. CHILD AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND

Mr. J. didn't care for any of the children and rejected them all. Mary probably had no attachment for him as he was in the home only for two or three weeks at a time for six months after his return from the army.

C. EFFECTS UPON THE CHILD

The effects upon Mary are not yet known. The mother does give Mary attention and affection. She will probably give Mary as much security as she
is able. She doesn't intend to let Mary know of her parentage until she is old enough to understand.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SIBLINGS

The worker thinks the older boy is very accepting of Mary and enjoys playing with her. Mary in turn seems quite happy when he allows her to follow him around. If this pattern continues the relationship should be a good one.

ATTITUDES OF THE HUSBAND AS TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE CHILD

Mr. J. takes no responsibilities for the children and has filed for divorce.

The Henry Family

<table>
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<tr>
<td>* Joseph</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara</td>
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</table>

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL

Mrs. Henry, a white woman, was in the agency 8-20-45 wanting help in locating a low cost room that would accept her two children. The worker thought she seemed rather unresourceful and there was some question as to her ability to accept casework help. She also wanted some help in clarifying her relationship with her husband. At this time he was away.

It seems that he leaves home for periods of time without keeping in touch with Mrs. H. At the present time they are separated and she has been moving around quite a bit.

Mrs. H. married Mr. H. two months before Joseph's birth. Mr. H. went into the army six months later and was there until 5-23-45.

After Mr. H. received his discharge he stayed with Mrs. H. seven months, then left. At this time, he is not supporting her.
Mrs. H. says Joseph was the son of another man from their home town, with whom she was in love. Her family did not approve of him and arranged her marriage to Mr. H. She did live for some time with the father of Joseph.

EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP

Even with the lack of evidence it is possible that Joseph may affect the relationship as the mother may feel that he was responsible for the family's arrangement of her marriage. His presence in the home is probably a constant reminder of this.

A poor adjustment between Mr. and Mrs. H. might be expected in view of the fact that Mrs. H. said she had no desire to marry Mr. H., but married him only because her family arranged it. After the marriage Mr. H. would leave home for periods of time and live with other women. At the present time he is separated from Mrs. H.

EFFECTS UPON THE CHILD

The relationship between the parents caused constant moving about the country, and Joseph was often placed with strange people; this is evidence of instability in the home. The instability of the home was probably confusing to the child, as he might have the feeling of not knowing where or to whom he belongs.

PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

A. CHILD AND MOTHER

Mrs. H.'s stern discipline of Joseph is a possible indication of her rejection of him. The worker thought this was manifest in Mrs. H.'s attitude on a few occasions when Joseph did something that annoyed his mother. She merely snapped her fingers and looked very stern and Joseph immediately ceased his behavior. Mrs. H. admits that she favors the little girl, although she doesn't know why.
From the worker's observations it seems that there is little warmth in the relationship between Joseph and Mrs. H.

B. CHILD AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND

Mrs. H. said Mr. H. was cruel and abusive to Joseph as he beat him and pushed him around. She said Mr. H. was disinterested in Joseph to the point of refusing to speak to him.

With this attitude it is not likely that Joseph formed any positive attachment to him.

C. EFFECTS ON THE CHILD

Joseph appears to be taking on his mother's attitudes of being sullen, close-mouthed, and unresponsive. The worker thinks Mrs. H.'s sternness with Joseph has caused him to be inhibited. He is not active and expressive in play or in relationships with others, as children often are.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLINGS

The worker hasn't had opportunity to observe the relationship between the siblings but thought it was very likely that Joseph would show or feel hostility toward the little girl because of his mother's preference for her.

ATTITUDES OF THE HUSBAND AS TO THE FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE CHILD

Mr. H. is assuming no responsibility.
The Williams Family

Members of Family       Age
Williams, Harry         29
Sara                   35

Children:
Brown *Frances          12
*James                  8
*Barbara                6
*Teddy                  10

SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL

Mr. and Mrs. Williams, a Negro family, were first known to the agency in 1945 shortly after Mr. Williams returned from the Army. At this time he was sick and needed some assistance.

The case was reopened 6-8-46 with Mrs. W. requesting help in planning for Frances. She explained that Frances is backward, cannot read, or spell and is doing poor work in school. She has failed in the third grade four times.

Frances is anemic, very thin and underweight. She is quiet and listless. The medical report the agency has been able to secure have not supported any organic or physical basis for this.

