

the Middle West in 1915. Miss Mary W. Ovington, Mrs. Butler R. Wilson and others have made shorter tours.

Large numbers of newspaper stories, leaflets and pamphlets have been distributed throughout the nation from headquarters reaching hundreds of thousands of copies since the existence of the Association. Special investigations have been made for us by distinguished writers and social observers. Memorials have been laid before Legislatures and Congress, and widespread appeals made by letter.

### Section 12. The Talented Tenth

**A**S far as means allow we try to discover talent and encourage ability among young colored folk. Their achievements are carefully noted in THE CRISIS which issues an annual education number. In one case we discovered a young artist in color of remarkable ability and started him on his career by introducing him to instructors and holding an exhibition of his work on Fifth Avenue.

In 1913 Dr. J. E. Spingarn gave the Association a gold medal of the value of \$100 to be awarded annually for the highest achievement made by an American Negro during the preceding year in any field of elevated or honorable human endeavor.

The first Spingarn Medal was presented at the annual meeting on February 12, 1915, at Ethical Culture Hall, New York City, by Governor Whitman of New York to Professor Ernest Everett Just, head of the Department of Physiology in Howard University Medical School. Prof. Just was recommended by men of the highest standing in both races for his general research work in biology and for raising the standards of medical education for his own race. The committee making the award were: Bishop John Hurst, Chairman; ex-President William Howard Taft, Mr. John Hope, Dr. James H. Dillard, Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard.

The second Spingarn Medal was presented February 22, 1916, to Major Charles Young, U. S. A. The presentation was in Boston by Governor McCall of Massachusetts and was for distinguished service in developing the constabulary and the roads of Liberia. The same committee acted as in the previous year.

A scholarship of \$200 was awarded the Pittsburgh Branch for its activity in raising funds for the Association in 1915. It is to go toward the college expenses of the most promising colored high school graduate chosen by the branch.

### Section 13. Propaganda

**O**f equal importance with our effort to carry out the objects of this Association with the means at hand is our effort to let the public know and understand our objects and gain their co-operation. The matter, therefore, of increasing our membership is of prime importance. Most white friends of this cause already belong to so many organizations that they hesitate to take new responsibilities financially or otherwise.

The colored people, on the other hand, are comparatively new to the matter of organization, although organized life among them has vastly increased in efficiency and intricacy during the last ten years.

The growth of our membership has been as follows:

1912	329
1913	1,100
1914	3,000
1915	6,000
1916	9,500

Our method of propaganda is simple. First, through THE CRISIS and public meetings we directly invite interested persons to join the Association. The membership fees are graded as follows: Donors pay \$100 to \$500 per year; sustaining members, \$25 per year; contributing members, \$2 to \$10 per year; associate members, \$1 per year.

Approximately 75 per cent of our membership are one-dollar members; 10 per cent, two-dollar members; and 14 per cent pay from five dollars up.

Another and more effective way of gaining membership and spreading an idea of our work is through appeals in specific cases. For instance, hostile legislation is threatened in Congress: appeals are made directly to members of Congress in Washington and also to the constituents of such members as can be influenced. The local branches are written to and they in turn secure a large number of communications sent direct to Congressmen. If there are no local branches this agitation is an excellent occasion for starting a branch or a local.

Special literature is sent out and numbers of letters written. During the last year 15,868 individual letters were sent out from the executive offices and 19,435 circular letters. A total of 7,293 packages of literature containing 67,546 pieces were also distributed. Telegrams, letters to newspapers, personal appeals, special meetings and conferences, all these methods are used not only to forward our great objects but to gain sympathizers and members.

The center of the work of propaganda and of the main activities of the organization, except those carried on by the Department of Publications and Research, is the Executive Offices, of which the Secretary has charge.

Our first regular secretary, Miss Frances Blascoer, was succeeded by Miss Mary W. Ovington and Miss Mary Childs Nerney. The resignation of Miss Nerney in 1916 was received by the Board of Directors with deep regret. When Miss Nerney joined the Association we had four branches and three hundred members. At present we have sixty-seven branches and locals and nearly ten thousand members. No small part of this increase has been due to Miss Nerney's energy and devotion.

### Section 14. Branches

**W**e have at present fifty-four branches, nine locals and four college chapters—sixty-seven organizations in all, varying from twenty to eleven hundred members. The following are the twenty largest branches: District of Columbia, 1,164; Boston, 764; Pittsburgh, 636; Baltimore, 540; St. Louis, 350; Columbus, 300; Cleveland, 300; Chicago, 275; Des Moines, 222; Indianapolis, 200; Providence, 200; the two Kansas Cities, 175; Northern California, 150; Cincinnati, 140; Orange, 140; Toledo, 140; St. Paul, 135; Buffalo, 100; Philadelphia, 100; Springfield, O., 100. The nine locals are organiza-