

DURING the past fifty years the person who has probably done most in South Africa for the improvement of housing for all classes and all races is Councillor Adolph Schauder, now 77 years old but still a very active chairman of the Port Elizabeth Housing Committee. It is largely through his efforts that the Port Elizabeth Municipality has built more houses for its residents than any other city in the Union. The proportion of families living in municipally-built houses — more than 50 per cent. — is also the highest in the country.

Mr. Schauder's almost fanatical interest in housing stems from the circumstances of his own life. He has no hesitation in maintaining that possession of a home of one's own is by far the most important single factor in a man's life ("even though," he says, "many of you younger people have still to learn the truth of this"). He maintains that no matter how materially well-off a person may be, spiritual happiness can be achieved only in the peace of a man's own home.

Mr. Schauder is a hater of the tenement building, and perhaps the best indication of how strong his influence has been in Port Elizabeth housing is the fact that there are virtually no flats in that city.

Since his life-story has been so important in moulding his attitude towards housing, we asked him to tell us the story of his youth. Some of what he told us follows.

"I was born in Austria in 1880, and as a youth became apprenticed to a milliner. After I had qualified in my trade, however, I found that there was no work for me in Vienna. So at the age of seventeen I crossed Europe

Ex-Mayor (77) is the driving force behind Port Elizabeth's resettlement schemes for all races

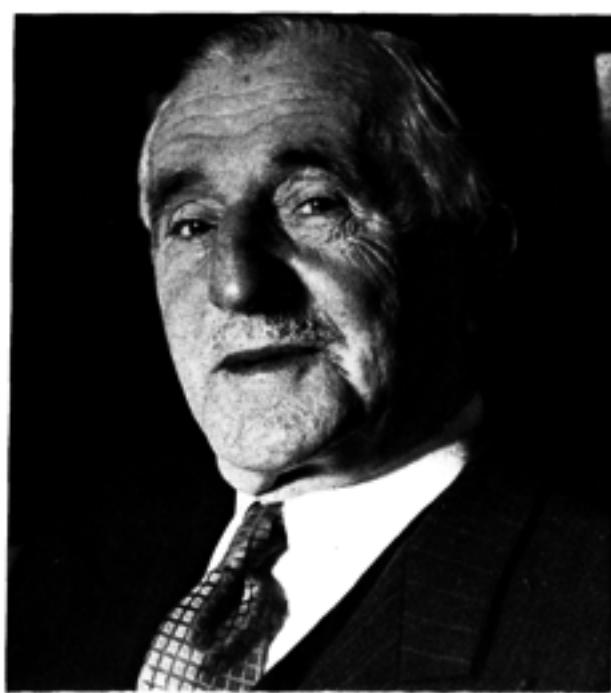
looking for work. Eventually I reached Manchester, but even there they didn't want me as a hat-maker. So I made caps. (You will say there is very little difference, but that is not correct.) I made caps for 7s. a week. Of this 5s. was spent on board and lodging, and 2s. went to my mother back in Austria.

"In Manchester I took evening classes, and paid for them by taking an evening job. From the classes I learned how to write letters applying for job; from the job I eventually saved £7. The first acquisition was to cause me a deal of trouble in later life; the second served as passage-money to bring me to South Africa.

"I left the ship at Port Elizabeth, but again could not find a job in my trade. I tried being a waiter at the old Albany Hotel near the station, but they soon learned that I did not make a good waiter, and my few-shillings-a-week job was no more. I then saw a startling advertisement, which read: 'Wanted. Attendant for the chronic sick. Salary 5s. a day (all found).' In England I had worked for 7s a week — and no all found. My English was still not very good, so I had no idea what chronic meant, but I thought that being an attendant would mean holding the doctor's bag — and I was quite willing to hold the doctor's bag. What a magnificent job this was! If only I could get it. But what qualifications did I have? Ah! but I could write neat letters of application. So I got the job. They asked me to sign a six-months contract. I had no objection, for, after all, was I not to get 5s. a day?

"The home for the chronic sick was in Grahamstown, and I was soon to learn the meaning of the word. Instead of carrying the doctor's bag I had six months of hell. I was still only nineteen, and I had to feed people whose mouth and chin had been eaten away . . . But I will not horrify you with that six months.

"As soon as the contract ended I resolved to join the Red Cross. Even the war could be no worse than what I had been through, and they also paid you 5s. a day (with board and lodging). I was immediately accepted, for had I not six months' experience? When I left for the front, however, I was given a bridle, a saddle, a rifle and a bandolier. On asking what I would want, in the Red



COUNCILLOR ADOLPH SCHAUDER has been the inspiration behind Port Elizabeth's progressive housing schemes for 40 years. Now aged 77, he is still an active chairman of the municipal housing committee and a member of the National Housing and Planning Commission.

Cross, with the last two items, I was told that 'someone might need spares.' When I left the train at Noupoort I was told that I was in the army and not the Red Cross. All my protests were in vain.

"The next few months showed me the horrors of typhus all around. As private soldiers we had to sleep under the stars, whatever the weather, and there was only

murky, stagnant dam water to drink. One day the boys started shouting, 'Schreiber,' 'Scrabble,' 'Shooter.' I knew they meant me for they could never get my name right. Wonder of wonders, I of all people had been made a corporal. And that meant 6s. a day, but of far greater importance it meant that I could sleep under a mule cart. This was only one step worse off than the officers, who, of course, had tents. My bed meant more to me at that time than any bed since. This, with the previous experience of sleeping under the open sky, with the typhus all around me, and with the six months at the home for the chronic sick — all these things made me greatly aware of the sufferings of humanity. I resolved to do as much as I could towards helping to improve living conditions in Port Elizabeth, the city of my adoption.

"Something significant happened on my return. I took a job at 5s. a day; which was the first time that I had dropped in salary. But for the first time too I felt that what I was doing was good and useful. I sold fish meals to the workers — 1d. piece of fish, 1d. piece of bread and 1d. cup of coffee — 3d. for a meal.

"Gradually I built up a business of my own, and gave myself up to council housing affairs. By the time I was forty we had achieved something with the housing situation.

"Just as in most cities of the world, there were slums in Port Elizabeth, but we did our best to clear them. Where there were slums there was disease, including two outbreaks of plague, in 1902 and 1938. We made good progress, but as a result of the sudden industrial development of the city and the departure during the last war of many of our workers, large slums again arose almost overnight. To-day we are in sight of clearing them finally.

"There is much that is still to be done, but I am satisfied that we are doing a good job. Bantu families alone are being cleared from Korsten, the slum, at the rate of 80 a week. I am proud too that, with the help of the council, ordinary people have been able to become landlords for payments of £4, £5, £6 and £7 a month."

That, then, is what Mr. Schauder told us of his life. The city's chief housing superintendent, Mr. W. T. Jarman (himself a municipal official for 29 years), had this tribute to pay. "There is no doubt at all," he said, "that if it had not been for Mr. Schauder's enthusiasm over the years, only a third of the municipal housing schemes which have been undertaken, would ever have been attempted."

New LIFE for 30,000

Photographs by LEN GALLAGHER



THERE are certainly slums in Port Elizabeth. And, like all slums, they are unsavoury, overcrowded and likely to flare up at the approach of any disease. In extreme cases more than a dozen families have been found packed into a plot measuring forty feet by sixty. Indeed, one Korsten wit (that is the name of the slum) has it that when a man is dead and buried he has more room than ever he did when he was alive and sleeping. There are queues at the water taps, and the latrine facilities are inadequate. Every few weeks bulldozers are sent to level "roads" piled high with dirt and garbage. The little boys are as often as not naked as they play with their wheels. Pigs snuffle in the muck. And most of the cooking is done out of doors on open braziers.

This, then, is the unwholesome side of Port Elizabeth, the side that John Gunther saw (as he tells us in *Inside Africa*) "in one crowded hour." In that leisurely tour of the city he saw "the worst slums I have ever seen."

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OUR COVER: Many dancers who received their training at the University of Cape Town Ballet School have gone on to achieve international fame. (See page 10.)

VERSKYN OOK IN AFRIKAANS. AS U 'N AFRIKAANSE EKSEMPLAAR VERKIES, VRA ASB. OM SUID-AFRIKAANSE PANORAMA

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Slum-dwellers

KORSTEN SLUM-DWELLER COOKS PIG OFFAL AT OPEN-AIR BRAZIER. Korsten, the tin-shack slum of Port Elizabeth, sprang up almost overnight when 40,000 country-dwellers became uncontrollable in their struggle to work in the city's new factories. Before the mass schemes for resettling the shanty-dwellers (see following pages) came into force a year ago, there were 35,000 people crowded into the slum. This figure has now been reduced to 20,000, and even allowing for population increase the slums are due to be cleared completely in two years. *SOUTH AFRICAN PANORAMA — MAY, 1937*



FORMING AN INTRICATE PATTERN, these building blocks (*above*) are laid out to dry before being used in the vast site-and-service resettlement scheme *Kwazakele* which offers immediate hope to the Bantu now living in the slums of *Korsten* (*see previous page*). The blocks have been passed as sound by the C.S.I.R., and were designed because of the high cost of bricks (£6 15s. a thousand) in Port Elizabeth. Each block costs 8d. and is equivalent to 12 bricks. The blocks are made from a mix of 8 parts of power station ash and one of cement. Production is at the rate of 10,000 blocks a day, enough to build 70 houses a week plus schools and other buildings. When completed, *Kwazakele* will consist of 11,400 houses. The site-and-service scheme is probably the best way of clearing slums quickly, for families actually re-erect their old shacks on the back of their plots before their houses are built. Their shacks and personal goods are brought to the site by municipal transport. Before the families can move in, however, the sites and roads are levelled, and lavatories and water provided. The picture below shows an almost completed house standing in front of a shack (which must be pulled down when the house is up), while the photograph on the left shows three stages in the scheme. In the foreground the sites have been levelled and water tanks and lavatories built; in the centre the shacks have been put up; and in the background the completed houses of the scheme can be seen.



Seventy site-and-service houses erected each week at Port Elizabeth

As we shall see shortly there is another side to Port Elizabeth, but this John Gunther did not see.

Most cities suffer the stigmata of slums, and most of them are doing their utmost to clear them. It is unlikely, however, that Port Elizabeth's slums are worse than those seen anywhere else. At the same time, it is certainly true that Port Elizabeth has done more than most cities to erase the blot. The council's policy is "home-ownership for all races," and ambitious schemes have been undertaken for rehousing all sections of the population. The Bantu alone are being moved from the Korsten slum to site-and-service plots at the rate of 80 families a week.

How is it, then, that with such a progressive council there are still slums in the city? In essence, the answer to this question turns on one factor only: Port Elizabeth became an industrial centre with far greater suddenness than most cities in the Union. Four factories alone, opened up within months of one another, employ some 11,000 workers, who in turn have a further 30,000 dependents. The establishment of the factories was not a matter of choice for the council, because it happened at a time when their products were essential for the country's economy. But not only were there no people in the city to operate the factories, but all housing schemes had been brought to a sudden standstill because of war. The result was that many of the 40,000 drawn by the factories built tin shanties on already overcrowded housing sites.



But slum-clearance is now progressing apace.

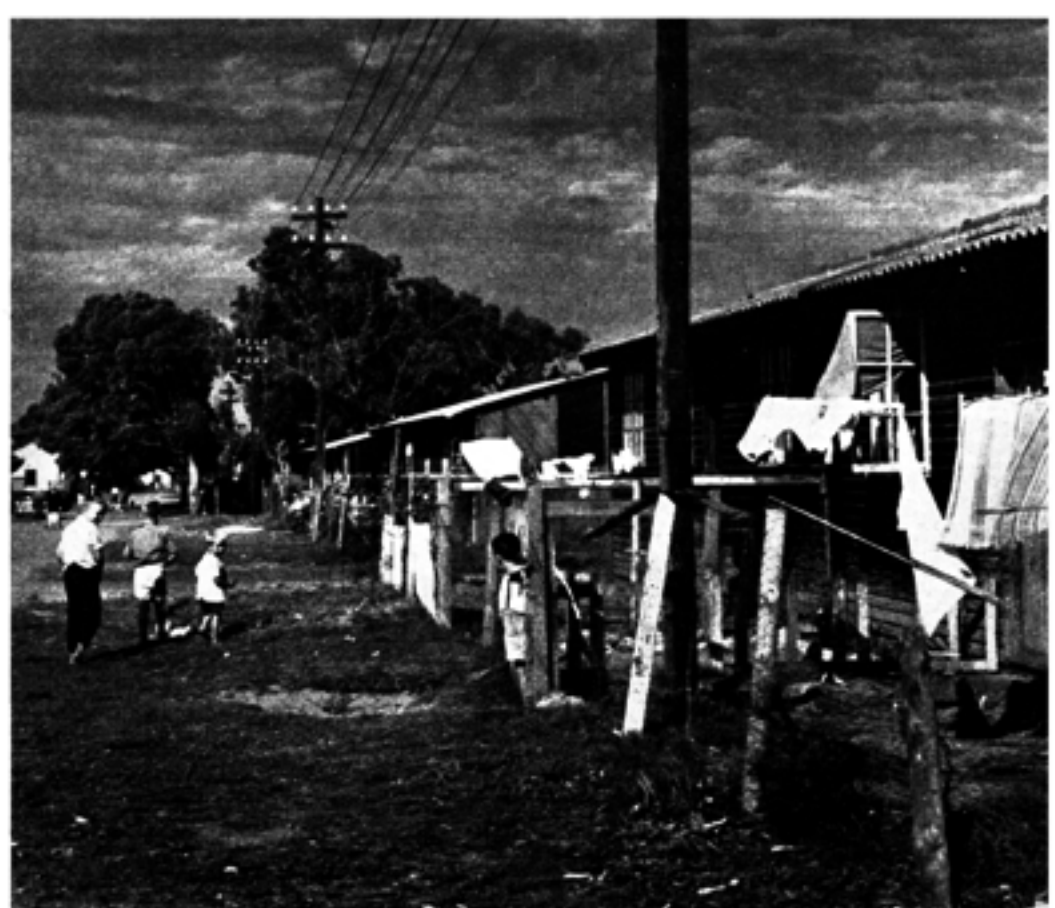
At present there are some 20,000 people left in the Korsten slum out of the total municipal population of 280,000. During the past ten months, since the beginning of the Bantu site-and-service scheme at New Brighton, 13,000 people have been moved from the slums. Schauder Township, the scheme for Coloureds, is now full, but a new scheme will be commenced shortly. At the same time, however, Korsten lies just below this township, and as the slums are bulldozed out of the ground new, good houses are being built for Coloureds. A beginning is also being made on a further Coloured scheme, envisaging 1,000 houses. Virtually all the poor Whites who were once in Korsten have now been moved.

This immense advance means that if the Bantu population of the city were "frozen", it would be resettled in 18 months. The Coloured scheme would take a little longer. No legal compulsion is used in carrying out the resettlement schemes. All go voluntarily to take advantage of (in the case of the Bantu) a site-and-service home-ownership scheme, whereby a family can buy its house for 19s. 6d. a month, payments being spread over 15 years.

At the site-and-service scheme houses are being put up at the rate of 70 a week. The Bantu families originally move on to their site with their old shack, which, with their personal belongings, is transported by the council. Before the families move in, latrines and temporary water tanks are built for each plot, and roads are made. The family must erect its shack towards the back of the plot, to leave space for the house, for which they may have to wait up to a year. But at least they will be alone on their plot, which measures sixty feet by forty.

Of the planned total scheme of 11,500 houses, 1,500 have so far been built. Another 1,500 sites are already occupied. A provision of importance is that once the house has been built the shack is no longer allowed to remain on the site.

With its policy of consideration and fair treatment for all, the Port Elizabeth Municipality has tackled a serious housing problem with practical results. Even though all the remaining slums will not disappear within a few months, they will at least have gone in the next few years.



ALTHOUGH IT IS THE BANTU who are in a majority in the Port Elizabeth slums, large numbers of Whites and Coloureds have also had to be resettled in the past few years. The picture above shows a section of Southdene, which is an ex-R.A.F. training camp, now used as a temporary resettlement area for 450 poor-class White families, who pay only 13s. a week for a 3-roomed wooden bungalow. There are 200 families on the waiting list for houses in the temporary Southdene scheme, as they are vacated by families moving to better class letting or ownership schemes.

SCHAUDER TOWNSHIP (a house in which is shown on the left) is a home-ownership scheme for 20,000 Coloureds, which was completed by the Port Elizabeth Municipality some time ago. Payments for the 3-roomed houses are at the rate of 6s. 3d. a week. A feature of the township is that, in addition to the small gardens in each house, there is a communal grass square for each group of six houses.

SHOWN BELOW are houses in a 1,000-house packing-case scheme for Bantu. The scheme is known as *Kwa Ford* because the packing-cases from which the houses were built were provided free by the Ford Motor Company over a period of two years. The story behind *Kwa Ford* is that soon after the war Bantu families were grabbing discarded motor car packing-cases and building shacks on any vacant site. In order to stop this unhealthy practice, the municipality entered into an agreement with the company to take over all its discarded motor crates. But building materials were unobtainable, so the council used the packing cases for erecting these simple but serviceable houses as a temporary measure for combating the housing shortage. The houses are equipped with all amenities, and it thus seems unjust that John Gunther (in his book *Inside Africa*) should say of them that "in Port Elizabeth the tumbledown shacks are made of motor car packing cases, and *Kwa Ford* is the worst slum I have ever seen."



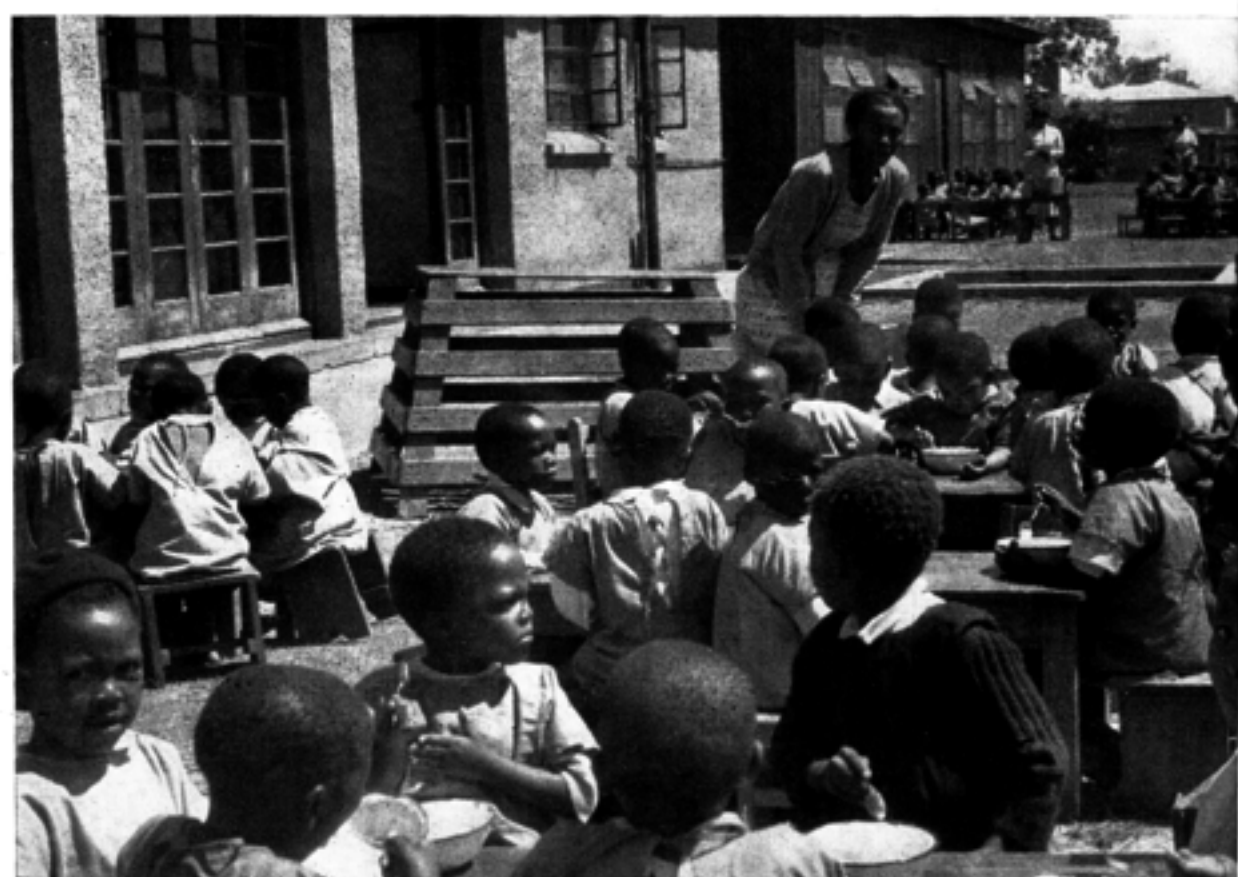
Homes and facilities for all races, all classes

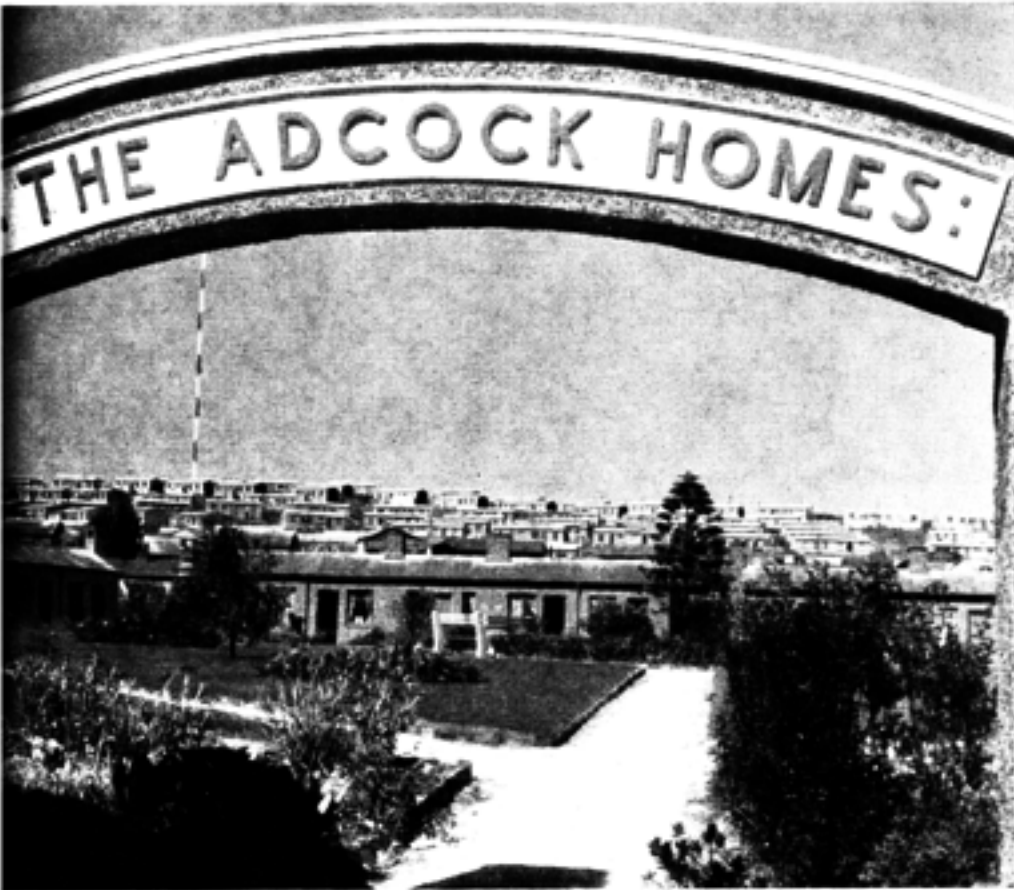
PORT ELIZABETH'S housing policy aims at the vast majority of people of all races eventually owning their own homes. The council encourages people to buy their own houses by charging little or no down payment and spreading very low monthly repayments over a long period. In this way a family with a low income might be housed temporarily in the old R.A.F. air school bungalows (*previous page*), after which they might move to a house in Holland Park (*left*), which is a sub-economic letting scheme with rents from 8s. 6d. to 12s. 3d. a week, or to the economic letting scheme of Forest Hill (*right*), where the rental is 30s. a week for an attractive 3-bedroomed house which cost £950 to build. After that they could move to any one of the dozen or so government or municipal home-ownership schemes, where down-payments are as little as £45 and monthly repayments from £5. Brickmaker's Kloof, for instance, was a fine housing scheme completed in 1941, where the £1,000 houses were sold without deposit at £7 a month over 15 years. Most of the owners of these have now made their last payment, and the houses are snapped up at £3,000 and more when they come on the market.

On the far right is a view across the steep and garden of a newly-built luxury house in the city.



IN PORT ELIZABETH the central housing scheme for Coloureds is Schauder Township, named after Mr. Adolph Schauder, who for many years has been the chairman of the city's housing committee. About 20,000 people live in this township, in which 25 per cent. of the housing is economic and the rest sub-economic. Rentals for the sub-economic houses range from 6s. 6d. to 11s. 4d. a week, while the economic houses are rented for 22s. a week. The two sisters in the first picture in this series are members of a family which is sufficiently well-off to occupy a double-size house (with six rooms). The next two pictures were taken in the old age home, which is a prominent feature of the township. About 100 pensioners stay here. Seeds are provided free and the occupants are encouraged to look after their own little gardens, as this grey-bearded old man is doing. The photograph on the extreme right shows the crucifix at the Anglican Church in the township. Most denominations of churches are represented here.





NEW BRIGHTON is the name of the main Bantu town in Port Elizabeth, which at present has 100,000 residents, not counting the new site-and-service extension under way. The picture on the extreme left shows Mr. Schauder calling on an old resident. New Brighton boasts shopping centres, a smart cinema (built by its Bantu owners at a cost of £25,000), meeting halls, a boy scout movement and an excellent bus service. The Port Elizabeth Child Welfare Society runs the Sunnyside Day Nursery (*left*), which looks after 140 tots aged from 2 to 6 years from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., at which time their parents come home from work to claim them. For 4d. a day they are given three meals. The picture on the right shows Principal Molefe with a group of his senior students at the Newell High School, one of the two high schools in New Brighton. In addition there are night schools and a number of primary schools, where classes are given at two sessions a day.



