

334.5:396(06)

FAWCETT LIBRARY
27 WILFRED STREET
LONDON SW1E 6PR

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD,

17, PRESCOT STREET, LONDON, E.1

Pamphlet

FIFTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT,

MAY, 1937—MAY, 1938.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE :

- President* : MRS. M. DALE (Midland Section).
- Vice-President* : MRS. J. BILLAM (Yorkshire Section).
- Treasurer* : MRS. M. PAVITT (South-Eastern Section).
- MRS. C. DODSWORTH (Northern Section).
- MRS. E. HAMMETT (South-Western Section).
- MRS. M. McPHAIL (Western and Welsh Section).
- MRS. I. THORLEY (Lancashire Section).
- MRS. E. WILLIAMS (Southern Section).

General Secretary :

MISS ROSE SIMPSON.

Office :

17, Prescott Street, London, E. 1.

334.
506
041
W10M

A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP

THE year under review will be remembered throughout the Guild movement as the one in which the retirement of Mrs. Eleanor Barton, J.P., was announced at the New Brighton Congress in June, 1937. Mrs. Barton had steered the Guild through eleven difficult years as General Secretary. Previously for four years she had been Assistant Secretary, and when her time for retirement came members all over the country felt that the Guild ship was indeed losing its pilot. Thus the New Brighton Congress was a memorable one when tribute was paid to Mrs. Barton's work, not only by the whole of the Guild movement, but by the C.W.S., different Co-operative Societies, and auxiliary bodies. On 29th October Mrs. Barton sailed to New Zealand, where she has addressed many meetings of Co-operators and carried the Guild message into many new areas. Before returning to this country she expects to visit Australia and America on behalf of the International Guild.

Mrs. Barton's successor, Miss Rose Simpson, was elected by 1,946 votes, a majority over the next candidate of 1,664.

The International Women's Guild Congress held in Paris in September, 1937, of which further mention is made under the section of International work in this Report, was an event during the year of the utmost importance.

OUR PEACE WORK

The normal routine work proceeded until Armistice Week, when intense Peace activity went on throughout the branches, and in some districts the Guild wreaths of white poppies were unlawfully removed from local War Memorials. Over 60,000 white poppies—the Guild Peace Emblem—were sold, and the Peace Pledge Union, the Women's International League, the Friends, and kindred bodies helped enthusiastically in this gratifying sale.

Two branches—Falconwood and North Camberwell—laid white poppy wreaths on the Cenotaph at Whitehall, and having obtained permission from Scotland Yard they received every consideration and courtesy from the police. This national recognition has won for the Guild the right to lay its pacifist tributes throughout the country.

A storm of protest was aroused by the removal of local Guild wreaths, and hundreds of resolutions and letters were received at head office from branches. An emergency four-page Peace leaflet was issued from Head Office explaining the Guild's pacifist policy, giving the history of the White Poppy as our Peace emblem, and describing the opposition. A lightning distribution took place, and in a very short time over 50,000 copies of this leaflet were sent out. The chief interest centred round the removal of the wreath at Old Bexley, Kent, where after the local vicar had accepted it, a special constable removed the wreath. The Co-operative group of M.P.s here proved the value of political representation to our movement, and interviewed the Under Home Secretary, Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd, on the matter. They asked for adequate protection for our wreaths in the future, and the Under Home Secretary expressed his desire that such incidents should not be repeated. Every consideration and sympathy was shown to the Co-operative Parliamentary deputation, and we are convinced, as pacifists, that any such tributes which may be laid in the future will be regarded by those in authority as legitimate action.

The following letter was received by Mrs. Chance, the Secretary of Old Bexley Branch, from the Town Clerk of the Council:—

"Your letter of the 16th ultimo has been considered by the Council, and I am directed to inform you that they do not intend to make any restrictions in regard to the placing of wreaths on the above-mentioned War Memorial, but to continue to allow freedom of action to any person or persons desirous of showing their respect by placing floral tributes thereon."

Thus from this little Kentish village the right of civil liberty was challenged and won, and had a far-reaching influence on similar

incidents throughout the country. We only mention this as a typical case, and are aware of others.

In Manchester our Guildswomen were told by the Chief Constable that Armistice Day was a military day, and they were refused permission to lay their wreath at the same time as the civic ceremony. Since then, however, permission has been granted to a hundred Manchester Guildswomen to take part in the civic procession on 11th November, 1938, and to lay their wreath on the Cenotaph. The Chief Constable in granting this permission stated he had watched the Guild procession on the evening of Armistice Day, 1937, and they were the most orderly body of women he had witnessed in procession. Such results give us courage to continue our Peace propaganda and hearten us for future strenuous efforts.

The London C.W.S. have intimated that they will regard it as an honour to receive a white poppy Guild wreath for their War Memorial on next Armistice Day, and in appreciating this gesture we are hopeful that other C.W.S. depots and organisations will do the same.

VICTIMISATION FOR WEARING PEACE EMBLEM

An incident which aroused protest both within and without our movement, was the dismissal of two young men in London by a firm of Lloyd's Underwriters for wearing our White Poppies on Armistice Day. This was something more than an instance of "tyranny in the office." It was a matter of civil liberty which affected the right of every citizen in the country, and the case was taken up by the Guild and the Peace Pledge Union with vigour. A Pacifist Fund was opened and donations were acknowledged weekly in the *Co-operative News*. This fund reached the total of £115 14s. 10d. and was used to tide the young men over their financial loss until each found employment. We are grateful to every branch which contributed to such a splendid response, and thus proved the practical expression of their pacifist convictions.

This year the Central Committee have decided to launch the biggest Peace Demonstration on Armistice Day ever known in London, and all kindred pacifist bodies and branches in the provinces are asked to join in, and show the strength of pacifist feeling in the country.

NEW AND CHEAPER WHITE POPPIES

A new feature of our Peace work this year is the production of a new and cheaper white poppy. This is the same size as the previous poppy, but is without the detachable button in the centre. The word "PEACE" is embossed on the petals, and the poppies are being sold at 1s. 6d. per dozen. A tremendous stock is already in hand, which we hope will be quickly distributed throughout the branches. There is still a good stock of the previous 3d. poppy, and the "Peace" buttons can be supplied at a penny each.

PEACE TABLECLOTHS AND HANDKERCHIEFS

The sale of these has depended upon individual loyalty and enthusiasm, and many Guildswomen are to be congratulated on the painstaking labour they have given to achieve a worthy sale. The weeks prior to Armistice saw the Head Office a hive of activity as orders were dispatched to the total of 6,239 tablecloths and 20,436 handkerchiefs. We anticipate that this enthusiasm will continue until the whole stock of tablecloths and handkerchiefs are gone.

COST OF LIVING

November and December witnessed acute distress not only throughout the country but within the Guild, as a result of the increased cost of living due to the mad armaments race to which the National Government had committed itself. Hundreds of protests demanding Guild action were received at Head Office, and at times the mail almost deluged the staff. The result was that on 11th December a national campaign was launched, and a national petition was issued by the Guild protesting against the policy of the National Government in this direction, and strongly urging it to take immediate steps to alleviate the hardships which are pressing so heavily upon working men and women. The Petition continued: "We strongly urge the Government to remove immediately quota restrictions and import duties on foodstuffs, which in our opinion are contributory factors in increasing the prices of foodstuffs. We condemn Government policy in this direction, which has neglected the interest of the consumer, and we demand that speedy steps be taken to bring down the prices of essential foodstuffs and stop profiteering in commodities. We further urge that the Government shall increase allowances and benefits to the unemployed and to those in receipt of Public Assistance and Old Age Pensions."

HELP OF SCOTTISH GUILD AND CO-OPERATIVE PARTY

The Scottish Guild threw itself whole-heartedly into the campaign, and by the end of January nearly 250,000 signatures had been collected.

The Co-operative Party also volunteered valuable and practical help throughout the campaign, and four joint national demonstrations were held. The first at Wolverhampton was presided over by the National President, Mrs. M. Dale, and addressed by Councillor W. E. Wheeldon (Co-operative Party), Mrs. M. Pavitt (C.C.), and the General Secretary. At Manchester, the Rev. G. S. Woods (Co-operative Party) and Mrs. Thorley (C.C.) were the speakers; at Sheffield, Councillor J. H. Bingham, J.P., and Mrs. Dale. The eve of the Campaign Demonstration was held at Friends' House, London, with Mrs. E. Williams (C.C.) in the chair, Mrs. Dale, Mr. Alfred Barnes, M.P. (Chairman of the Co-operative Party) and the General Secretary, as speakers. So great was the enthusiasm that the great financial cost of this meeting was met by the splendid sale of tickets and the collection. The Men's Guild also gave useful help in the Campaign.

On 9th February, 1938, the Petition was presented to the Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade, owing to the refusal of the

Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Neville Chamberlain, to see the housewives of the country, as he "was too busy." Here the Co-operative M.P.s stepped again to our aid, and after an emergency meeting in the House of Commons brought pressure to bear, with the above gratifying result.

The National President, Mrs. Dale; the Scottish President, Mrs. Small; the Scottish Guild General Secretary, Miss Kate Callen; and the General Secretary, together with eight of the Co-operative M.P.s, presented the Petition, the deputation being introduced by Mr. Alfred Barnes, M.P. Captain Euan Wallace (Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade) has since forwarded to Head Office, through Mr. Alfred Barnes, M.P., a verbatim report of the evidence given by the deputation.

We desire to place on record our appreciation of the co-operation and valued help of the Co-operative Party in regard to this Cost of Living Campaign, and particularly to Mr. Alfred Barnes, M.P. (Chairman) and Mr. S. F. Perry (Secretary).

Our work for a higher standard of life for the workers and relief from the hardships and burdens of high prices did not end with the presentation of the Petition, and Sectional and District Secretaries were asked to continue during the year to collect valuable data in regard to prices in local areas, so that an efficient and reliable index of our own may be compiled at Head Office. This is a piece of work which should be of untold value in the Co-operative Movement as a whole, and which may be used later by any auxiliary body within the Movement.

UNITY, PLANNING AND DISCIPLINE IN VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

We cannot close this report without a word in regard to international affairs. The international chaos and turmoil, particularly of the early months of 1938, has been a cause of intense anxiety to all Guildswomen. We realise that we are not remote from these tragic happenings. The International President, Frau Emmy Freundlich, writes "that a new situation must now be found for our Guild," and we know that change is inevitable. We also know that Guild ideals and principles must not change, but that we must remain even more steadfast to these in time of crisis and stress than in time of so-called peace. The Japanese Guild have kept in touch with Head Office during the sad war between China and Japan and beg for the continued friendship and comradeship of the English Guild. Thus we cannot feel parochial or national in our viewpoint. We realise that those abroad look to us "to guide them on as friend and leader" (their own words), and we must not fail! Such a grave responsibility is a challenge to us all for unity, for Guild discipline, and planning, that our vast organisation, now fast nearing its 100,000 members, may build such an indomitable structure that it will be a bulwark in time of opposition; a constructive organisation in time of destruction; and a way of Peace, economic sanity, and democratic expression through which may be created a new social order. Such achievement depends upon the unswerving loyalty and voluntary labour of active spending Co-operators. The Guild has achieved much in the past! It must be stern and steadfast to seize its increasing opportunities

in the future and to shoulder its increasing responsibilities. The teamwork desired rests upon individual response. We have something to follow; something to live up to; something to achieve! We must work for disarmament, for international peace and friendship, for a sane economic system of trading through Co-operative planning and distribution. We have the structure within our grasp. We must guard it and mould it as a precious instrument for the welfare of the people.

VISITORS TO HEAD OFFICE

This year we have again welcomed numbers of Guildswomen from various parts of the country to Head Office, as well as several visitors from abroad. Miss Helen Topping, from Japan, paid a second visit. Mr. Yin Kwong Chen, a student of Co-operation; Mr. T. S. Whang, M.A., Instructor in Co-operation, Nankai University, China; and Mr. G. Chandrasekharam, M.A., Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies for India, all called for information about English Women's Guild.

INTERNAL GUILD WORK

This year we are again able to show an increase in the growth of our Guild. The number of new branches formed during the year was 78, making the total number of branches 1,773, with a membership of 83,120. This steady growth emphasises the value of the educational work the Guild is undertaking, and also the vital importance and contribution of our vast organisation of women to national life.

Changes have taken place in the formation of new districts. Harrow District has been formed out of the Herts District, and Stafford District has been divided into Stafford District and South Stafford District.

SECTIONAL SCHOOLS in each Section were held in July. The subjects taken were:—

- “The Second Two-Year Plan.”
- “The House I Want.”
- “Thoughts on Peace.”

These Schools were taken by members of the Central Committee and of the Sectional Council.

SECTIONAL CONFERENCES.—These conferences were again held in the Spring and Autumn. The subjects taken were:—

- “Co-operation—Its Use and Abuse.”
- “The Cost of Living.”

Members of the Central Committee were the Speakers.

At the morning meetings for district secretaries and district representatives held in connection with these conferences the titles for discussion were:—

- “Points of Interest to Branches.”
- “Problems and Difficulties.”

