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Havenhurst
Canford Cliffs

Bournemouth.

epi
21.12.

My dear Mr Harvey

Thank you so much for your full letter - which in the main was not news to me. It has been a difficulty which I've known for very long. There was one moment when I thought we had got Mrs. Glenton to withdraw altogether - when her girl went to Germany & she had more household work to do & she said she couldn't manage the secretaryship as well. I

encouraged this idea
& I tried to get
an "assistant sec"
who would replace Mrs. Glenton
quietly - but after talking to
Mrs. Glenton & to the com^{tee}
members (one or two individually)
when I was there one day,
I had to leave, & they
just dropped it - & did
absolutely nothing! Mrs. Glenton
is an indiscreet & bossing
woman - the committee
are also to blame in that
they don't & won't stand
up to her - they have no

initiative & no "go" in them
- they just sit with folded
hands & say "Mrs. Glenton is
impossible". I have tried times
out of number to get them
to start a separate branch
(under my presidency if they
like) on the South Cliff - but
they reply "presently - not
yet" & the "do it now"
moment is never reached.
I am sure that the only
solution is to get separate
branches formed & to let Mrs.
Glenton run the Mothers meeting
type, & the picture drone etc.

but I'm rather despairing
of finding anyone with energy &
persistence enough to start &
run a South Cliff branch.
They criticize, but they won't
act. There was a Mrs
Backhouse I tried to interest
— she could see all Mrs
Glenton's faults (which are
dreadfully obvious!) but when
I asked her to help in
an entirely new & separate
enterprise, in which Mrs
Glenton would have no part,
she just backed out — & that



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is typical of the others.
Now I have also tackled
Wm. Benton on the subject
& told her quite frankly that
there ought to be a South
Cliff branch, run entirely by
South Cliff people & that she
would have to efface herself
from it altogether — & she
quite saw the point of view,
& ^{and} acquiesced. I told it her
as nicely as I could — saying
that people liked to manage

for themselves & took
more interest in a
thing when they were completely
responsible, etc. etc. but
I made it perfectly clear
that she was not to be in
it. We even had a
drawing meeting about 2½
years ago to try & start
a branch there. They said
"for goodness sake don't
let Mrs. Glenton have anything
to do with it." She didn't
she didn't send out the
cards, or get the house & hostess,

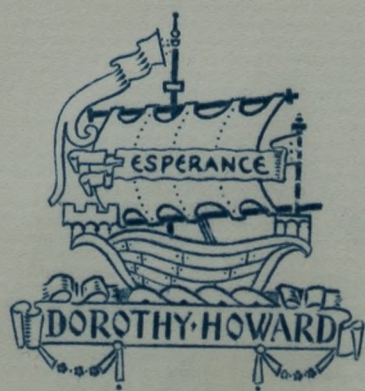
she didn't arrange the
programme or anything; but she
came in with the audience,
sat in the back row, &
went away with the earliest.
And yet not one person
took any further steps after
that meeting! They came
up in plenty to make
tiresome compliments about
the speaking "it was so
interesting" "done them good"
etc. etc. But not one of
them did the only thing that
was wanted, namely go &
follow it up with visits &

get names of members -

So I got discouraged, & of
late I haven't taken any
part!

That is the state of affairs - &
now the question, as we all
admit, is "What is to be
done?"

I should very much like
to see one or more
new branches - & if the
County Comtee can see its way
to forming them, it will be
splendid. If I can do anything
in the way of helping by
subscribing to a special



organising campaign there,
I will gladly do so.

I won't take any meeting
for two reasons —

partly I am pretty full
up with engagements elsewhere.

& partly because I have done
all that I can do by
speaking there — I have spoken
pretty often, & nothing has
resulted from it except some
empty compliments, & therefore I

don't feel that
it would be worth
the effort & time to go
there specially. They must
try another speaker who will
appeal to them more
successfully. Post funds
I will gladly help with.
1 Palace Green will always
find me as an address.
I could ask Mr. Stenton to
retire, but I think all
hard & fast methods of that

sort make bad blood &
we should be in a worse
state than before for
getting workers. Don't you
think so.

It is very difficult because
her faults are just those
a secretary ought not to
have - she gossips, she
domineers & she is not very
businesslike! & she likes to
do everything herself.

Dear me, how very frank
I have been too in this

analysis of her & her
committee & the situation !!

Ever yours affec^t

Dorothy Howard.