

THIS . . . GENERATION

YOUTH HOUSE
321 W. 103rd Street
at Riverside Drive
New York, N. Y.



Vol. I.

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No. 2.

About Youth House

ALL over Germany and also in some other countries are what are known as Youth Houses, centers from which the people of the Youth Movement go out to reclaim the infinite treasures of Nature and Culture. Many of these houses have been either built or reconstructed by young people. Crumbling castles have been salvaged and restored to their splendid medieval atmosphere, and today they stand as monuments of modern Youth's love for beauty and the home.

The first Youth House in London was organized four years ago and is located at 250 Camden Road. The Youth House in New York was founded October, 1931, for the purpose of harboring the spirit and idea of the Youth Movement. Youth House offers you a comradeship above all social conditions and political affiliations. Fellowship at Youth House is more than a kindly greeting; it is a refined expression of daily life in all its involved and difficult ramifications. Besides, friendship and sociability in a great city like New York, are the first requirements of a sound ideal movement.

Therefore, no particular age-limit marks membership to the Youth House. You, all of you, who are reading this bulletin and who feel strongly and actively the pulse of humanity may identify yourselves with Youth House and the World Youth Movement.

At Youth House one finds a blending of all ages, not measured in years, for the experience of adults often prove to be a guide and an inspiration to those starting out on life's journey, while the thoughts, the visions and aspirations of Youth kindle the old wanderers of the trail with fresh fires of enthusiasm. We have at Youth House a democracy of professions: the artist, the student, the craftsman, the clerk, the teacher, the parent, the social worker, the health adviser, the international peace patriot and every other calling. In this way Youth House is characterized by a synthesis of individualities, backgrounds and interests, a community of talents.

The Youth Movement

THE YOUTH MOVEMENT may be defined as a spontaneous educational movement. It concerns itself with the totality of life. It represents neither a fadism, specialization nor an isolation of ideas. It seeks rather a free development of the mind and being of young people, unhampered by class, color, race or nationality. It is an effort on the part of self-conscious youth to find its own way of thinking and its own mode of living, unimpeded by the outworn past. Naturally, the Youth Movement takes its chief inspiration from the future, and is, therefore, not limited by any particular philosophical system, religious denomination or political persuasion. Its aim is the Unity of all Cultural Forces. Moreover, the Youth Movement is not a sentimental movement, but a training ground for courage, and the members of the Youth Movement are the Pioneers of a New Era, characterized by a happy and constructive release of personality.

Youth, A Vital Age

HOW is youth to be measured? Are the number of years that mark a person the real criterion? Youth is the time of vitality, vigor, vision, strength of character. Outwardly it is physiological perfection; inwardly it is youth-consciousness and spiritual attainment; sociologically it is creative energy focused upon the fundamental problems of life and followed up by a passionate endeavor to create a more beautiful home for humanity. Just as in modern pedagogy, educators are now thinking in terms of a *mental* age, or an *educational* age, so in the Youth Movement, one thinks of a *vital* age, an inner or spiritual age.

This spiritual age is ordinarily known as *Youth-consciousness*, which denotes a general awakening, a renaissance, resulting in a realization, more or less thorough, of the meaning of life and a perfection of the understanding. Youth-conscious men and women of our time enjoy living in an awakening period of the human race, in one of its marvelous spring days. The privilege of our young is the intoxicating knowledge of having their whole life before them, full of the problems of new creation. The Youth Life is a frequent term used in the Youth Movement, and has the signification of life-enhancement, an ever-growing increase of one's sphere of activity. The Youth Philosophy dwells, therefore, on human power, and a way whereby it may be perfected. Thus are men and women stirred, not by fear nor by aversion, but only by the emotion of joy to endeavor again and again.

The German Youth Homes

Side by side as on we stride,
And the songs of old are singing;
All the woods with music ringing
Make us feel that we are bringing
A Youth Movement dawning wide,
A New Day that shall abide.

