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CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE  
OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN LONDON,  
117, PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.1

Pam

## SURVEY

*of*

FACILITIES FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE  
OF GIRLS IN LONDON.

*With special reference to the  
needs of girls coming up from  
the country to work in London*

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## SURVEY OF FACILITIES FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE OF GIRLS IN LONDON.

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## FOREWORD.

The Central Council for the Social Welfare of Girls and Women in London (formerly the Central Council for Rescue and Preventive Work in London) has throughout its career been deeply conscious of the importance of the "Preventive" side of social welfare work for girls and women. They appreciate the enormous advantage of the provision of wide facilities for social intercourse and recreation under healthful conditions, which is undertaken by many societies in London and the great usefulness of such assistance in preventing the sometimes irreparable damage which the "Rescue" societies have to make good.

A special study of these "Preventive" facilities is being made by the Central Council, the first fruits of which are embodied in the preliminary survey now circulated.

A more detailed survey is being made by the Social Welfare Committee recently appointed by the Home Secretary as the result of a conference called by him at the Home Office on July 2nd at the request of the Central Council.

It is hoped that the present report will be of value to all those who feel that by ensuring that our English womanhood will have every opportunity of developing to the fullest extent their spiritual, mental and physical qualities under healthy conditions, the influences which work for evil will be most effectively defeated.

On behalf of the Executive Committee  
of the Central Council,

OSCAR E. WARBURG,  
*Chairman.*

September, 1928.

## SCOPE OF SURVEY AND DEFINITION OF TERMS.

In making a survey of preventive work, the first necessity is to define the sense in which the phrase is used; for in its wide application it embraces all forms of social work and all education, while in its narrow sense it applies only to efforts to help those young persons who are, from circumstances, in grave moral danger, or those who have already come into conflict with the law in some measure.

In the present survey this last form of preventive work is not referred to. As it affects girls it is closely allied with rescue work, and the two must be dealt with together, which has been done by the survey of rescue work in London made by the Central Council for Rescue and Preventive Work in London. The work of societies dealing specifically and exclusively with "rescue and preventive" work is therefore not mentioned here except in connection with emergency accommodation.

The preventive work here considered may be defined as work undertaken with the object of helping young people to live full and vigorous lives and to develop every side of their nature.

The word "preventive" can only be used in this connection if it is understood in its original sense of "go before," to lead, and not in its modern sense of check or hinder.

The aim of the survey is to collect and tabulate information concerning the provision made at the present time to meet the needs of girls living and working in London, in so far as these can be met by organisation and co-operation.

The needs may be summarised under:—

- (1) Centres where information may be obtained regarding lodgings, clubs, etc.
- (2) Good lodgings.
- (3) Opportunities for healthy recreation and companionship.
- (4) Opportunities for continuing education and vocational training.
- (5) Opportunities for giving social service.

The provision made to meet these needs is considered in the following sections:—

- (a) The large girls' societies.
- (b) Other societies making some provision for girls.
- (c) Clubs, and their central organisations.
- (d) Residential hostels and emergency accommodation.
- (e) Travelling.

Finally some general questions and lines of future work are discussed.



## NOTES ON WORK OF GIRLS' SOCIETIES.

### GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

*Headquarters* : Townsend House, Greycoat Place, S.W.1.

*The Object of the Society is—*

To unite for the Glory of God, in one fellowship of prayer and service the girls and women of the Empire, to uphold purity in thought and word and deed.

The society offers friendly comradeship and opportunities of service for others, through introductions from branch to branch and from one country to another.

It also encourages loyalty and faithfulness in work and home life, and self-control in all things.

*The Central Rules are two—*

(1) All those who join the society must have borne a virtuous character and must promise to uphold the object of the society by the witness of their lives. Those failing to bear this witness in life and conduct forfeit their card.

(2) Women and girls join the society as associates or members. *Associates* must be members of the Church of England, the organisation of the society following that of the Church. Associates and members must subscribe annually to the society. Not less than 6*d.* of each member's subscription to go to the Central Fund.

### ORGANISATION.

The organisation follows Church order. Branches of the society being grouped on parochial, ruri-decanal and diocesan lines. All *officers* of the society must be Churchwomen.

Members are girls of every rank and calling, who are pledged to carry out the object of the society in daily life, but need not necessarily be members of the Church of England.

### FINANCE.

G.F.S. finance is simple. Associates subscribe annually to their branches; branch members over 18 subscribe not less than 1*s.* 6*d.*, and those under 18 1*s.* to the society's funds. Sixpence of this subscription is kept by their local branch, and the other 6*d.* is sent to Headquarters. The additional 6*d.*

of the 1*s.* 6*d.* subscription is paid to the Diocesan Fund. Those payments of its members form the Central Fund of the society, and pay for the upkeep of its Central Office, and for all necessary organising expenses. The G.F.S. is practically self-supporting, and only appeals to the public for special efforts, such as its social service work.

### MANAGEMENT.

Each branch consists of one or more parishes or districts, with a branch council to manage its rules and funds, and this council elects one of the associates as president. The organisation in each diocese is controlled by a diocesan council, composed of a representative from each branch and of those who undertake the management of different departments of the Society's work, one member of the council being elected as president.

There is finally a Central Council, consisting of the presidents of each of the diocesan councils and the central heads of the different departments, and of a limited number of other associates and members, and that body elects one of its number to act as central president. Members take an active part and share in the work and organisation of the society.

