

# REPORT OF THE AIMS AND WORK OF THE LOWELL HUMANE SOCIETY



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The Lowell Humane Society acknowledges its indebtedness to the management of the Lowell Day Nursery for the kind attention shown and generous aid given to children sent by the agent of the Humane Society to the Day Nursery. The management has always been ready and willing not only to feed and clothe the children sent them, but to shelter them for any length of time. By caring for these little ones taken from intemperate parents and places of destitution, an opportunity has been given the agent of the Humane Society to provide homes either of his own choosing or those furnished by the State Board of Charities, thus improving the moral and physical condition of the children.

The Red Acre Farm, Sudbury, Massachusetts, has generously contributed to the work of the Lowell Humane Society, enabling the agent of the Lowell Society to purchase many of the maimed and diseased horses found upon the streets. The prices paid the owners vary from \$2.50 to \$5.00. The dumb creatures are put out of misery in a humane manner.

The Society is also indebted to the generous public for contributions of very many articles of clothing, food and miscellaneous articles. The Lowell merchants have been kind in giving from their stores.





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AGENT.

Charles F. Richardson.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Lowell Humane  
Society

FOR THE

YEAR 1905



LOWELL, MASS.  
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

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In presenting this little pamphlet to the friends of the Lowell Humane Society and the public, as its first printed report, it seems fitting to give a brief statement of the object and aims of the Society, by what methods this work is carried out, the need and opportunities for extending the same, and how the expenses of the Society are met.

The Lowell Humane Society was organized in May, 1873, and has therefore been doing most useful work in preventing cruelty and relieving suffering for more than a generation. The list of those who took part in the organization of the Society at its initial meeting contains the names of many of our citizens of that day who were interested in charitable and philanthropic enterprises. Most of them have since passed away, but their memory is treasured and the good deeds and noble enterprises which they inaugurated live after them. In this connection it is interesting to note that His Excellency, William B. Washburn, then Governor of the Commonwealth, was present and addressed the first meeting of the Society, and that later on among the list of its former Presidents appears the name of Governor Greenhalge, who, though pressed with many weighty cares, never was too busy to give freely of his time for its humane work and was always ready to raise his eloquent voice to plead for the needy and suffering and "those who can not speak for themselves."

A mistaken impression somewhat widely prevails that the prevention of cruelty and suffering among dumb animals is the Society's only object, but on the contrary its scope is much wider and extends to the care and relief of young children, and

in the words of its constitution, "the prevention of all cruelty by humane education," and this branch of its work among friendless little ones grows each year in importance and urgency.

In 1873 the population of the city of Lowell was about 45,000; 1906 finds us a great manufacturing city with a population nearing 100,000, made up largely of those who toil in our mills and factories, and with a cosmopolitan mingling of many races. With such conditions as these, there is constant need of some one with authority to search out and relieve neglected, abused, and abandoned children. Lowell has many noble charities which assist and relieve such cases when they are presented to them, but the work of the Humane Society covers a field that none other does, in that it searches out and investigates through its agent these cases and turns them over to other charitable institutions for permanent relief and care. It conflicts with the work of no other society, but on the contrary is indebted to them for cordial support and co-operation. The Day Nursery, at all hours of the day or night, opens wide its doors to receive and care for homeless children for whom our agent is compelled to find care and shelter.

The officers of our Police Department constantly call attention to cases which do not fall strictly within the line of their police duty, but require investigation and relief such as this Society can give, and are always ready to lend cheerful aid and assistance to its work.

It is gratifying to be able to report that in spite of the growth of our population and therefore the necessarily increasing number of cases of animal suffering and neglect and abuse which occur in a large city, the work which has been and is being done in the line of humane education becomes more effective each year, and that, in the main, cases of cruelty requiring attention arise rather from thoughtlessness and neglect than from deliberate purpose. Young children are learning to pity and care for dumb animals and to become interested in studying their history and habits, and, with this love for animals and interest in them once implanted, they are warm hearted and effective advocates and protectors in later years.

While it is intended that cases of deliberate cruelty shall be promptly and effectively prosecuted, the policy of the Society is, in all cases where persuasion and admonition are sufficient, to avoid recourse to the courts, and an examination of the statistics in the agent's report herewith, showing a large number of cases investigated and relieved compared with the few prosecutions will confirm this statement.