The children were not her husband's as they had all been born while she lived with a Mr. B. This relationship continued for a number of years, but could not be considered as a common-law marriage as Mr. B. had a wife, from whom he was never divorced. The children use his name although it is not theirs legally.

The two younger children are now kept by Mr. B.'s parents. The children have been in and out of the Children's Home and until recently were wards of the State. During 1945 the agency helped Mrs. W. maintain the children in a boarding home.

Mrs. W. married Mr. W. in 1945 following his return from the Army. They had known each other for three years or more. Mr. W. had been married before, but this wife died while he was in service. The marriage between Mr. and Mrs. W. was to have been a fifty-fifty proposition as far as finances were concerned.
EFFECTS UPON THE HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP

Whenever Mr. W. became angry with Mrs. W. he would bring up the factor of the children's illegitimacy. He would then make degrading remarks about her character for having lived with Mr. B.

Evidence of the poor adjustment can be seen in Mr. W.'s statement that shortly after his marriage he began to wonder if his marriage was a wise one, because of Mrs. W. having lived with Mr. B. He continued to go around with other women, although he resented Mrs. W.'s contact with former friends.

According to Mr. W., Mrs. W. would tell him she only married him for a home for the children and since he didn't seem able to provide this she might as well go around with former boy friends and have some fun.

With such attitudes existing in both the husband and wife it is not surprising that they finally divorced each other.

EFFECTS UPON THE CHILDREN

The constant quarreling and lack of unity between Mr. and Mrs. W. hardly seem conducive to the happiness of the children. The frequent changing of homes and schools did not allow the children to adjust to one situation before being moved to another. This might easily lead to feelings of insecurity and rejection.

PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP

A. CHILD AND MOTHER

The different social workers who handled this case expressed the opinion that Mrs. W. was a rather selfish individual interested mostly in herself, but feeling some responsibility for the children.

Mrs. W.'s rejection of Frances seems more apparent than that of the other children as she often compares Frances unfavorably with them. She considers Frances to be different from the other children, in that she thinks Frances
is "dumb" and backward while she says the other children are so smart, they are almost geniuses.

Joseph who is the only other child living with Mrs. W. is in the correct grade placement for his age and is doing average work.

B. CHILD AND MOTHER’S HUSBAND

Up until the time of the divorce, Mr. W. expressed a willingness to help make a home for the children if he and Mrs. W. could make a satisfactory marital adjustment and Mrs. W. would try to live up to the marriage vows.

Mrs. W. said the children liked him and that he was not mean to them. These were the only indications the worker could get as to the relationship among the children.

C. EFFECTS UPON THE CHILD

The poor relationship between Frances and her mother, and the frequent changes of homes are probably reflected in her poor school work and her listless manner. She is usually sickly which might be a means of getting attention.

The worker thought Frances was hungry for affection and attention, as he tried in a number of ways to get the worker’s attention. For example, she displayed her dolls, pictures she had drawn, etc.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLINGS

Frances often speaks of her other brother and sisters and says she would like to live with them. It is likely that she is somewhat resentful of James since he is thought of as being very smart and she is compared unfavorably with him.

As all of the children were "illegitimate" none can find more acceptance because of a "legitimate" birth. However, it does seem that the factor of their "illegitimacy" did separate the children in that two stayed with each
parent, so it might be said that it prevented the existence of a closer relationship.

**ATTITUDE OF HUSBAND AS TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CHILDREN**

Mr. W. was willing at the beginning of the marriage to go half way in helping Mrs. W. with the children.

**The Banks Family**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members of Family</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banks, George</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Julia</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Charles</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL**

Mr. and Mrs. B., a Negro family, were married 7/11/32. Since that time he has done little in the way of support. Because of this they came to the agency a few years ago. Their marriage was a forced one and made up of many separations and reconciliations. At the present time they are separated and Mr. B. is out of the state. He is refusing to support the children, although he claims he is willing to support his own children, but not Charles and Julia.

Mrs. B. admitted that Charles and Julia are her children by another man.

At one time it was thought that neither he nor she was responsive to case work help and the court was thinking of removing the children from the home. The children at this time were showing signs of pre-delinquent behavior.

However, after Mr. B. left the state Mrs. B. was given relief so that she might stay at home with the children, as they had previously been left to their own devices while she worked.

At this time Mrs. B. and her children are staying with her father who
is a good substitute father for the children. By this the writer means he takes an interest in plans for them, and gives financial aid.

EFFECTS ON THE HUSBAND AND WIFE RELATIONSHIP

Since the stormy pattern of the marriage was seen before Charles and Julia were born they can hardly be considered responsible for the separation of Mr. and Mrs. B. However, they may have been a deciding factor in the permanent separation, as it was after their births that he admitted he had no intentions of maintaining a permanent home with Mrs. B.

EFFECTS UPON THE CHILD

Due to the many separations, and the failure of Mr. B. to support the family they suffered from poor economic conditions.

PARENT AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP

A. CHILDREN AND MOTHER

The social worker expressed the opinion that Mrs. B. has become a very adequate and interested mother. Supporting this opinion is the fact that the children are now showing no signs of pre-delinquent behavior. The worker thinks that all of the children are fond of her and that she gives them all attention and affection.

B. CHILDREN AND MOTHER'S HUSBAND

It seems that the maternal grandfather represents to the children an adequate father as he helps with their care, and takes an interest in their activities and ambitions. It is the worker’s opinion that they are not concerned about their mother’s husband.

C. EFFECTS ON THE CHILD

Under the new care and attention of an interested mother and father-
person the children seem to be outgrowing previous behavior due to a bad environment with disinterested persons and are seemingly normal and happy children. The grandfather, according to the social worker, is so fond of the children that he can't tell which are children born to the marriage and which were born outside of the marriage.

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SIBLINGS**

The children play and get along well together. Due to the accepting attitude of the mother and grandfather, it is not likely that the children are aware of a difference in parentage.

**ATTITUDES OF THE HUSBAND AS TO FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Mr. B. does not take any responsibility.
SUMMARY OF GROUP III

None of the marriages in this group was entered into with a common understanding or interest on the part of the marital partners. For example, Mr. Jones expressed the feeling that he didn't know why he married Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Henry admits that she had no desire to marry Mr. Henry, but did so because it was arranged by her family. Mr. Williams expressed doubts as to the wisdom of his marriage and Mrs. Williams stated that she married him only for a home. The Banks marriage was a forced one.

In all of the cases the men refused to support their wives or the children. Their rejection of the children is evident in their failure to support or to take other interest in the child.

The fact that Mr. Henry and Mr. Williams went around with other women while Mr. Jones and Mr. Banks were absent from home at intervals of a few days to a few months might be a contributing cause of marital failure.

Two of the mothers, Mrs. Henry and Mrs. Williams showed rejection of their children through request for placement. However, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Banks were able to show their children some affection and signs of wanting to be adequate mothers by working and planning for the children.

Considering the basis on which these marriages were formed, and the inability of the marital partners to develop common goals and interest, it is not difficult to understand why these marriages failed.
CHAPTER III

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In an attempt to summarize findings and conclusions from the study the following factors were noted in regard to the group having a relatively good marital adjustment. (Group I)

1) The men in all three of the cases showed a great deal of maturity. This was evident by the way in which they took responsibility in planning for their families and by their acceptance of their wives' problems as their own.

2) As a result of the understanding love of their husbands the women were able to grow emotionally. This was particularly true with the Stewart case. In connection with the need for understanding and love as an incentive to growth, Ruth F. Brenner mentioned the fact that unmarried mothers usually came from homes that offered them little if any love or understanding and this growth or maturity was hindered. From this statement, it is possible to infer that once these mothers are given this love and understanding which they need they are free to grow or to develop emotionally.

3) The mother gave no indicating of marrying the husband for financial or other purely selfish reasons.

4) There was evidence of real affection and concern for the marital partner.

5) Through giving the child attention and affection the parents indicated their willingness to accept him as a member of the family group.

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6) The child's presence was accepted as a reality, with no attempt to keep facts about him hidden.

7) There was a willingness on the part of the husband to take financial and other responsibilities for the child.

8) The husband and wife were able to work out their problems together in the area of health, finances, etc. The Stewart case is a clear example of this.

9) The mothers were in the age range of 15 to 16 years of age at the time of the child's birth which was younger than for the other groups, judging from the available material.

10) All of the men tried to provide financial care for their families. However, Mr. Carter had difficulty in providing due to his lack of training for a skilled job and his inability to do other types of work because of his small build.

11) The educational achievement of this group is difficult to ascertain, as there was no information regarding it. However, as none of the men were known to be skilled it is possible to assume that their education was limited. It is not likely that the mothers completed high school because of the young age at which they became pregnant.

12) As for the racial factor the writer found no indications that being white or negro made any difference in the adjustment of the three cases. The Stewart case was Negro, the other two white.

