

# The Clayton Volunteers

Every summer a group of about twenty young men and women leave England for America to spend three months working in the 'down-town' areas of such cities as Washington D.C., New York, and Boston. They are all members of an organisation known as The Clayton Volunteers—founded some years ago by Rev. P. B. (Tubby) Clayton. The Claytons (as they are called) work with either a Church or a Social Agency on their summer programmes which are designed to keep children out of trouble during their long summer vacation when they are left on the streets all day while their parents are at work. Each Clayton is put in charge of a group of up to twenty children (Negro, Puerto-Rican, Chinese) aged between 8 and 15, and has to organise activities for the group — bible study, arts and crafts, field trips, sports, etc., etc.

The Claytons work alongside American students who have come from all over the States to do this work, and a lot of fun is had by all. The work is hard, and the children tough (mine, the oldest group of boys — aged between 12 and 15 — were taller and much stronger than I!). But if you can keep calm while twenty screaming children run circles round you, while you are taking them out, then you are good enough to be considered as a Clayton. You must have had some experience of working with youth in this country before you are selected to go and "let loose" on the youth of America, and you must be aged between 20 and 25 — though occasionally a nineteen year old may go, and we have even sent one person who was twenty-eight. You do not have to be a student to qualify for a position in the group — all you need is to be able to get a three month holiday in the summer (June-September).

When you are in America all board and lodgings are paid for you, and you also get some pocket money, about £40. We usually advise successful applicants to take over an extra £50 over-and-above this to cover any extra expense which may be incurred. The air fare is £60 return, and we ask those going to contribute as much as they can to this, the organisation making up the rest.

At the end of the summer the Claytons get a holiday of between two and three weeks, and during this time they can travel extensively and see something of America and Canada.

If anybody feels he would like to take up this very worth-while challenge, and be considered for a position in one of the future groups, further information can easily be obtained from the Secretary, The Clayton and Winant Volunteers, 41, Trinity Square, London, E.C.3. Applications must be in by 31st January of the year in which you wish to go.

I can assure any would-be Claytons that it is a tremendous experience, and something that will never be forgotten.

Roger Wikeley: St. M's 1955-1959.



## Norfolk

The flat and reedy wastes that line  
The shores of muddy Wash.  
The oak, the elm trees and the pines  
Sedately rise in long straight lines  
Along the northern coast.

The hills that suddenly appear,  
The curlew's lonesome cry.  
All these sad things both far and near  
Are things which Norfolk folk hold dear;  
But all are strange to me.

The South's my home, not sucking sand  
Of which the beach is made.  
Not driving squalls which soak the land  
And blot the view on either hand;  
No, Norfolk's not for me!

A VAGRANT.