The office of the Society is located at 71 Central street and is connected by telephone, and as far as possible with the many calls for his services, Mr. Richardson will be found there during the following office hours: From 8 to 9 o'clock A. M., 12.30 to 1.30 and 4.30 to 5.30 P. M., and Saturday 7 to 8.30 P. M. He can also be reached by telephone at his residence.

The expense of carrying on the work of the Society, stated roughly, consists of the salary of the agent, office and telephone rent, a small amount for printing, and a few incidentals, and aggregates about \$1,300 per year. In 1902, through the generosity of Mr. Frederick Fanning Ayer of New York City, the Society received a fund of \$10,000, the income of which is applicable to its purposes, and from which the sum of from \$450 to \$500 per year is received. The balance of its necessary expenditures must be raised each year from membership fees, contributions from friends, and such sums as may be obtained by fairs and various entertainments for this benefit. The public in Lowell is generous towards all charities, but the constant and increasing calls upon them are so many that the officers of the Lowell Humane Society desire as far as possible to avoid these methods of solicitation.

Membership in the Society is only \$1.00 per year. If 800 members can be secured, no calls need be made for other contributions. If 1,000 members can be secured, the work of the Society can be extended in much needed directions. Enclosed with this report is forwarded a slip containing an application for membership. Can you and will you not sign the same and enclose it with \$1.00 to Miss Mary Nesmith, Treasurer, corner of Nesmith and Andover streets, Lowell, Mass.? It will be gratefully received and promptly acknowledged.

## THE AGENT'S REPORT

Charles F. Richardson, agent for the Lowell Humane Society, makes a complete and interesting statement of the cases he has had under consideration during the year 1905.

In prefacing this report, it is the desire of the directors of the society to compliment the work that Mr. Richardson has done, and to declare to the members of the society and to the public at large their belief that he has accomplished much in the way of alleviation of distress among animals and children in a quiet but most effective way.

It is true that the calls upon his time and his energy are multitudinous, and on that account much that he could do has been delayed or left undone, because of inability to cover the ground. It is the earnest desire of the society to add to its working force in such a way that Mr. Richardson may have more time for the more important cases that come up. It is for this purpose that the appeal is made to the citizens of Lowell to become members of the society in sufficient numbers to allow the directors to have sufficient income to pay an assistant. An addition to the permanent fund of the society would be an ideal way to surmount the difficulty.

Mr. Richardson's report follows:

In presenting the statistics of the work of the society, perhaps a few general remarks are admissible.

If this or any other Humane society is to do its best work, it must have the moral support of all law abiding people, as well as their assistance in calling the attention of the officers to cases of cruelty.

It is often the case, in both the city and country, that cases needing investigation are reported by persons who neglect to give their names and addresses correctly, signing themselves by fictitious names, thereby blocking the wheels of justice. Such communications cannot be noticed in the least. If the right name is signed, the writer can be interviewed before any steps are taken

in the matter. It is an old story, but one that needs to be emphasized, that all reports to the society, whether by letter or in person are strictly confidential.

It is certain that many cases of cruelty to children and animals remain unreported, because those to whom facts are known fear that their names will be mentioned, thereby causing them trouble.

In making the following tabulated report, I desire to call attention to the large number of cases that have been settled without recourse to the courts, which seems to me the ideal way to dispose of the majority of cases. Recourse to the courts is not necessary in very many of our cases, when by a little effort, some more satisfactory disposition of the case can be made. I have seen enough during my work in Lowell to realize that I have saved many a young person from becoming hopelessly caught in the ruts of filth and indecency, by giving them the right kind of help at the right time. I could cite any number of cases that would interest the charitable public, but some of the details would be too harrowing for publication. I content myself with a few samples, photographs of some of which are also shown.

The tabulated report for the year 1905 is as follows:

### ANIMALS.

#### NATURE OF COMPLAINT.

Horses being driven while lame . . . . .	128
Horses being driven while galled . . . . .	66
Cases of beating or whipping . . . . .	22
Cases of overloading . . . . .	20
Relieved from high overchecks . . . . .	8
Lack of food or shelter . . . . .	6
Cases of animals unfit to work . . . . .	3
Cases of ill treatment . . . . .	36
Horses caused to be blanketed in cold weather . . . . .	31
Animals killed by agent . . . . .	680
Dogs underfed or ill used . . . . .	5