13) How other children affected the marital adjustment is difficult to determine for this group, as there was only the one child in the Stewart and Molotoe families. In the Carter family the other children were born after Charles but did not cause any rejection of him.
In the second and third groups, in lesser or greater degree, are found the following factors contributing to the questionable adjustment or lack of ability to adjust in the marital situations.

1) The lack of common interest between the husband and wife as to the purpose and aims of marriage. These marriages were formed for selfish ends, usually quite pronounced as far as the women were concerned. They admitted marrying for homes or financial reasons, and in a few situations to give the baby a name.

2) The lack of love or deep affection for the marital partner was either clearly expressed or implied in eight out of ten cases.

3) There was little planning together or sharing of responsibility in the marriage. That is, the women were poor housekeepers taking little interest in making the home pleasant. The men gave a minimum of financial support or none at all.

4) Marked immaturity could be seen in either one or both of the marital partners in their inability to take responsibility in planning for themselves in the area of finances, and in their rejection of the child.

5) There were indications of rejection of the child with the exception of Mrs. Jones.

6) How the age factor affected these groups is not known, but their average age of 20 was older than that of the first group whose average age was 15.3. In group two the ages of three of the women were not known.

7) The men in group two gave a minimum of financial aid. That is, they provided only necessary food and clothing. Exceptions to this were Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Smith who provided adequately according to their wives. In group three none of the men gave financial support. There was little information as to the occupation of these men.

8) There was little information as to what education had been obtained.
by these groups. Neither Mr. and Mrs. Johnson nor Mr. and Mrs. Smith finished high school.

9) There were no indications that the factor of race caused any difference in the marital adjustment. In Group II three out of six cases were Negro. They were Davis, Johnson, and Smith. In Group III two out of four cases were Negro. They were Williams and Banks.

10) The writer found it difficult to determine how the factor of other children affected the marriage. In Group II the "illegitimate" child was the only child in the Smith family. Mr. Douglas expressed more feeling for his own child who came after William, the "illegitimate" child. In the Hamilton case, Dorothy the "illegitimate" child thought her parents gave her younger sister and brother more attention than she received. In the Bergman, Johnson and Davis cases there was no evidence to show in what way other children affected the adjustment.

In Group III Mr. Jones rejected all of the children, while Mrs. Jones accepted Mary, the "illegitimate" child, who was born between two legitimate children. Mrs. Henry favors the little girl by Mr. H. who was born after Joseph, the "illegitimate" child and is stern in disciplining Joseph. All of the Williams children are "illegitimate" but it seems that Francis the oldest child is suffering from rejection more than the other children, as she is having difficulty in school and is hungry for attention. This is shown by her strivings to get the worker's attention by displaying toys, pictures, etc. In the Banks family the oldest child David and the youngest child Julia are "illegitimate." How the three children in the middle affect the adjustment is not known.

In summing this up for the two groups, in one case, there was one only child so the factor of other children would not be operating in this case. Three cases gave evidence of preference by either or both parents for the
younger legitimate children. In four cases there was no evidence as to how the other children affected the situation. In one case all of the children were rejected and illegitimate but the oldest child seemed most rejected.

In one case all of the children were rejected by the husband, but the mother accepted the illegitimate child and the others.

In further summarizing the findings of the study it seems that the way in which the presence of the "illegitimate" child affects the marital adjustment depends on what other factors the marital partners bring to the marriage, such as maturity or immaturity, love and affection for the marital partner or the lack of it, etc. Understanding and acceptance of the child by the husband and wife is a necessary part of the adjustment if it is to be a good one.

The study of the thirteen cases does not provide an adequate sample from which to draw definite conclusions. There were only three out of thirteen cases from which to draw conclusions as to factors contributing to a good adjustment. In considering this one must remember that those cases which have achieved a good adjustment are not as likely to come to a social agency, as those cases in which the adjustment is poor or failing.

In group one in two of the three cases there were no other children which may have made the adjustment easier. Yet there were children in the third case and they were able to make a good adjustment.

The mothers in Group one were also younger than in the other age group but as was true with the factor of other children the sample of cases was too small to know how much these factors contributed to the marital adjustment.

In view of the small sample of cases and the limited information concerning factors of age, education, finances, race, etc., it can not be determined how they affect the marital situation and the adjustment achieved can not be determined. Further studies would be needed to clarify the importance of the various factors and to arrive at more definite conclusions.
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