Here they come, more than fifty of them! As Karl springs ahead of the laughing ranks, he whirls his big guitar around from where it hangs on his colored embroidered band over his shoulder, and strikes into a melody. More than fifty voices catch it up. It is the song of the Youth Movement, *Mit uns Zieht die Neue Zeit*. It is the song which has touched and inspired so many of the younger generation, not only in Germany, but in all Europe and even America.

Most of the boys are clad in leather or imitation leather shorts, their bare knees browned by the sun. Some of them wear the picturesque Tyrolean costume—white shirt and red necktie, bright suspenders over the shoulders, knitted woolen socks, just covering the calves, and a jaunty peaked green hat crowning all, with perhaps a goose quill or goat-hair brush stuck in its brim.

Many of the girls are in gay aprons and decorated blouses, reminiscent of medieval times. Some wear their heavy yellow hair in plaits hanging before them. Like the boys, they are browned by sun and wind.

A few of the company have mandolins, guitars and mouth harmonicas, and as they swing along through this leafy trail in the Bavarian Schwarzwald they are chanting one of the old German folk-songs.

These are "wandervoegel" (Birds of Passage) and their like can be seen to-day all over Germany, climbing mountains, exploring forests, visiting cities and getting to know the Fatherland better than has any previous generation of German youth.

All week long in houses gray,
The beating hammers pounding,
Deep in our souls resounding,
Our courage never found'ring!
Glorious breaks the golden day:
Grandly shines our holiday.

At the present time, the Society of German Youth Homes, which has general supervision of all the groups, maintains more than 6,000 rest houses all over Germany and Austria, with Herbergen in Sweden, Holland and Latvia. All of these have been either purchased or built in the last few years, so that now it is possible for young people to walk anywhere in Germany, sure of finding a clean, hospitable place to sleep in at night, if they plan their trip with the maps and directory of the society.

The Herbergen are of all sorts—ancient castles on the Rhine, quaint chalets in the Tyrol, huts in the forests, refitted houses in the cities. In each of them the price of a night's lodging is the same — 50 pfennigen (about 12½ cents), while well cooked meals are obtained at from 25 to 50 pfennigs.

We were fortunate enough to make a recent walking trip up the Rhine Valley from Cologne to Mainz, stopping each night at a picturesque rest house. It was late spring and already crowds of German youths were on the march. Each night we stopped with a different group, but all were the same—merry and unafraid, singing their haunting old folk-songs in the moonlight and always eager to talk with us earnestly about America's attitude toward Germany and their own hopes for the future.

Green of birch, O seeding-green!
Good Mother Earth's beseeching
Her Young Folks she is teaching
Toward Nature to be reaching!
Robust arms are holding you,
Building up your life anew.

The German Youth Movement is hard to define. It began in 1896 as an effort on the part of young men to escape from the walled cities and enjoy again the open country and a sky undimmed by factory smoke.

Since 1918 the Youth Movement has emerged from these early beginnings not only as a cult of outdoor life and vital living, but as a cultural progressive educational and democratic movement.

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There is a similar manifestation among the younger generations of other countries of Europe, notably Austria, Holland, Switzerland, France and Britain. In Italy and Russia the movements are greatly influenced and subsidized by their respective governments. Almost in all the countries of South America as well as Canada and throughout the United States there are young organizations becoming ever more and more *youth-conscious*. In the Orient — in China and India — some of the best movements are to be found.

The Youth Movement stands for comradeship between young people of all classes, religious creeds, races and nationalities. In August, 1928, the First World Youth Peace Congress was held in Holland, where five hundred delegates were gathered, representing every corner of the world and every walk of life. This is why they sing:

One in step and word and song—
Like good old times returning,
Our hearts with love are burning,
Our comrades welfare yearning;
Bearing our thoughts along,
Rearing our visions strong.

There are more than a million young men and women between fifteen and thirty years of age in Germany today, who with high-minded sincerity have called age-worn traditions, like war, imperialism, slums, unnatural living in question and are trying to find a new, freer and more beautiful way of life. And so, as they go about their daily work, carry on their appointed tasks or tread their beloved woodland paths, these groups of the Youth Movement feel that they are helping to build a revitalized and better humanity:

Side by side as one we stride,
And the songs of old are singing,
All the woods with music ringing,
Make us feel that we are bringing
A New Spirit dawning wide,
A New Age that shall abide.

