

Archives of the  
Charity  
Organisation  
Society,  
1869 - 1938

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**ARCHIVES OF THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY 1869 - 1938**

Part 1: Journals of the Charity Organisation Society, 1872 - 1938

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## **PUBLISHER'S NOTE**

Harvester Microform is proud to publish the Second Series in programme Victorian Philanthropy and Social Problems. This makes available the Archives of the Charity Organisation Society from 1869 to 1938, and complements Series One, The Archives of the Shaftesbury Society.

Alongside the manifestly wealthy society of Victorian England existed a confused mass of poverty, crime, mendiancy, and squalor often baffling the efforts of authority and benevolence. This situation, couple with the ineffectual administration of the Poor Law, and the existence of a host of philanthropic society and individuals lacking the organisation to implement their objectives, created the movement which led to the foundation of the charity Organisation Society in 1869.

The Society aimed primarily to promote co-operation between existing agencies rather than to provide direct assistance itself. It sought to operate "not by doing other people's work for them, but by bringing Government, societies and individuals to do their share of the required work at the right time and in the right way." The Society's function was not, however, purely administrative, and it provided an important forum for the discussion of topical social issues. Its breadth of outlook is illustrated by the range of subject considered at Council in 1885-1886 - local government and its responsibilities, the employment of epileptics, benefit societies for women, the care of invalid children, Metropolitan Poor Law institutions, and emigration.

The Charity Organisation Reporter, first published in 1872, was a weekly paper providing the proceedings of the Society's Council, reports from district committees, as well as articles and correspondence by its members on a host of subjects. These included the education of pauper children, juvenile crime, the Factory Acts, labour migration, the work of individual charities, housing improvement, the Sanitary Laws, and the provisions of creches. The Reporter was succeeded in 1885 by the Charity Organisation Review, a monthly periodical aimed at a wider circulation, which was in turn succeeded by the Charity Organisation Quarterly in 1922. These later volumes reveal a more international outlook, and while many of the major social issues remain the same, new issues appear, such as the question on National Health Insurance, unemployment insurance, psychiatric care, and the development of the social sciences.

As well as offering a wealth of information on social conditions and reform in nineteenth century Britain, these periodicals also chart the progression from charity and philanthropy to the development of the Welfare State. They will form a invaluable addition to any library, especially those with an interest in Victorian Society.

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