Poultry overcrowded in crates . . . . .	122
Swine underfed or neglected . . . . .	37
Cruelty to a fox . . . . .	1
Prosecutions . . . . .	9

## CHILDREN.

### NATURE OF COMPLAINTS.

Neglect . . . . .	127
Destitute . . . . .	21
Non-Support . . . . .	41
Abandonment . . . . .	1
Incorrigible . . . . .	6
Beating and abuse . . . . .	2

### DISPOSITION OF ABOVE.

Committed as neglected to State Board of Minor Wards . . . . .	22
Placed in care Overseers of the Poor . . . . .	11
Placed under the charge of the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Boston . . . . .	4
Sent to the Lyman School . . . . .	1
St. Peter's Orphanage . . . . .	2
St. Mary's Infant Asylum . . . . .	1
Refuge Home for Girls . . . . .	2
Prosecution for non-support . . . . .	9
Guardianship secured among relatives . . . . .	2
Given over to relatives . . . . .	1
<b>Cases remedied without recourse to the Courts . . . . .</b>	<b>143</b>
Intemperate parents . . . . .	50
Parents or guardians warned . . . . .	19
Children before the Courts . . . . .	51

## SPECIMEN CASES.

I give below a few specimen cases in which the Society is called upon to deal and such as can be described in print.

The nature of the work is, of necessity, often very painful and in many cases unfit for description. The present case is representative of an unfortunately numerous class of fathers who, through intemperance or sheer indifference, habitually neglect to provide for their children, and abuse them.

This family consisted of the parents and four small children, aged one, two, four and seven years, living in Tyngsboro, nine miles from Lowell. I made a visit one cold day last winter and found the mother lying very ill in bed with pneumonia, with no one to care for her except the seven-year-old child. The children were huddled together around an old stove trying to keep warm. They were ragged and dirty. There was no food in the house except a few half-frozen turnips and potatoes. The neighbors had furnished fuel and food to keep the family from starvation until the agent of the Society was notified. The father, a Pole, was a woodchopper and worked in the woods, coming home once a week, always intoxicated and with a good supply of liquor.

Two days before the complaint was made, he came home and finding his wife sick, pounded her with his fists and dragged her about by the hair because she did not have a good supper ready for him.

The mother and children were sent to the State Hospital, and the father was arrested and sentenced to four months in jail for non-support. At the trial the father admitted he had not taken a bath for two years, except when he accidentally fell into a pond.

Another case concerns a family consisting of a mother and six small children, three boys and three girls, aged two to eleven years. The father is dead; the mother, a drunkard; the home,



a resort for dissolute characters. In one room was found a case of beer, two empty jugs that had contained whiskey, and according to one of the children, the mother had been selling on the sly.



The family occupied three rooms which were filthy in the extreme; there was not a decent piece of furniture in the house; the mother and six children occupied one bed with no covering except two old blankets; the bedding was black with dirt; there was no food nor fuel in the house; the water had been turned off for non-payment of rent; the children had no shoes and stockings, scarcely enough clothing to cover their nakedness, and were covered with vermin. The mother having been repeatedly warned without effect, the children were removed in the patrol wagon, wrapped up in horse blankets to keep them warm, and were taken to the Day Nursery. There it was found that one child's feet were frost-bitten. After a bath they were dressed in

warm clothing, taken into court and committed to the care of the Overseers of the Poor, during their minority.



The Society's attention was called by the matron of one of the Day Nurseries of the ill treatment of a small boy, which was left at the Nursery by his mother while she was at work.

Upon investigating the complaint, I found the child, who was illegitimate, a rather good looking boy five years of age, living with his mother, an intemperate and immoral woman about thirty-five years of age. They lived in an attic chamber in a cheap lodging house in the heart of the city. Upon entering the room the first thing that met my gaze was the dozens of beer and whiskey bottles which littered the floor. The atmosphere was foul and sickening and there was not a decent piece of furniture in the room.

It was found that not only was the child exposed to immoral influences, but was grossly abused by the woman's paramour. Further inquiries showed that the mother gave liquor to the child to keep him quiet while she was entertaining her company. A warrant was immediately taken out, and after the facts of the case were presented to the court, the boy was ordered to the care of the State Board of Minor Wards, and he was placed in the

care of a respectable Catholic family, where he is now surrounded by good influences and is doing nicely.

The mother took the pledge and went to work and is trying to live a better life in the hope that sometime the boy may be returned to her, which the law allows as soon as the object of his committal has been accomplished.

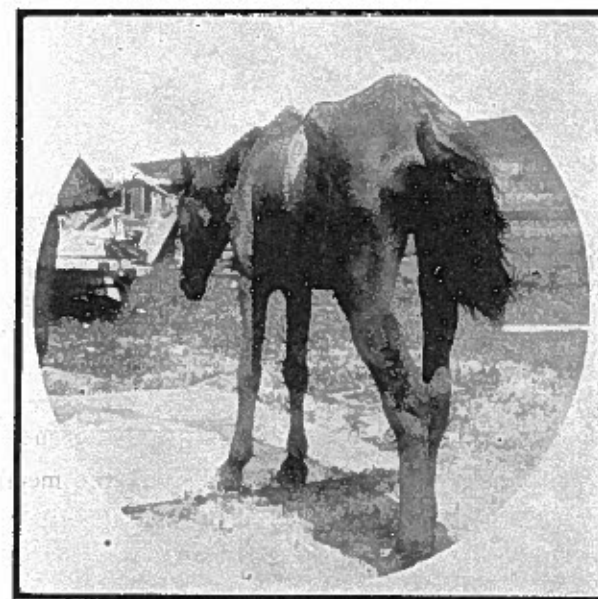
A Concord man sent a horse to Lowell to be sold at public auction. The animal was found in the care of two small boys who had been given ten cents to lead the creature through the streets to the sale, as the owner was afraid to do so himself. The boys were stopped by Patrolman Bartholomew Ryan, who notified me at once. I placed the horse in a nearby stable, and upon examination, it was seen that the horse was badly foundered, the nigh hind foot being actually rotten and so painful that the poor animal could not stand on it. He was suffering intensely. The owner, learning that the officers were looking for him left for New Hampshire. The animal was shot to put him out of misery.

A Jew led a horse from Lawrence to Lowell to be sold at public auction. The animal, besides being in an emaciated condition was broken down in the off hind leg, causing him to walk on his fetlock. The Jew was immediately arrested, the court finding him guilty. A fine of \$20 was imposed, which he paid. The animal was killed to end its sufferings.

For attempting to lead a horse, very lame in three legs, a horse trader was prosecuted and fined \$10.

The trader had taken the animal in trade and was taking the horse home after dark when he was met by the agent. The animal was killed.

Complaint was received that a Greek baker was working a lame horse. The officer found the animal in a stable in Ford street. An examination showed the animal had broken tendons in the off front ankle and was walking on his fetlock. The owner had just bought the horse, and in view of the fact, he was willing to have the horse killed. A large family being dependent upon him he was allowed to go with a warning.





The picture on the opposite page is a photograph taken by the agent, of an extreme case of cruelty perpetrated by a farmer in a town near Lowell. The guilty man was taken before the court which imposed a fine of \$15. The reason given by the defendant was that the cow had been in the habit of jumping an old fence and going home. It was shown at the trial that the farmer bored a hole through the cow's nose with a bell hanger's gimlet and ran a piece of telegraph wire through the nose, attaching the ends to the horns. The nose was very sore and inflamed and caused the animal much pain while grazing.

In addition to the foregoing cases, many cats are rescued from high trees or telegraph poles where they have been chased by dogs or boys. Quantities of nails, broken glass and other articles liable to injure animals are removed from the streets. Visits are made to auction sales and similar places, and assistance is rendered to fallen horses and to those overcome by the heat, etc. Broken blinders are caused to be removed, ill fitting harness corrected and pads advised where a harness chafes, to prevent sores.

From the foregoing report it will be readily seen that the work of the agent is multifarious and exacting, as well as unpleasant at times. Yet the amount of good really accomplished repays one for the continual association with misfortune.

In presenting this report I wish to thank the members of the Society for the aid they have given me, and to thank the public as well, realizing that without the public approbation the work will go for naught.

CHARLES F. RICHARDSON.



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Miss Helen M. Wright  
Mr. Chas. F. Young  
Miss Florence Young



To Miss Mary Nesmith,  
Treas. Lowell Humane Society,  
Cor. Nesmith & Andover Sts.,  
Lowell, Mass.

I hereby make application for membership in the Lowell Humane Society, and enclose the sum of one dollar covering annual dues.

Very truly yours,

My address is

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I give and bequeath to the Lowell Humane Society of Lowell, Mass., the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars.