



**AFRO-AMERICAN, MARCH 18, 1941.**

Whether you are a Baltimorean or not, if you have ever heard of the Association for the Handicapped, certainly you must have heard of its founder and present head, Robert W. Coleman of 1145 Myrtle Avenue, the Afro's nominee this week for its mythical Hall of Fame.

Mr. Coleman though blind, is one of the city's most active personages, and much of the consideration given handicapped here today is the results of his efforts.

It was back in 1910 when Mr. Coleman permanently lost his sight, that he began his work in the interest of the blind, organizing a group of social volunteer workers for this purpose.

Three years later, he organized the Maryland Association for Colored Blind, which organization became known as The Association for the Handicapped and was incorporated November 30, 1927.

Mr. Coleman developed this organization to the point where an endowment fund has been started for the purchase and repair of eyeglasses for children in the public schools whose parents are too poor to supply them when needed.

A native of Washington, D. C., Mr. Coleman was the youngest of a family of seven children, is 64 years of age and he has a brother, John H. Coleman, bondsman, of Chicago. After attending the public school there, Mr. Coleman came to Baltimore in 1896 and became actively engaged in civic work here, later becoming a board member of the Y. M. C. A. He is a member of Grace Presbyterian Church and in 1936 was made a life member of the Masonic Fraternity, by Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons, W. W. Allen.

In 1913, he published the first colored business directory of the city and has published this booklet annually since that time.

Mr. Coleman now works as a piano tuner and a contract printer. He is married to the former Miss Mary Ann Mason of this city, and has six daughters.

1931 **City-Wide Young People's Forum** 1941

*"Expert Speakers with Distinctive Programs"*

Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, *Founder*

Prof. Howard L. Cornish, *President*

Meets every Friday Evening, beginning in Oct. to first week in April, at Sharp Street Church, Dolphin and Etting Streets, Balto.