

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT FEDERATIONCircular to Member
Schools, IV.

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PUBLIC SERVICE. WOMEN POLICE.

The employment of women with the Police Forces has been tried on a limited scale since the War, and has proved entirely satisfactory. For various reasons its development has been slow, and there are at present only 180 women employed in the Metropolitan Police and in Provincial Forces.

Recently there have been opportunities for expansion, Several new vacancies have occurred in the last two months; but there has been difficulty in recruiting the right type of young woman. We believe that this difficulty comes in part from a misunderstanding of the scope and nature of the work, which prevents young women of secondary education from considering it seriously as work of public service, and therefore we think it might be advantageous if it were discussed with sixth form girls (possibly in relation to a lesson on local government) in order that a more just appreciation of its value should obtain.

The number of vacancies in any one year is never likely to be very large, and applicants must be at least 24 years old, so that it would not be wise to treat the matter mainly from a careers angle. At the same time, the work does offer an additional chance of employment to young women who have become interested in Social Work, and have had experience with girl guides or girls' clubs, or settlements, and they may like to keep the possibility in mind from the time of leaving school.