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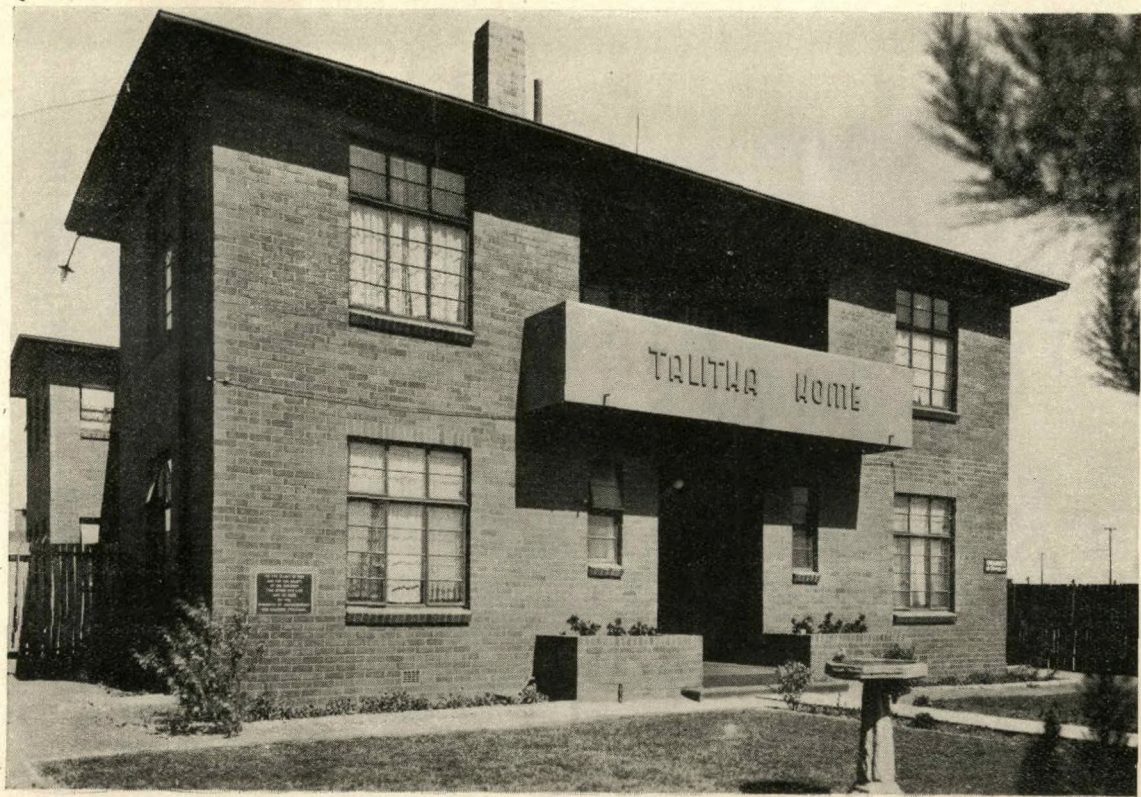
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TALITHA HOME FOR  
NON-EUROPEAN GIRLS

REPORT  
FOR  
1935-1937

UPPER GATE  
WESTERN NATIVE TOWNSHIP  
JOHANNESBURG



# TALITHA HOME

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## PATRONS.

HER EXCELLENCY, THE COUNTESS OF CLARENDON.

HER EXCELLENCY, LADY DUNCAN.

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## COMMITTEE.

MRS. C. D. BRIDGMAN, *President.*

MRS. J. W. JOYCE, *Vice-President.*

MISS A. BEALE, *Hon. Secretary.*

MRS. W. D. JOHNSTON, *Hon. Treasurer.*

MDE. BOREL.

MISS MCKITRICK.

MRS. BRÉBNER.

MRS. MPULO.

MISS CLARRY.

MRS. NICHOLAS.

MDE. OECHSNER DE CONINCK.

MRS. WILLIAM NICOL.

MRS. HALLENDORF.

MISS L. NIVEN.

MRS. HENDERSON.

MRS. RAY PHILLIPS.

MRS. ASTON KEY.

MDE. TERRISSE.

MRS. PAUL MALUNGA.

MRS. WILLIAMS.

MISS ALICE J. WEIR, *Superintendent.*

## REPORT FOR 1935.1937

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THE short history of Talitha Home makes one dare believe that the day of miracles is not past. This experiment in the field of Juvenile Delinquency is the outcome of the united faith and courage of a few missionary women of various denominations in Johannesburg. They were appalled by the fact that during 1934 239 young Non-European girls were brought before the Juvenile Court at Auckland Park, the majority as first offenders. Of these over 100 were sentenced to fines or imprisonment (only a few could pay fines) while 15 were sent to the Eshowe Reformatory, Natal, in lieu of any better place—51 were given suspended or postponed sentences.

These Christian workers banded themselves into a Committee. Many were the visits paid to Officials of Organisations, Magistrates, Probation Officers, Native Commissioners, Municipality, and to the Education Department itself. Everywhere they were received with sympathy and interest. There were months of search for a suitable property or site, but all in vain, until through the kind offices of the Manager for Native Affairs and his Committee, the City Council of Johannesburg offered them over an acre of land at the upper corner of the Western Native Township at the nominal rental of £1 a year. Then by dint of persistent effort, the Committee raised £4,500 for a two-storey building and equipment and just two years ago on October 19th, 1935, Talitha Home was opened, 18 months after the idea was first born in the hearts of these earnest women.

Again last March, the burden of debt weighing heavily, an intensive drive for funds was made and in three weeks a further £1,300 was brought in from the ever-generous public of Johannesburg. To-day we are in the unusual and enviable state of "owing no man anything." This position, however, must not for a moment imply affluence, for the Government subsidy for each committed girl, together with the annual grant of £100 gratefully received from the Municipality, only barely makes possible the payment of our monthly budget. There is no margin for upkeep, for the unexpected, or for necessary developments. Hence, it may not be amiss to suggest that annual subscriptions from our friends would be gratefully welcomed for the coming year.

In the two years of its existence Talitha Home has cared for 121 girls for a longer or shorter period. 82 of these were from the Johannesburg area—22 girls have been transferred to the Eshowe Reformatory, their influence proving definitely bad—47 have absconded, 20 of these being still at large. The peak age of delinquency is sixteen years. According to the Woman Probation Officer in Johannesburg, 73 out of a total of 198 cases dealt with in 1936, were of that age. The average age of girls so far committed to Talitha is 18 years. In the case of absconders the lure of the old unrestrained life with the opportunities for drink and sexual experiences has proved too strong. Bitter tears of repentance often accompany the return of the run-aways.

But we have come to feel strongly that a wholesome moral and social environment does not suffice to combat the elemental passions and temptations of these undisciplined children. There must be a change of heart, a spiritual re-birth, before these young souls are armoured to meet the problems and allurements of life in an urban community. To this end there are stated times for Prayers and Meetings, visits from clergymen, both European and African, as well as attendance at Sunday services in Sophiatown. The Superintendent finds time for heart to heart talks and many are the confidences received, often pitifully revealing.

**TRAINING.**—The girls do all the work at Talitha Home, receiving a thorough training in housewifery, cookery, needlework and laundry. They are taught to make their own uniforms and other clothing, while the well-equipped laundry takes in a number of orders and the girls become proficient laundresses.

Everyone has two hours a day of class-room instruction, for many come with no knowledge of reading and writing. Already a number have been going out unaccompanied for daily domestic work in adjoining suburbs and returning at sundown. Several of these have proved acceptable and efficient. Others have had to be recalled and disciplined for misuse of the confidence placed in them. During a number of months, four of our girls went for daily training as nursemaids to Thabong, the Nursery School at Ekutuleni in Sophiatown.

Under Act 31 of 1937 recently passed, Magistrates are no longer bound to commit for stated terms. The period of detention is now left to the discretion of Superintendents of Hostels. Thus

there are given great incentives for those who wish to prove themselves capable of increasing trust and responsibility. Gradually we hope to relax the restraints which have seemed imperative up to the present.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—Time for recreation is given every afternoon—basket ball, tennis-quoits and various games are enjoyed. In the big dining-room are held evening activities—choral classes, country dancing, physical drill and eurythmics. Mr. Stewart, Principal of Malvern School, and Miss Hewson, of Brixton, have been most generous and regular in their teaching of these drills. An occasional cinema or lantern lecture gives special pleasure. Each girl has her own little plot of ground for vegetables and flowers and also takes her turn in the school gardens and in keeping lawns and flower-beds weeded and watered. Weekly walks are part of the programme. Through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Brandt, an all-day picnic in their shady orchard at "Harmonie" was the event of the year.

Just here we would gratefully acknowledge the gifts which made possible joyous Christmas and New Year festivities. These donations in kind were from Messrs. Henry Clarke, Rondi's, Quinn's, Crispette's, Central Meat Market, Nel's Rust, Albion Springs, Schwappe's Ltd., and W. H. Port, Esq. Nor must we omit the mention of the splendid electric kettle presented to the staff by His Worship the Mayor and Mrs. Mackay after their visit. Recently too, a Radio has come from Messrs. "Philco" Distributors, which is a source of great pleasure, as well as an uplifting influence, particularly on Sundays.

THE STAFF.—Miss Alice Weir, the Superintendent, has given devoted service from the first. Her courage and faith have many rewards in the love and loyalty of her large family. She is ably assisted by two European and three Native helpers, one of whom gives her entire time to teaching in the laundry.

The health of the family is cared for by our Honorary Medical Advisor, Dr. Janet Booker, who pays weekly visits and keeps a watchful eye on the physical well-being of the girls.

Dr. Jean Laing has been our Honorary Dental Officer. Warm thanks are due to these ladies, as well as to our Auditor, Mr. J. R. Guy, to our first Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. S. S. Dornan and to Miss May Hart who as a trained accountant has given invaluable

help to our Hon. Treasurer's from time to time. The speedy and sympathetic aid so often rendered by Sergeant Vlog and other members of the Police Force has been greatly appreciated. There are many other friends who have given generously of their time and strength in coming out the long distance from town to help in demonstrations, clerical work, games and teaching of various sorts. To all these we would use a Zulu term of special gratitude: "Do not forget us to-morrow." And let us emphasise that we could never have gone forward in this great adventure without the sympathy and co-operation which we have so constantly received from the Union Education Department, the Johannesburg Municipality and the Officials of the Juvenile Court.

The problem of delinquency in Johannesburg and along the Reef is fast assuming alarming proportions. Talitha Home is endeavouring to provide a place of refuge and uplift for a few of those who have lost their way in the perplexing new order which has overtaken young girls in urban life. After all, love is the strongest force in the conquest of evil and fear.

May wisdom and strength be given to all who are striving to cope with a situation which is not confined to any one race or colour.

# TALITHA HOME FOR

## BALANCE SHEET

Capital Account ....		£5,943 14 2
Balance as at 31/8/36 ....	£4,769 17 4	
<i>Add</i> Balance from Income and Expenditure Account	1,173 16 10	
Sundry Creditors ....		164 9 5
Thos. Douglas & Son (Pty.) Ltd. ....	93 4 0	
Sundry Creditors ....	71 5 5	
Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) ....		10 10 8

£6,118 14 3

Subject to the remarks contained in my report of even date, and that the Balance Sheet has been properly drawn up so as to the best of my information and the explanations given to me.

Johannesburg,

10th October, 1937.



# NON-EUROPEAN GIRLS

31st AUGUST, 1937

Cash	.....	£146	13	9
St. Andrew's Building Society.				
Expenditure on Buildings	.....	5,388	3	0
Situated on leasehold ground in Western Native Town- ship.				
Balance as at 31/8/36	....	£5,279	3	0
Additions during year	....	109	0	0
Furniture and Fittings	.....	400	0	0
Balance at at 31/8/36	....	450	0	0
Additions during year	....	4	10	10
		454	10	10
Less Depreciation	....	54	10	10
Motor Car	.....	100	0	0
Balance as at 31/8/36	....	135	0	0
Less Depreciation	....	35	0	0
Sundry Debtors	.....	83	17	6
		£6,118	14	3

I certify that the Talitha Home has kept proper books and records, exhibit a true and correct view of the Home's affairs according to

