

# HELP THEMSELVES BY HELPING OTHERS.

In the Jacoby Club a Man Who Is Making a Fresh Start in Life Finds Friends Who Help by Encouragement and Sympathy—Growth From Small Beginnings.



ERNEST JACOBY,  
Founder of the Jacoby Club.

Did you ever hear of the Jacoby Club of Boston? Sounds kind of Frenchy and political and anarchistic, as if it were in some way related to that society of violent agitators that spread terror over Paris during the French Revolution.

Nothing of the kind. It is one of the best little clubs in this city when it comes to purpose or to object, and it takes its name from Ernest Jacoby, a young business man of this city who has been striving for several years to do something for the man who needs a little encouragement and sympathy in his effort to regain his manhood and a place in life.

You may remember that about four or five years ago there was some excitement over a movement started by Rev Dr Elwood Worcester of the Emmanuel Church, on Newbury st.

It was popularly known as the "Emmanuel Movement," taking its name from the church, and its purpose was to cure some of the ills to which flesh and mind are heir, by means of auto-suggestion.

It wasn't altogether auto suggestion, but that was the popular notion regarding the movement.

Without going into that side of the matter it will be sufficient to say that this Jacoby Club was an outgrowth of the work which Dr Worcester and Dr McComb conducted, and both these men have been deeply interested in the work of the club ever since it was initiated by Ernest Jacoby, in 1909.

### "By Helping Others."

The motto of the club is "A Club for Men to Help Themselves by Helping Others." Get those last three words firmly fixed in your mind—"by helping others."

Mr Jacoby is a member of the Emmanuel Church, and he became deeply interested in the work which Dr Worcester was doing.

Dr Worcester and his associates were doing the work of physicians, in that they put the patient on the right road to health, but it was up to the patient to walk down the road and keep on the right road after he was started.

That is the great trouble—to keep on the right road after you have had a fresh start, for there are a great many other roads, that lead off the right road.

Now there are plenty of people who, when they get a fresh start, have friends to help them; but there are a great many more who have nobody to help them, or to say a kind word to them, or encourage them, or give them a bit of sympathy. Some of these latter are almost sure to come to grief before they have gotten very far on the right road.

Mr Jacoby's aim was to help these latter who had made a fight and showed a willingness to help themselves.

He instinctively felt that the kind of medicine such people needed was the medicine of sympathy—of brotherhood sympathy—and he also saw that the best man to give this kind of sympathy was the man who had been down and out himself, for he could give his help and sympathy understandingly.

It was the kind of practical work that was needed to supplement such work as Dr Worcester and his associates were doing.

So the club was started in 1909 with just six members, and since that time it has been the means of helping more than 500 men to walk on the right road without any very serious mishaps.

### Three Types of Members.

But the club doesn't consist wholly of men who need or have needed the kind of sympathy and assistance indicated. It includes three types of members, those wishing to be of service to others, those who have become victims of alcohol, and those who

through other causes or troubles have lost their grip on themselves.

The first group includes that ever growing number in the world who would like to do something and be of some benefit to others if they only knew how. They grow and derive benefit from such work. They arrive at a clearer and better understanding of what life really means and what sympathetic service in life fully means.

In this club no man is looked on as hopeless if he evinces a desire to do right and is willing to make a fight toward that end, and should he fall he is encouraged to start once more.

The method is to make one member responsible for another to make each feel that he has at least one close personal friend who understands him. And it has been found by experience in the club that the having a friend and being a friend inspires and helps in a variety of ways.

As the secretary of the club, D. H. McFeeters, told the writer a few days ago: "This having a friend and being a friend is the backbone of our work, and the results have demonstrated this to the entire satisfaction of everybody."

A man joining the club feels he is among friends who are eager to help him in every way possible, and the value of this personal touch is very much of an inspiration to most men; for both pride and manhood will quickly respond to anything that smacks of close personal friendship and the spirit of brotherhood.

### Friends When Friends Are Needed.

The point is just this: When a man has been traveling in certain ruts for any length of time he forms habits and social connections that are pretty difficult to break away from; and when he starts on a new road he is apt to find the traveling pretty lonesome—for a time at least.

That is where this club comes in, and more especially where the friendship formed in the club comes in.

Each member in joining receives careful individual attention with a view of eliminating any trouble which may be the cause, or which may prevent a man from living a normal, decent life. The medical and social sides are taken care of, also the matter of suitable employment.

This latter factor is often a most important factor in helping men—employment. Mr Jacoby has solved this problem in some cases by giving men employment in his own business, and the channels are constantly being widened in other directions of suitable employment.

The club has been meeting for several years in a hall specially fitted up in the rear of Emmanuel Church, but as there never has been anything denominational about the work of the club and as this location is not specially fitted for a club that is destined to grow to much larger proportions—as this club surely will—it has been thought best to find other quarters nearer the heart of the city. Several locations are at present under consideration, and the club will in all probability move into new quarters in the Fall.

During the Summer months the club has quarters on the Riverside Recreation grounds at Riverside, on the Charles River, beyond Newton. Here the members assemble Saturday afternoons and Sundays. There are opportunities for all kinds of sports and games.

### New Quarters Demanded.

The club also has an office at 79 M'k st, in charge of the secretary, D H McFeeters.

The Jacoby Club has recently been incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts, so that it can legally hold property and receive funds. The treasurer is Alanson Bigelow Jr, of 511 Washington st.

The other officers of the club are: