

[Gravure: The History of The Poor Law]

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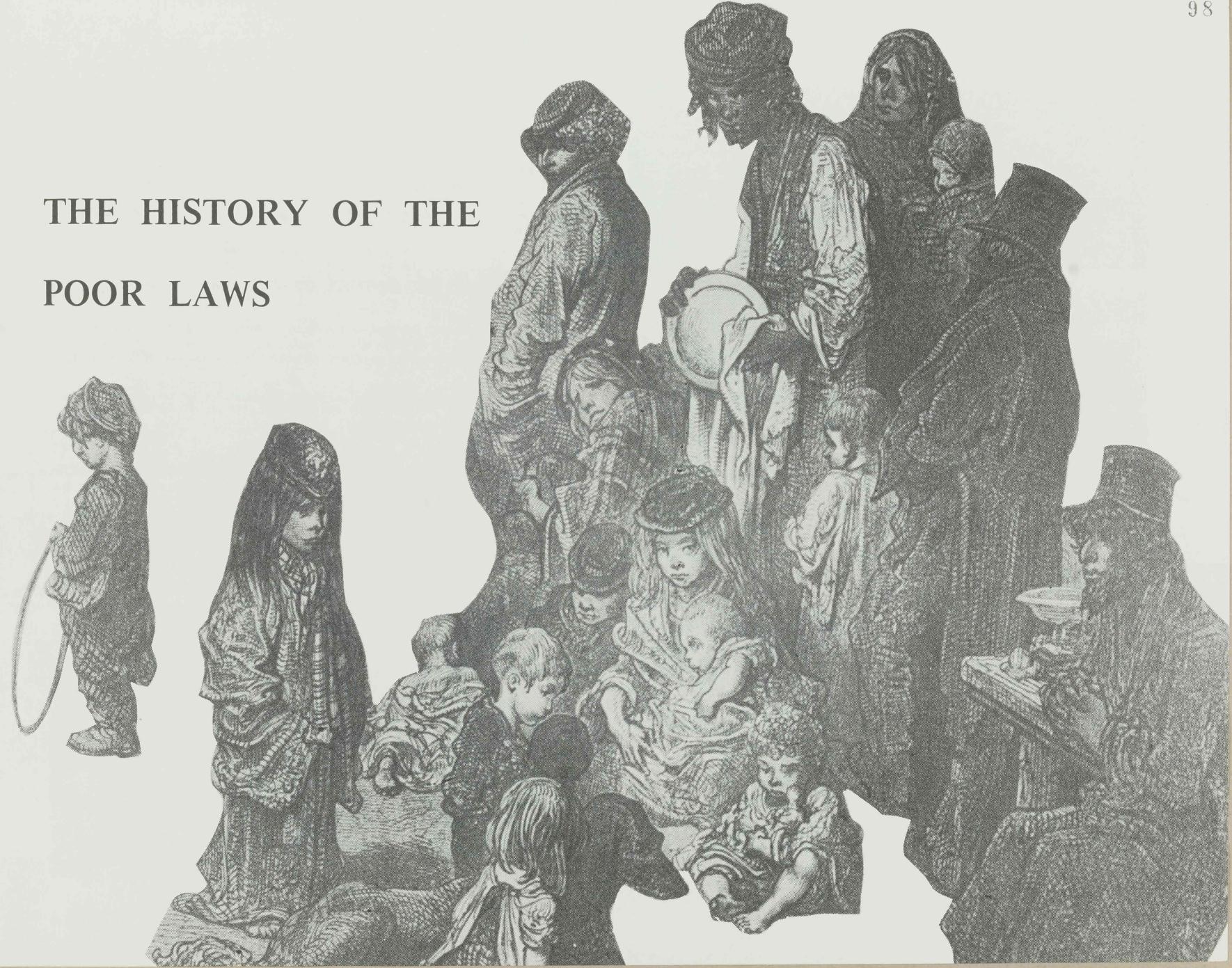
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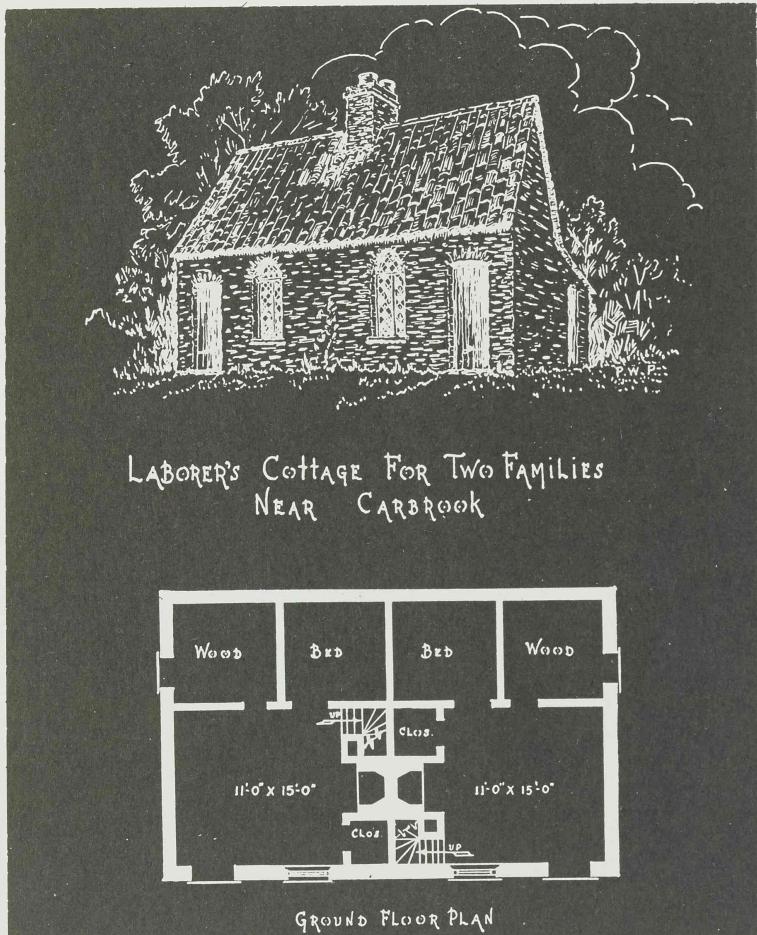
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THE HISTORY OF THE POOR LAWS





THE HISTORY OF THE POOR LAWS

The relation of the state to the poor was first given definition by the enactment of the Statute of Elizabeth in 1601. It was not, however, until the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that the history of the poor laws reveals a progressive state of pauperism that created widespread alarm and incessant futile efforts to find a remedy. The English Poor Law certainly remains one of the largest and most important experiments in social legislation of which there is any record.

JOSEPH MASSIE. A PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARITY-HOUSES. . . . Considerations Relating to the Poor and the Poor's Laws of England . . . Also, a New System or Policy . . . For Relieving, Employing . . . the Poor of England.

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**Williams, II, p. 219.
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