The discussions which followed proved of great help towards better efficiency in district work.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.—These Schools, held in each district, for District Committee members, were a very important part of our educational work.

The special subjects, which have been discussed at conferences and branch meetings during the year, are:—

- “The Second Two-Year Plan.”
- “The House I Want.”
- “Thoughts on Peace.”
- “Nutrition.”
- “Land Drainage and a Pure Water Supply.”
- “Equality for Men and Women in the Co-operative Movement.”

In addition, both sectional and district speakers have dealt with the regular subjects of:—

- “Peace Training in Schools.”
- “The Co-operative Movement as a Social Uplift.”
- “The Guild Organisation and Work.”
- “Social Services and What They Mean to Us.”
- “Campaign for Nursery Schools.”
- “Progress of International Women's Guild.”

ALL COUNCILS' MEETING.—The All Councils' Meeting took place at Wolverhampton on the 19th and 20th of January. We record our warm thanks to the Wolverhampton Society and to the local Guild branches for the friendly hospitality extended to all present. A Public Rally for men and women was held in the evening of 19th January as part of the Guild Campaign against the rise in the cost of living, and protesting against the policy of the National Government in this direction.

The Rally was presided over by Mrs. M. Dale (National President), and addressed by Mrs. M. Pavitt (Central Committee), Councillor W. E. Wheeldon (Co-operative Party) and the General Secretary.

The subjects considered at the All Councils' Sessions were:—

- “Problems we meet in the Co-operative Movement” (Mrs. Dale, Central Committee).
- “Divorce Law Reform” (Mrs. Mellor, Yorkshire Sectional Council).
- “The New Coal Bill” (Mrs. Williams, Central Committee).
- “Child Guidance Clinics” (Mrs. Ridealgh, South-Eastern Sectional Council).

WEEK-END SCHOOLS.—These Schools have continued to be a special feature of Guild work, and have been held in various sections. While they are now recognised as being part of Guild activity they are self-supporting, and are held only for Guild members.

CO-OPERATIVE WORK

The past year has again seen activity in extending the sales of C.W.S. productions. In 1935 and 1936 the Guild undertook to press for the sale of C.W.S. Belmont Goods, Soaps, Cocoa and Chocolates, and we feel that the result was gratifying. During 1937 and 1938 C.W.S. Belmont Dresses, Ladies' Wearsheaf Shoes, and Soaps and Cocoa have been the special C.W.S. productions on which the Guild has concentrated.

"LUTONA" COMPETITION.—These competitions still provide scope and initiative in cooking and sweet-making, and the number of branches holding them has increased to 456 this year. The boxes of chocolates given by the C.W.S. as prizes are greatly appreciated. This year 185 Guild branches have held C.W.S. Chocolate Clubs.

WORK WITH CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS

CO-OPERATIVE PARTY.—The Guild representative on the Co-operative Party for this year was Mrs. McPhail. The Guild has always worked jointly with the Co-operative Party in matters of vital importance to the Movement, as was evidenced again this year by the co-operation between the Guild and the Party during the Peace and Cost of Living Campaigns, more fully referred to in our introductory pages.

Branches in the Spen Valley attended a protest meeting in January against the N.D.C., at which the Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander, M.P., and Mr. Alfred Barnes, M.P., were the speakers.

Three resolutions from the Central Committee were included on the Co-operative Party Congress Agenda for Easter, 1938. These dealt with

"The Increased Cost of Living."

"The Government's Coal Commission Bill."

"The Appointment of a Woman Organiser by the Co-operative Party."

CO-OPERATIVE PRESS.—Our thanks are due to the Co-operative Press Limited for frequent publicity of Guild work and activity, particularly in regard to our Cost of Living Campaign and Peace Work. The value of the Co-operative Press to the Movement and the nation has been stressed at Guild gatherings throughout the year, and special appeals have been made for an increased sale of *Reynolds' News*, *The Co-operative News*, *Woman's Outlook*, and all other Co-operative Press publications.

The Central Committee placed on record a tribute to Mr. Jas. A. Flanagan on his retirement as Editor in Chief, at Christmas, 1937, for the valued services he had rendered to the Guild during his long term of office with the Co-operative Press.

The Guild was glad of the recognition accorded to it by the Editor and Directors of *Reynolds' News* in appointing as adjudicators of their "£500 Prosperity Competition" prominent Guildswomen in Mesdames Dale, Pavitt, Bamber, Daws, J.P., Ganley, Dewsbury and Charlton.

PEOPLE'S YEAR BOOK.—A circular has been sent to the Guild branches reminding them of the cheap paper cover edition available at 1s. This has made it possible for Guildswomen to obtain facts and information with regard to Co-operation which are of great value.

NATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION COUNCIL.—Mrs. Hammett (C.C.) represents the Guild on the Co-operative Education Council. The educational work is of increasing importance, and the Schools and other activities promoted by the Council have been well supported by Guild members.

THE MEN'S GUILD.—A joint meeting of representatives of the Central Committee and the Men's Guild Executive was held on 15th January, 1938, at the Men's Guild Office in Manchester, and matters of interest to both organisations were discussed, and agreement was arrived at in regard to joint policy and common action. It was decided that the subject of "Fixed Prices" should be pursued jointly and more co-operation generally should be exercised in regard to conferences and future work.

CO-OPERATIVE UNION CONGRESS.—The Guild was represented at the 1937 Congress of the Co-operative Union at Bath by Mrs. McPhail and Mrs. Eleanor Barton.

CITIZEN WORK

While the Guild has increased its efforts in furthering Co-operative Propaganda, it has also concentrated on matters of civic importance. Guildswomen realise their responsibilities in this sphere, and the year has seen an increase in the number of women who have contested and won seats on local Councils.

MAGISTERIAL BENCH.—The names of Mrs. Dale and Mrs. McPhail have been sent forward for the Magisterial Bench, and our efforts will continue until success is achieved.

BIRCHING OF JUVENILES.—A Home Office Inquiry was set up to deal with the question of the birching of juveniles, and Mrs. Astley (Southern Sectional Board) was appointed as the Guild representative on this Committee. On 4th October a deputation to the Home Office was received to give evidence requesting the abolition of birching of juveniles. The Guild was represented by Mrs. M. Dale, Mrs. A. Daws, J.P., Mrs. M. Pavitt, Mrs. Ganley, Mrs. E. Williams, Mrs. Eleanor Barton, and the General Secretary. The publication of the Home Office Report which advocates the abolition of birching at Borstal and H.M. Prisons, except for the protection of warders, is a cause of satisfaction to Guildswomen as a whole. While we admit that the Report is not all we would desire, we must acknowledge that it is an important step towards our demand which may lead to the total abolition of flogging. Such a medium of success proved that the work entailed by collecting data from all parts of the country regarding the experience gained by the contact of Guildswomen at Juvenile Courts was eminently worth while.

Our deputation was received with every consideration by Lord Cadogan (Chairman of the Committee) and given ample time to submit their evidence. A verbatim Report of our evidence and the Government replies was forwarded later to the Guild Head Office by Mr. Norman Brook (Secretary to the Committee).

SENTENCES ON HARWORTH MINERS.—In the early part of the year great indignation was felt throughout the Guild against the sentences passed in connection with the Harworth Colliery dispute, and a statement to that effect was published in the *Co-operative News* calling on branches to send a letter to their local M.P.s, asking them to bring pressure to bear upon the Home Secretary and the Government to secure a revision of the harsh sentences.

WORK WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

JUNE, 1937.—Deputation from the School Age Council to the L.C.C. Education Committee. Guild represented by Mrs. Barton.

JULY, 1937.—Deputation to M.O.H. in connection with the Children's Minimum Council. Guild represented by Mrs. Barton.

SEPTEMBER, 1937.—Electrical Association for Women. Mrs. Eleanor Barton, Mrs. E. Williams, and Miss Rose Simpson attended a conference representative of all the important women's organisations in the country.

SEPTEMBER, 1937.—National Pacifist Convention. This was held in the Central Hall, Westminster, and was representative of 400 national organisations. The Women's Co-operative Guild had the highest number of delegates present, no fewer than 174 Guildswomen representing their branches. Miss Rose Simpson was one of the Speakers, together with the Right Hon. George Lansbury, Lord Arnold, and others.

SEPTEMBER, 1937.—National Birth Control Association: Guild represented by the General Secretary.

NOVEMBER, 1937.—Maternal Mortality Committee. Guild represented by Mrs. E. Williams.

MARCH, 1938.—International Women's Guild and General Secretary attended the demonstration at St. Pancras Hall and extended greetings.

APRIL, 1938.—Conference of Unions Catering for Women Workers. Guild represented by Mrs. E. Williams.

APRIL, 1938.—Maternity and Child Welfare. Annual Conference at Bristol. Guild represented by Mrs. Dale and Mrs. McPhail.

STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE OF INDUSTRIAL WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS.—Our representatives on this Committee are Mrs. Ganley, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Benton, and the General Secretary. At the Annual

Conference of Labour Women at Leamington the Guild was represented by Mrs. Dodsworth (Central Committee), and the General Secretary was one of the speakers at the Demonstration.

INTERNATIONALISM AND THE GUILD

The Triennial Conference of the International Women's Co-operative Guild was held in Paris in September, 1937, and the English Guild sent the highest number of delegates. No fewer than 318 English Guildswomen attended as delegates or visitors. Arrangements for the travel and accommodation of this splendid number were admirably carried out by the C.W.S. Travel Department, who earned the appreciation of all concerned by their unsparing efforts. Our congratulations and good wishes were extended to Mrs. Theo. Naftel, who, after being Acting Secretary of the International Guild for two years, was elected Secretary at the Paris Conference. We also record with pleasure that the Australian Women's Co-operative Guild has during the year affiliated to the International Guild, the Secretary being Mrs. Duke, whom many Guildswomen will remember when she visited England recently.

Miss Helen Topping, who works closely with Dr. Kagawa in Japan, attended the Paris Conference, and has since visited Head Office. Returning to Japan, she has sent us reports of her talks and visits to the Japanese Guild, which reveal that our work is closely studied in Japan and that articles on Guild work and policy, which appear in the *Co-operative News*, are read aloud regularly to the members, together with Guild literature.

CIVIL WAR IN SPAIN

The terrible suffering which the workers of Spain are still enduring in their fight for freedom and democracy has resulted in the collection of over £342 being sent from Guild branches. This has been sent to Spain through the I.C.A.

Many branches have also sent parcels of warm clothing, which have been dispatched to the International Brigade in conjunction with the Women's Sections of the Labour Party. The untiring efforts of our members in this direction in providing warm clothing is greatly appreciated.

OUR GUILD FUNDS

Once again we record with deep appreciation the receipt of the annual grants of £500 from the Co-operative Union and £500 from the Co-operative Wholesale Society. On behalf of the whole Guild Movement, the Central Committee tenders its thanks to the Co-operative Union and the Co-operative Wholesale Society for their valued and practical assistance.

The Co-operative Party also donated £10 towards the Cost of Living Campaign, and the London Co-operative Society £1 1s.

BRANCHES AND MEMBERSHIP.

During the year 78 new branches have been affiliated and twelve are in course of formation, making a total of 90 new branches. Nineteen branches are suspended, mostly owing to lack of suitable meeting place, but all are hopeful of restarting again, while two branches, Misterton and Seaton Carew, which were suspended, have re-opened during the year.

The total number of affiliated branches is 1,773.

The total membership is 83,070.

SECTION.	BRANCHES.			Number of Members, 1938.
	New.	Sus-pended.	Total Number.	
Midland.....	17	2	317	14,860
Northern.....	9	3	159	6,702
Lancashire.....	11	—	285	15,733
Yorkshire.....	3	3	185	6,381
South-Eastern.....	15	2	306	15,412
Southern.....	15	3	339	16,516
South-Western and Bristol.....	3	4	107	5,274
Western and Welsh.....	5	2	75	2,242
Totals.....	78	19	1,773	83,120

GRANTS FROM SOCIETIES.

The total number of branches which received grants during the year is 1,328.

Section.	Under £5.	£5 and under £10.	£10 and under £20.	£20 and under £30.	£30 and under £40.	£40 and upwards.	Totals.
Midland.....	125	104	31	2	—	—	262
Northern.....	57	22	9	—	—	—	88
Lancashire.....	42	70	107	20	1	2	242
Yorkshire.....	77	65	11	3	1	1	158
South-Eastern...	105	51	22	17	—	1	196
Southern.....	116	128	30	3	2	—	279
South-Western..	17	19	30	—	—	—	66
Western.....	13	23	1	—	—	—	37
Totals.....	552	482	241	45	4	4	1328

JOINT GUILD BRANCH COMMITTEES.

There are now 54 of these, and they are doing valuable work in securing joint action by branches both in their societies and towns.

REPRESENTATION OF GUILDWOMEN IN THE MOVEMENT

ON BOARDS AND ASSOCIATIONS.

Central Board, Co-operative Union.—Mrs. Astley (Southern Section), Mrs. Nevitt (N.W. Section), Mrs. Corrie and Mrs. Dale (Midland Section), Mrs. Beresford (Northern Section).

Co-operative Press Limited.—Mrs. Dewsbury.

National Educational Council.—Mrs. Hammett (representing the Guild).

Co-operative Party National Council.—Mrs. McPhail (representing the Guild).

District Associations.—Guild members sit on the Leicester, Coventry, Derby, South Durham, Macclesfield, North Lancashire, Oldham, Gloucester, Sussex, Metropolitan, Cornwall and Essex Co-operative Union District Associations.

Sectional Educational Associations.—Women members sit on the Executives of all the Educational Committees' Associations.

Convalescent Fund Committees.—Miss C. Webb, Mrs. Apps, Mrs. Corbett (Southern), Miss Gratton and Mrs. Bland (North-Western), Mrs. Cant (Midland), Mrs. Smith (Western), Mrs. Lidington (South-Western).

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.

There are now 435 women on the Management Committees of 228 societies:—

Midland.....	84 women in 42 societies
Northern.....	42 " 19 "
Lancashire.....	74 " 39 "
Yorkshire.....	43 " 24 "
South-Eastern.....	57 " 30 "
Southern.....	71 " 36 "
South-West.....	44 " 24 "
Western.....	20 " 14 "
	435 228

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEES.

There are now 979 women on Educational Committees of societies of which 56 are Chairmen:—

Midland.....	184 women
Northern.....	49 "
Lancashire.....	141 "
Yorkshire.....	78 "
South-Eastern.....	154 "
Southern.....	245 "
South-West.....	70 "
Western.....	58 "

REPRESENTATION OF GUILDWOMEN ON PUBLIC BODIES AND COMMITTEES.

The representation of women on various Public Committees in March, 1938, is given below:—

- 4 Guildswomen are Mayors in their Boroughs.
 - 16 Guildswomen are Mayoresses in their Boroughs.
 - 7 Guildswomen are Aldermen.
 - 2 Guildswomen are on the London County Council.
 - 34 Guildswomen are on County Councils.
 - 231 Guildswomen are on City, Town or Urban District Councils.
 - 146 Guildswomen are Magistrates.
 - 446 Guildswomen sit on Municipal and Voluntary Maternity Committees.
 - 104 Guildswomen sit on Housing Committees.
 - 155 Guildswomen sit on Local Education Authorities.
 - 407 Guildswomen serve on Local Courts of Referees.
 - 27 Guildswomen serve on County Insurance Committees.
- Guildswomen also sit on Mental Welfare Clinics, Unemployed Relief Committees, Juvenile Courts, War and Old Age Pension Committees, Rate and Valuation Committees, Birth Control Clinics, League of Nations' Union, Peace Council, and Safety-First Committees.

307 Guildswomen stood as Municipal Candidates under Labour and Co-operative auspices, 127 of whom were successful.

SECTIONS.

Two Conferences have been held in each Section. The subject taken in the Spring, 1937, was "Co-operation:—Its use and abuse," the speakers being Mrs. Billam, Mrs. Hammett, Mrs. Catterall, Mrs. James, Mrs. Dale, Mrs. MacKay, Mrs. McPhail, and Mrs. Barton. The subject for the Autumn was "The Cost of Living," and the speakers were Mrs. Thorley, Mrs. Billam, Mrs. Ganley, Mrs. Dodsworth, Mrs. Pavitt, Mrs. Hammett, Mrs. Williams and Miss Rose Simpson.

The total regular grants to the Sections amounted in 1937 to £447 os. od.

The number of visits given to branches by the Sectional Council members is as follows:—

Midland	411
Northern.....	211
Lancashire	265
Yorkshire	224
South-Eastern	375
Southern.....	364
South-Western	86
Western.....	158
Total.....	2094

83 Classes for Officials have been held during the year. These were arranged by the Sections and Districts jointly.

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Meetings of the Central Committee have been held during the year. The attendances were:—

	Possible	Actual.		Possible	Actual.
Mrs. Billam	7	6	Mrs. McPhail.....	7	7
Mrs. Dale.....	7	7	Mrs. Pavitt.....	6	6
Mrs. Dodsworth	6	6	Mrs. Thorley.....	6	6
Mrs. Hammett.....	7	7	Mrs. Williams.....	6	6

The Central Committee members have taken the chair or been speakers on behalf of the C.C. at the following number of meetings:—

	No. of Meetings.		No. of Meetings.
Mrs. Billam	120	Mrs. McPhail.....	145
Mrs. Dale.....	232	Mrs. Pavitt.....	110
Mrs. Dodsworth.....	91	Mrs. Thorley.....	171
Mrs. Hammett.....	48	Mrs. Williams.....	171

The Central Committee has been represented at the following: Co-operative Union Congress, the International Co-operative Women's Guild Conference, the Scottish Guild Annual Congress, the Irish Guild Annual Meeting, the Men's Guild Annual Meeting, the Labour Women's Conference, the Co-operative Party Annual Meeting, and the Easter Week-End School, as well as at the National Peace Congress, and others, as recorded elsewhere in this report.

DISTRICTS.

The grants to Districts have been allocated as follows:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Northampton	5	0	0	Sheffield.....	4	0	0
Leicester	8	0	0	Middlesex.....	3	10	0
Birmingham	5	0	0	*W. Metropolitan	2	0	0
Coventry	8	0	0	N. W. Metropolitan	2	0	0
Worcester	7	0	0	*N. Metropolitan.....	2	0	0
Stafford.....	9	0	0	Hertfordshire	3	0	0
Derby.....	6	0	0	Harrow	3	0	0
Nottingham	5	0	0	*E. Metropolitan	3	0	0
Lincoln	6	10	0	S. Essex.....	2	0	0
Peterborough.....	7	10	0	Bucks.....	4	0	0
Shropshire and Mid. Wales .	9	0	0	Cambridge.....	6	0	0
N. Northumberland	4	0	0	Colchester.....	7	0	0
West Durham.....	4	0	0	Norwich.....	5	0	0
Mid-Durham	9	0	0	S.E. Metropolitan.....	5	0	0
South Durham.....	6	0	0	Kent and Surrey.....	6	0	0
Cumberland	10	0	0	*S. Metropolitan	5	0	0
Bolton	5	0	0	E. Surrey.....	4	10	0
Cheshire and W. Lancs.....	4	0	0	W. Surrey.....	5	0	0
N. Wales.....	10	0	0	Sheerness	8	0	0
Macclesfield.....	8	10	0	Lewes.....	9	0	0
N. Manchester.....	4	0	0	Hants.....	8	10	0
S. Manchester	4	0	0	Dorset	7	0	0
N. E. Lancs.....	4	0	0	*Oxford.....	7	10	0
North Lancs.....	10	0	0	N.E. Devon	6	0	0
Oldham.....	4	0	0	S.W. Devon	6	0	0
Rochdale	8	10	0	Bristol and Somerset.....	5	10	0
Bradford	3	10	0	Wilts.....	8	0	0
Leeds.....	1	10	0	Cardiff.....	6	0	0
Calderdale.....	5	10	0	Gloucester.....	4	0	0
Dewsbury	4	10	0	Aberdare	7	10	0
E. Yorks.....	10	0	0	W. Wales.....	7	0	0
Doncaster	7	0	0				

* This year, the East Metropolitan District has again given back its grant, and Oxford District has again given back 10s. The North Metropolitan and the West Metropolitan Districts have returned their grants, and the South Metropolitan District returned £2. All these returned grants are to be used for poorer Districts, and to all these Districts we offer our warm thanks.