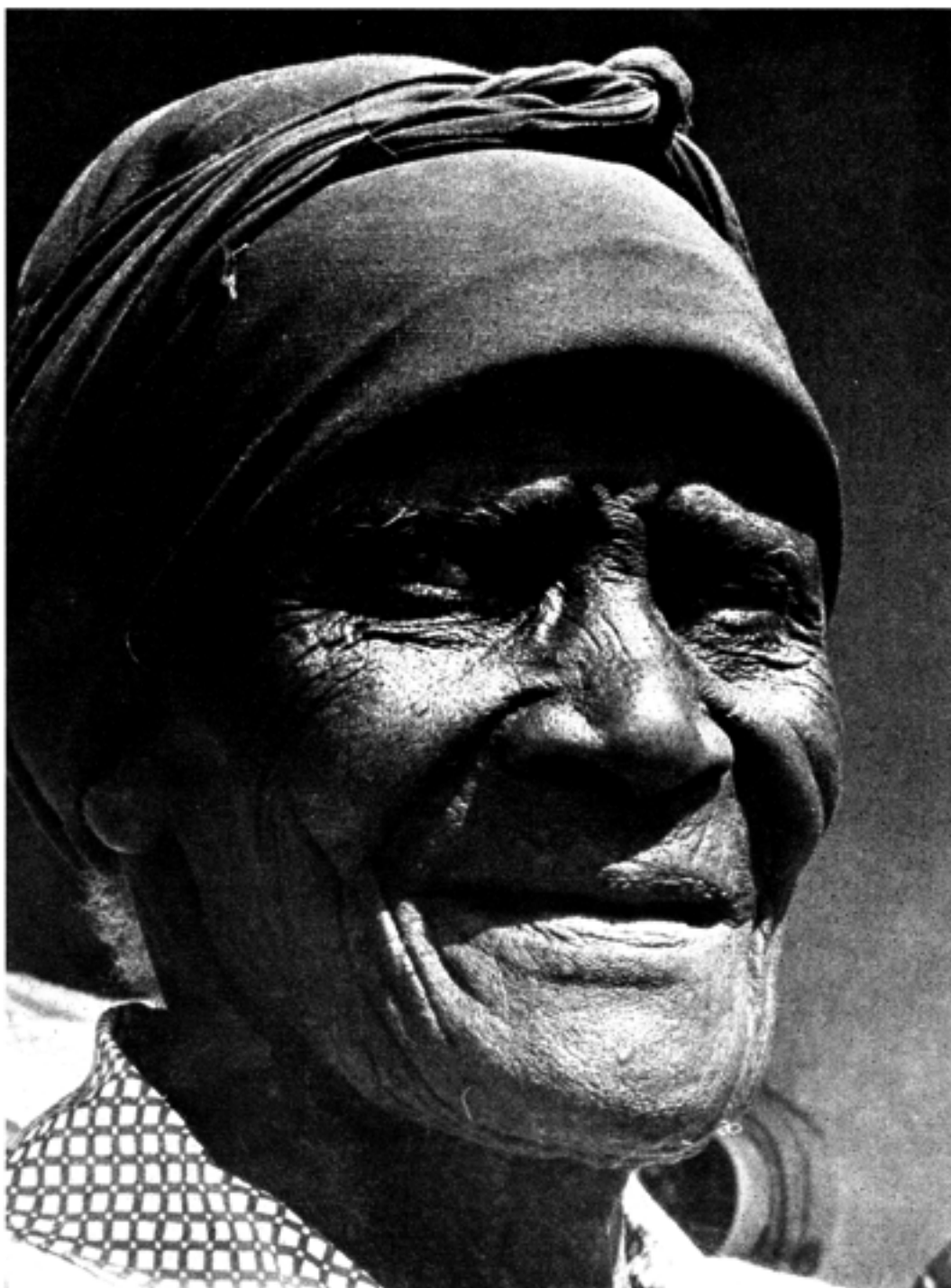


THIS BLIND MAN is making baskets at the municipally-sponsored Bantu Blind Workshops in New Brighton. The workshops are run by the Port Elizabeth Society for the Blind.

BEFORE TEA, Bantu women in an old-age home in New Brighton listen carefully to a talk by a visitor to the home. There are at present between 80 and 100 aged at the home.

OLD WOMAN (*below*) is 99 years old, and the veteran of this Adcock Home for the Aged. The residents of the home pay nothing for their room and 15s. out of the 20s. pension for their meals.

SOUTH AFRICAN PANORAMA — MAY, 1957



Good housing brings happiness

ALTHEA, a Coloured child, is caught by the photographer drinking milk at the Jarman Centre in Schauder Township (*below*). The centre is a clinic which looks after expectant mothers and all cases of disease. Nearby is the new £2-million Livingstone Hospital, where extensive in-patient facilities are available.





THE ASSUMPTION CHINESE SCHOOL is shown in these two photographs (*above and below*). The girls are in the standards IV and V class, while the boy, Winston Song Loong, who is now in standard VII, came first in the Unicon in an exam last year. Matriculation scholars in the school all passed their exams last year, even though the passes were not all first class.

to the people of Port Elizabeth

BANTU SCHOOLGIRLS at a singing class in the Newell High School in New Brighton (*below*). The language of most of the Bantu living in Port Elizabeth and other parts of the Eastern Province is Xhosa. Two high schools have so far been built in New Brighton.