Nicholas Roerich on "Youth"

(Reprinted from "Adamant," by Nicholas Roerich)

"It is with special attention and great joy that we are watching the youth of today. Their hearts are resounding in a unique and quite a new way. They are going to build the new world. When they are praised, our hearts are filled with hope. And the praises are many, for Youth is working and hence strengthening its spirit."

"You, the young generation, have the right to demand from the governments the opening of the paths of art and knowledge. You must be able to say with clear conscience that even when circumstances were hardest you did not forget those great foundations of life—beauty and wisdom; that you realized in your lives this achievement which replaces the joy of destruction by the true joy of creation."

"And so now I speak to you of the young generation about art and knowledge. I know that you, the knights of the people, the knights of the spirit, will not remain in the city of the dead; you will build up a country which will be bright and most beautiful and full of wisdom. Every word should end not in destruction, but in upbuilding. We know how mighty is creative thought. So now, in the presence of great searchings we must speak words which proceed from the best sources: 'Put aside all prejudices; think freely!' And all that is thought in the name of beauty and wisdom will be beautiful."

Youth House Forum

EVERY Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, at 8:30 P.M., the Youth House conducts lectures; musical, dance and poetry recitals; illustrated talks and motion pictures; book reviews; and psychological analyses. Social dancing and refreshments follow these programs. The admission on each of these occasions is twenty-five cents (to members fifteen cents). On Sunday afternoon (4 P.M.) the Roerich Youth Movement serves tea, after which there follows a fireside reading, talk or discussion on some phase of the philosophy, art or education for peace of Nicholas Roerich, the Roerich Museum and the International Youth Movement. Members of Youth House, the Roerich Youth Movement and the Roerich Society are admitted free to these teas (non-members twenty-five cents).

NOTES

The Youth House Book Shop carries the best sellers, which may be borrowed at nominal fees, and also the literature of the Youth Movement listed on Page 7.

Rooms may be rented at Youth House for lectures, recitals, plays, club meetings and social affairs at very reasonable rates.

The Youth House manages concerts, recitals, lectures, classes and courses of all descriptions. Are you in need of a reliable, energetic manager?

Youth House Membership

MEMBERSHIP to Youth House and the Roerich Youth Movement is open to ALL people. The privileges of such membership are as follows:

1. Membership entitles one to the following literature of the Youth Movement:

- "In Defense of Modern Youth"
- "About Youth House"
- "The Nature Movement"
- "The Meaning of the Youth Movement"
- "The World Youth Peace Congress"
- "The English Youth Movement"
- "The Magazine, This Generation"

2. Admittance to lectures, teas, recitals, motion pictures, book reviews, poetry readings, walks and dances at reduced rates.

3. Admittance to lectures, recitals, etc., of the Roerich Society held at the Roerich Museum, when the Youth House and the Roerich Youth Movement are specially invited.

4. Free mailing of all notices of activities of the Youth House, the Roerich Youth Movement and groups affiliated with Youth House.

5. Reduction of fees in the Circulating Library.

6. The use of the Youth House as a Club during the week or on Sunday afternoons.

7. Admittance to various activities and functions which may from time to time arise and which are open *only* for members.

Dues are three (\$3) dollars per year for full membership, or one (\$1) dollar paid every four months.

Youth House Residence

IN addition to the cultural activities at Youth House there are cheerful, sunny, airy, high-ceiled, artistically-furnished studios and rooms available at very reasonable rates. The location near Riverside Drive, and adjoining the Roerich Museum, makes Youth House ideal for residence. A resident at Youth House has the privilege of membership at Youth House, and may enjoy the functions and programs at Youth House without any extra charge.

BOOKS WE RECOMMEND

"In Defense of Modern Youth," By Ellis Chadbourne.

"Plays, Players and Playhouses," By Irma Kraft.

"What Is Your Emotional Age?" By J. George Frederick

"Frankenstein Incorporated," By I. Maurice Wormser

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