J. R. GUY,  
*Auditor.*

# TALITHA HOME FOR

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Salaries and Wages	....	....	£332 9 0
Household Expenses	....	....	415 4 1
Groceries	....	....	£276 19 5
Meat	....	....	48 5 0
Milk	....	....	16 1 6
Fruit and Vegetables	....	....	14 5 11
Food—European Staff	....	....	37 0 0
Sundries	....	....	22 12 3
Light and Water	....	....	83 15 1
Coal, Coke and Wood	....	....	42 18 9
Medicines and Hospital Fees	....	....	21 0 1
Uniforms	....	....	131 16 0
Repairs and Maintenance	....	....	92 0 8
Sanitary Fees	....	....	39 0 0
Telephone	....	....	18 8 9
Motor Car and Trav. Expenses	....	....	44 6 9
Insurance	....	....	17 12 5
Stationery and Printing	....	....	8 18 9
Garden and Recreation	....	....	12 15 9
General Expenses	....	....	20 15 6
Interest	....	....	23 6 8
Rent	....	....	3 0 0
Depreciation	....	....	89 10 10
Furniture and Fixtures	....	....	54 10 10
Motor Car	....	....	35 0 0
Excess of Income over Expenditure carried to Balance Sheet	....	....	1,173 16 10
			£2,570 15 11

## NON-EUROPEAN GIRLS

For the YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST, 1937

Subscriptions and Donations	....	£1,277	16	6
Grants	....	1,146	12	0
Union Government	....	£969	12	0
Johannesburg Municipality	..	100	0	0
Phthisis Board	....	2	0	0
Special Grant	....	75	0	0
Board	....	18	11	0
Laundry	....	78	4	0
Income from Domestic Workers	....	14	1	9
Interest	....	6	2	7
Sundry Income	....	29	8	1

£2,570 15 11

## TALITHA HOME

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All donations towards the Building and Equipment Fund were acknowledged in the Press during 1935.

The following are the Donations towards the remaining debt, received during March, 1937.

Central Mining Group	£100	0	0
New Consolidated Goldfields	100	0	0
General Mining and Finance	100	0	0
Anglo-American Group	100	0	0
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co.	100	0	0
African German Investment Co.	50	0	0
Union Corporation	50	0	0
African and European Investment Co.	50	0	0
Director of Native Labour	75	0	0
A. D. Viney, Esq.	25	0	0
Stanley Maynard	25	0	0
Victoria Falls and Transvaal Power Co. Ltd.	25	0	0
"Rand Daily Mail" Christmas Fund	25	0	0
Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment Co.	25	0	0
Central News Agency	25	0	0
J. Mason Gordon	25	0	0
Gcen & Richards	25	0	0
Anglo-Transvaal Consolidated Investment Co.	25	0	0
Sydney Clow	25	0	0
Stanley Motors	25	0	0
African Explosives	25	0	0
Hillman Bros.	10	0	0
Winder, Baxter & Abrahams	10	10	0
J. Fergusson	10	0	0
William Hosken	10	10	0
Rice & Diethelm	10	0	0
J. MacLove & Co.	10	10	0
Haggie, Son & Love	10	10	0
J. Buchanan Pryde	10	0	0
African Greyhound Association	10	10	0
Hayman & Gordon	10	10	0
Mosenthal Bros.	10	10	0
Randles Broz. & Hudson	10	10	0

John Orr & Co. ....	10	10	0
J. W. Jagger & Co. ....	10	10	0
Consolidated Rand Brick, Pottery & Lime Co. ....	10	10	0
Walter S. Webber, Esq. ....	10	10	0
Dr. Bernard Price ....	10	0	0
Arthur L. Ohlson ....	5	5	0
Crittall-Hope Ltd. ....	5	5	0
Blane & Co. Ltd. ....	5	5	0
Thomas Douglas, Esq. ....	5	0	0
Hubert Davies ....	5	5	0
W. S. Saunders ....	5	5	0
J. K. Fulton ....	5	5	0
W. F. Johnstone ....	2	2	0
Kallenbach, Kennedy & Furner ....	50	0	0
Thomas Douglas & Son ....	50	0	0
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	£1,338	12	0
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