In addition to the grants, the District Committee Schools have involved an expenditure from the Central Fund of £375 13s. 6d.; while £79 9s. 10d. is the cost of lecturers' expenses for the Special Schools.

CONFERENCES OF SECTIONAL COUNCILS AND DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES.

Conferences are being held in connection with the Spring Sectional Conferences, the expenses of one representative from each district being paid out of the Central Fund. The subject being discussed is "Points of Interest to Branches."

The number of District Conferences held was 198, and some of the subjects taken were as follows: "Résumé of All-Councils Meeting"; "House I Want"; "N.D.C. Tax"; "Poverty and Public Health"; "Cost of Living"; "Co-operative Press"; "Report of International Congress"; "Marketing Boards and Quotas"; "Nutrition"; "Guild Pledge for Peace"; "Nursery Schools"; "Land Drainage and Pure Water Supply"; "Rules and Guild Problems"; "The Midwives Bill".

About 6,484 visits to branches have been made by District Committee members, of which 936 were free. These include a number of visits to branches during their three months' probation prior to being affiliated, in accordance with the system by which District Committees keep in the closest touch with each new branch in its infancy.

On behalf of the Central Committee,

MABEL DALE (President),
ROSE SIMPSON (General Secretary).

ANNUAL CONGRESS

The Annual Congress was held at New Brighton, Birkenhead, on 31st May, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd June, 1937. The representation from each Section was as follows :—

	Delegates.	Branches.
Midland	281	252
Northern	138	129
Lancashire	292	259
Yorkshire	162	163
South-Eastern	261	244
Southern	279	258
South-Western	84	73
Western	37	39

making a total of 1,534 delegates from 1,417 branches.

Eight members of the Central Committee, eight Sectional Secretaries, eight delegates from the Sectional Councils, and 62 delegates representing districts attended the Congress, making a total of 1,620 delegates.

BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

1. President's Address.
2. Reception of Delegates from Co-operative Union ; Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Labour Party and Trade Union representatives.
3. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts were adopted.
4. Miss Rose Simpson was declared elected General Secretary by 1,946 votes, a majority by 1,664
5. Resolutions carried were as follows :—

CO-OPERATIVE TRADE.

1. " This Congress, seeking to know the reason why so much trade is passing the movement, calls upon the Co-operative Union to set up a Committee of Inquiry, such Committee to have equal representation of men and women. It urges that such inquiry would be able to discover means whereby this trade could be captured, thus enabling us to bring the Ten-Year Plan to a successful issue."

CO-OPERATIVE HOTEL.

2. " This Congress of Co-operative Women urges the C.W.S. to open an hotel with cafe for non-residents and a departmental store in the West End of London to enable co-operators, when they visit London, to spend their money co-operatively. It further urges the C.W.S. to provide hotel accommodation in Manchester, the home of Co-operation, and to open a cafe near Leman Street, London.

CO-OPERATIVE TRADING POLICY.

3. " In view of the fact that the economy and benefit of Co-operative Trading can only be shown in the results obtained by all Societies throughout the country, this Congress urges that the Movement as a whole shall lay down a definite Trading Policy. We place on record our appreciation of the high standards of our Movement in regard to quality and while urging that goods shall be sold at lowest competitive prices we desire that these high standards shall be maintained. We call attention to the provision of services ' from the cradle to the grave ' now undertaken by big Co-operative Societies, and we emphasise that this is the sure and modern way of extending and improving trade. We further urge that uniformity of dividend is a very necessary step towards the greater ideals of our Movement and we call for :—

" 1. More uniformity of prices consistent with our recognised standards in regard to quality.

" 2. Development of services by steady increase of facilities.

" 3. Greater uniformity of dividend.

" We state our belief that the adoption of such a policy would contribute greatly to the success of the Ten Year Plan and would add considerably to the strength and power of the Co-operative Movement in this country."

40-HOUR WEEK FOR CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYEES.

4. " This Congress, realising that the unemployment problem will never be wholly solved under a capitalist Government, suggests that the Co-operative Movement ought to lead the way in the establishment of a 40-hour week for all employees without reduction of wages."

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE.

5. " Realising that under present-day conditions family incomes in most places are inadequate for women to afford medical treatment, this Congress urges the Central Committee to call a Conference with the Co-operative Insurance Society with a view to arranging a scheme whereby women members of the Co-operative Movement and their children up to 16 years of age could receive medical treatment by payment of a small sum weekly through the C.I.S. It urges that under this scheme patients be not confined to any one particular doctor."

PEACE THROUGH LEAGUE REFORM.

6. " This Congress deplores the inactivity of the Government regarding the League of Nations and urges that action be taken immediately to strengthen the League by turning attention to constructive work for peace and for increasing the spirit of co-operation between nations. Such action should include :—

" 1. Strenuous efforts to find just solutions for the great grievances which at present exist in many countries.

" 2. Practical proposals for disarmament.

" 3. Encouragement of international trade on a truly co-operative basis with consequent revision of all tariffs and quotas.

" 4. Full consideration of the problems of mandates, raw materials, and markets.

" We demand that the Government give a lead in world affairs by emphasising the co-operative method of peaceful, constructive revolution in international relations with a view to bringing in those nations now outside and so making the League a strong and powerful influence for peace."

ARMAMENTS EXPENDITURE.

7. " This Congress views with alarm the enormous expenditure involved in the present rapid increase in the manufacture of armaments. It believes this expenditure will lead to war and not to peace and demands that the Government take steps immediately to call a halt to this mad race and to give a lead to the world by utilising the money of the country on Social Services, Education, Health, etc."

AIR DISPLAYS.

8. " This Congress calls upon the Government to discontinue all military displays, tattoos, etc., and the practice of allowing children to attend these, and to substitute for military air displays and realistic dropping of bombs an International Pageant of Peace, representative of all nations irrespective of creed, race, or colour."

CONSCRIPTION.

9. " This Congress unanimously declares that it can conceive no reason which could legitimately be advanced as an excuse to bring conscription into being in this country. We most strongly condemn, as entirely mischievous, the recent statement of Lady Haig on this subject, feeling that such a statement from so public a figure can have no result other than to complicate and endanger our work and desire for World Peace."

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND FASCISM.

10. " This Congress condemns the National Government for its support of Fascism in Abyssinia, its own present aggression on the North-West Frontier, and its attitude against the democratically-elected Government of Spain. This was a gross betrayal of the principles of the League of Nations and the conduct in regard to the Spanish Rebellion has been a deliberate breach of International Law whereby support has been withheld from a constitutionally elected Government to the advantage of Fascist traitors."

SPAIN.

11. "This Congress, in order to strengthen and help the forces of democracy in Spain, urges all societies to place boxes for contributions in their shops."

FACTORIES BILL.

12. "This Congress, whilst appreciating the measure of reform embodied in the introduction of a new Factories Act, desires to place on record its profound disappointment with many of the proposals put forward by the Government. It congratulates the Co-operative Party and the Labour Party in the House of Commons on their vigorous fight for improvement, and thanks the Factories Bill Campaign Committee for its valuable work. It calls upon all branches to support by letter to their respective M.P.s those improvements so urgently needed to make conditions of work in the factory more tolerable, and puts forward the following items as essential in any enlightened factory legislation:—

"(a) Ratification of the Washington Convention of a 40-hour week.

"(b) No overtime for juveniles under 18 years of age.

"(c) Raising age of entry into factories to 16.

"(d) Six weeks' compulsory absence—with pay—for women before and after confinement.

"(e) Equal pay for equal work for all women and girls on the same terms as men and boys.

"(f) Holidays with pay for all workers, whether by hand or brain.

"(g) The appointment of more factory inspectors of both sexes, with power to condemn all factories which are badly lit, badly ventilated, and without proper sanitation and proper safeguards on machinery."

JUVENILE TRANSFERENCE.

13. "This Congress strongly protests against the method of transference of juveniles from the distressed areas. We feel there should be stricter supervision of temporary residence and also occupation and wages. We urge that honorary supervision, good as it is, is not sufficient, and urge there should be Government paid supervisors, who should have power to visit periodically the homes where these boys and girls are placed. This Congress calls for the compulsory inspection of homes all the time by women inspectors, such homes to be registered."

BIRCHING.

14. "This Congress of wives and mothers protests most emphatically against the continued use of the birch for juvenile offenders. We consider this is a degrading form of punishment which is calculated to embitter these young people against society. We believe further that it entirely fails in its object in that it has proved completely ineffective in reducing the number of offences. In our opinion the problem of juvenile delinquency is a psychological one and should be carefully studied by qualified people. We demand the abolition of the law which allows of the birching of young offenders and call for legislation to this effect to be introduced immediately."

UNEMPLOYED ASSISTANCE.

15. "This Congress urges the Government to accept as a fundamental principle that the cost of assistance afforded to all able-bodied unemployed persons capable of, and available for, work, shall be borne by the State."

LAND DRAINAGE AND WATER SUPPLIES.

16. "This Congress strongly protests against the Government's continued neglect of the Land Drainage Act of 1930.

"In view of the distress and devastation of the Fen Country by flooding owing to inadequate drainage, we demand that immediate steps be taken to prevent further occurrences, as well as to conserve a supply of water for seasons of official 'drought.' We urge that unemployed men be put to work on this and not military forces. We are of opinion that a country wealthy enough to contemplate the expenditure of millions on means of destroying life can afford to spend a small

proportion of the Nation's wealth in schemes to avoid damage and suffering caused by too much water in winter and too little in summer.

"We further deplore the enormous charges of private water companies for a pure water supply, these companies hold a monopoly and impose exceedingly heavy rates. This Congress calls upon the Government to introduce legislation to reduce those charges, and to compel appropriate authorities to supply each house with one tap from main supply and also to supply soft water without increased charges."

HOUSING.

17. "This Congress registers its strong condemnation of the policy of the National Government in regard to Housing. The repeal of the Wheatley Act in 1932 placed the greater part of house provision in the hands of private enterprise and resulted in

"(a) shortage of houses to let with consequent high rents ;

"(b) shoddy built houses on ill-planned and badly laid-out estates.

"These high rents and the high charges consequent on renewals and adjustments which have to be met by owner-occupiers are causing distress which often amounts to shortage of actual necessities in working-class families, and we urge that provision be made immediately to remedy this.

"We further protest against the poor standard in regard to 'cubic space' laid down in the Housing Act of 1935, and we stress the fact that even under this there are

"(1) 4,000,000 houses below a decent standard ;

"(2) 1,000,000 at least really bad slums.

"We emphasise that bad housing conditions lead inevitably to ill-health and even to crime, the cost of which has to be met from public funds, and we demand that the Government take immediate steps to place the Housing Policy of the country upon the only satisfactory foundation—that of a Public Service—and introduce legislation which will give Local Authorities the fullest assistance in dealing with this most important matter and providing a remedy for the evils which are causing so much hardship."

RENT RESTRICTION.

18. "This Congress demands that action be taken with regard to the Rent Restriction Act which expires in 1938, either to extend this Act for a further period of five years, or to pass such legislation as is necessary to eradicate the evil of exorbitant rents. We realise that working people are unable to meet these demands, which thus cause great hardship."

PURE FOOD AND PRICE CONTROL.

19. "This Congress calls attention to the hardships caused to the unemployed and to workers on low wages by the rise in the cost of living owing to the Tariff and Quota Policy of the present Government and now being rapidly intensified by the re-armament plans. It emphasises that the low standard of the workers is made still lower by their inability to obtain food of satisfactory quality at reasonable prices and it calls upon the Government to implement at an early date the Report of the Departmental Committee on the composition and description of food, and to legislate for a system of price control which will safeguard the consumer, so that those who have little to spend on food may obtain the utmost possible value."

REPRESENTATION ON MARKETING BOARDS.

20. "This Congress, representing 80,000 consumers' homes in this country, protests against the composition of the administrative powers of the present Agricultural Marketing Acts, which give the producers sole control of all marketing arrangements. It points out that the high prices of all foodstuffs are lowering the standard of living and, while producers' interests are safeguarded, the burden is falling on the working woman. We therefore demand the modification of those Acts so that the Co-operative Movement shall have representation, both for the distributive trades and consumers' interests, on each of the following Marketing Boards: Milk Marketing Board; Pigs Marketing Board; Bacon Marketing

Board ; Bacon Development Board ; Potato Marketing Board ; and on any additional Marketing Boards formed in the future."

DOCKYARDS EMPLOYEES.

21. "This Congress calls upon the Government to give the dockyard employees discharged for no specific reason a fair trial, and, in the event of being proved innocent, they be immediately reinstated, and fully compensated for loss of wages and wrongful dismissal.

"Further, this Congress strongly objects to Government secret agents being employed in the dockyards and elsewhere as ordinary workmen to spy on members of our own class. We oppose strongly the system which compels our people to earn their livelihoods under conditions which create suspicion and divisions amongst the workers in Government employment."

GUILD EXCHANGE FUND.

22. "Having regard to the importance of international relations this Congress urges that the Guild levy an affiliation fee of 6d. per branch per year."

WITHDRAWAL OF ELECTRICALLY-DRIVEN COAL MACHINES.

23. "This Congress of the Women's Co-operative Guild urges the Government to legislate for the immediate withdrawal of electrically-driven coal-cutting machines and coal conveyors from all coal-mines in Great Britain. Owing to the excessive noise with rapidity of travelling, and quick shot firing on coal faces, where dangerous gases emerge with coal dust from time to time, we are of the opinion that such withdrawal would add to the safety of the lives of our miners. Failing such withdrawal we demand the employment of adequate safety measures."

PENSIONS AT 55.

24. "In view of the fact that we must have 104 National Health Insurance stamps on card to be eligible for pensions at 65 and many persons break down under the age of 60, this Congress urges the Government to table a motion for pensions for all at 55."

REDUCTION IN PRICE OF MILK.

25. "This Congress calls upon the Government to take steps towards a reduction in the price of milk and an extension of summer prices. We deplore the fact that milk is being sold to manufacturers at a cheap rate, whilst no provision has been made whereby mothers with children between 2 and 5 years of age can purchase cheap milk. Further, we believe that at present prices it is impossible for the unemployed and low-paid workers to get the quantity necessary to avoid malnutrition."

NURSERY SCHOOLS.

26. "This Congress deplores the attitude of Municipal Authorities in not recognising the Act dealing with Nursery Schools and calls upon the Government to take the necessary steps to make it compulsory for all concerned to put it into operation at once. It further calls upon housing authorities to include provisions for Nursery Schools in all plans for working-class flats."

SMALLER CLASSES.

27. "This Congress demands there shall be only 25 children in a class in Elementary Schools, believing that number to be quite sufficient for one teacher if the children are to be properly educated. It further demands that immediate steps be taken to abolish the large number of obsolete school buildings throughout the country, in which the health of children and teachers is imperilled, and to provide adequate school buildings in all rapidly-growing areas."

ASSAULTS ON YOUNG CHILDREN.

28. "In view of the large number of indecent assaults and immoral practices on young children by mental defectives, this Congress demands the Government shall introduce legislation so that these cases can be dealt with in a psychological manner rather than imprisoned for a period at the end of which they are allowed their freedom amongst the general community, as at present."

WOMEN POLICE.

29. "This Congress recognises the growing need for more women police, and calls upon the Government to pass legislation making it compulsory on all Watch Committees, Standing Joint Committees, and other authorities responsible for the appointment of police to appoint women police in all areas. We are of opinion that the small number of women, as compared with men police, is inadequate to fulfil the various duties which fall to the lot of a police woman in the protection of the women, young girls, and children of the country. We demand these police women shall be appointed on the same terms as policemen and at the same rates of pay."

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

30. "This Congress is of opinion that all in receipt of the Old Age Pension should be entitled to free medical treatment from a panel doctor, their Old Age Pension Book to serve in lieu of an ordinary medical card."

CHARGE FOR MEDICAL CERTIFICATES.

31. "This Congress urges that the time has now come when doctors should cease charging fees for patients' medical certificates, as this constitutes a hardship at a time when a person is unable to follow his or her occupation in the usual way. It further urges that the time has arrived for sick pay under National Health Insurance to be placed on the same basis as that of the Unemployment Insurance Act, namely, to include all dependants, as much hardship is caused in homes when only the breadwinner receives sick pay."

GUILD SUBJECTS.

32. "This Congress requests that Central, Sectional, and District Speakers take different subjects at Conferences and Schools, believing that in so doing, a wider field of education could be covered without any loss of stress on Special Subjects."

CONGRESS, 1938.

33. "That the Women's Co-operative Guild Congress for 1938 be held in Southampton."

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS :—

1. "This Congress welcomes the Committee of Inquiry, under Mr. Norman Birkett, which has been set up as an outcome of the Government Report on an Investigation into Maternal Mortality, and urges that a member of the Women's Co-operative Guild be appointed to that Committee to represent working women."

2. "This Congress calls attention to the recent deplorable death in prison of a young mother after childbirth, and demands that this Government introduce legislation to prevent the birth of children in prison, and that mothers be removed to local hospitals, and the address of hospital to be placed on the birth certificate."

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

ANNUAL CONGRESS, NEW BRIGHTON, 1937.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
To Donations from Societies		464	2	0	By Halls, etc.....		140	13	11
„ Balance on Excursions.			7	6	„ Officials' Expenses (Central Office).....		199	2	8
„ Interest.....		5	5	1	„ Printing		51	10	0
					„ Postages.....		28	4	10
					„ Local Expenses		45	7	4
					„ Bank Charges.....		1	11	2
					„ Balance		3	4	8
		£469	14	7			£469	14	7

ANNUAL BALANCE SHEET,

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
To Central Fund Subscriptions		2962	7	1
„ Donation from Co-operative Wholesale Society.....		500	0	0
„ „ Co-operative Union		500	0	0
„ Sale of Pamphlets	£155	15	9	
„ „ Business Books.....	72	4	11	
„ „ Guild Badges.....	93	0	10	
„ „ International Badges	4	15	9	
„ „ Guild Flowers	48	4	4	
„ „ Peace Poppies.....	555	18	1	
„ „ Peace Cloths and Handkerchiefs	713	19	8	
		1643	19	4
„ Sale of Guild Histories		8	4	6
„ Co-operative Party Affiliation		143	13	0
„ International Levy		63	14	11
„ Repaid Congress, 1937.....		101	2	0
„ Staff Contribution to Pension Scheme.....		15	2	10
„ Rent		60	5	0
„ Registration of Peace Handkerchiefs		0	10	0
„ Spanish Relief Fund.....		167	2	1
„ Interest and Dividend		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	0
		63	14	11
		101	2	0
		15	2	10
		60	5	0
		0	10	0
		167	2	1
		87	2	5
		1643	19	4
		8	4	6
		143	13	



91743