Associates are the officers of the society. They must be Churchwomen and duly elected by the local G.F.S. Branch Council. It is the general plan for both associates and members to be admitted to the society with a simple form of service in church, and training courses are arranged to help new associates to become really efficient workers.

Each working associate is responsible for a group of members, receiving their subscriptions, attending to their commendations, etc.

### COMMENDATION.

A member who leaves home for any length of time is commended by means of a special letter of introduction, and information sent by her "home" associate to the president or secretary in the district to which she is going. As commendation is repeated as often as it is required the fellowship of the society is maintained, and the member is able to get into touch with the Church life as well as the G.F.S. privileges of any branch in whose area she may live for the time being.

From the year 1885 onwards a migration department, working in co-operation with the society of the Oversea Settlement of British Women, has met the needs of members leaving England for new homes overseas.

G.F.S. work is carried on in Scotland, Ireland, India, the Dominions overseas, South America, and America.



## CANDIDATES.

Girls wishing to join the G.F.S. are in many places enrolled first as candidates and attend classes to learn the object of the society and its rules before being admitted as members. Children under 12 can become candidates and pass into the society when they are old enough.

## ACTIVITIES IN LONDON.

The work of the G.F.S. is organised in dioceses, and so London as a town is not one unit of the G.F.S. but is mainly covered by the dioceses of London and Southwark, while the dioceses of St. Albans, Chelmsford and Rochester all touch parts of greater London.

## LONDON AND SOUTHWARK.

There are seven residential hostels receiving girls going to daily work and also girls who are in London temporarily. The hostels are intended for members of the G.F.S. primarily, but other girls are welcomed if there is room. Usually the charge for non-members is slightly higher.

## BRANCHES AND CLUBS.

All branches have meetings for members conducted on club lines. Usually branches meet once a week. Certain branches form clubs registered as such at headquarters. A rule of registration is that clubs must be open to girls whether members of the G.F.S. or not. Both clubs and branch meetings can enter for the diocesan competitions for handicraft, drill, country dancing, dramatic work, sewing, etc. Many clubs have social evenings, when men guests are invited. In some places the experiment of mixed clubs has been tried, but there are none in London.

There are in London diocese upwards of 118 branches.

There are in Southwark diocese upwards of 87 branches.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Other activities of the Society which are carried on in London though used by all members are:—

*Central Employment Bureau for domestic and other workers.*

A central employment and registry office at London headquarters, with a series of correspondence offices in the provinces, deals with those who seek situations or who require information and help as to training in special posts. The Continental Registry and Employment Office, 14, Holbein Place, S.W.1, will advise as to posts on the Continent.

*Central Needlework Depôt.*

A system of training by correspondence teaches some 560 chronic and incurable invalid members, who live in different parts of the country, to execute needlework of every kind, for which a sale is secured at the society's central needlework depôt in London.

*League of Skilled Housecraft.*

Organised by a committee of experts, including representatives of other societies. Representatives of the Board of Education, Ministry of Labour and London County Council serve in an advisory capacity. Examinations are held and certificates granted.

## LIBRARY AND LITERATURE.

The society organises special readers' union courses, a three years' course for a certificate in English, study circles, and the provision of libraries and bookstalls in places where opportunity for obtaining good literature is scarce. There is a library at Townsend House, from which books can be obtained.

## SOCIAL SERVICE.

Two special pieces of social work in London undertaken and run by G.F.S. members are:—

(1) The White Horse, Social Centre in Cornwall Road, S.E. Here a resident worker is provided, and G.F.S. members help with boys' and girls' clubs, children's play evenings, Girl Guides, Scouts, etc.

(2) Argyll House, New Cross. A small lodging house for stranded girls and women. The need for such a place was felt by the Deptford "Council of Youth," who bought and equipped the house and asked the G.F.S. to run it. It has nine beds and is in charge of a matron. The house is run as a shelter for a few nights till girls can be placed. The charge is 1s. a night.

A girl desiring to join the G.F.S. or to obtain particulars of the rules should apply to any G.F.S. associate, or the secretary at headquarters.

## GIRL GUIDES.

*Headquarters:* 25, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

## AIMS.

The Girl Guide movement has been incorporated by Royal Charter for the purpose of developing good citizenship among



girls by forming their character; training them in habits of observation, obedience, and self-reliance; inculcating loyalty and thoughtfulness for others; teaching them services useful to the public and handicrafts useful to themselves; promoting their physical development; making them capable of keeping good homes and of bringing up good children. Its desire is to co-operate with educational and other bodies working to this end.

#### METHOD.

The method of training is to give the girls pursuits which appeal to them, such as games and recreative exercises, which lead them on to learn for themselves many useful crafts. It is a scheme of older and younger sisters playing games together, rather than the instruction of privates by officers in a cut-and-dried disciplinary machine, or of pupils by school teachers in an academic curriculum.

#### FINANCE.

Guides pay a small subscription (arranged locally) to cover the expenses of the company, and pay for their own uniform and equipment. No contribution is paid to National Headquarters.

Headquarters expenses, including salaries of headquarters staff, are covered by the profit on sale of equipment and literature.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

(a) The Association can only admit to membership those who accept as a basis the threefold promise of the Guides, or the twofold promise of the Brownies, the Guide Law, and the system of instruction contained in "Girl Guiding," by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, and the rules.

(b) The Association is open to British subjects of every class and denomination, but churches and other organisations may raise companies confined to girls connected with such bodies, and can recommend their own Guiders and Chaplains (if desired) for appointment.

#### THE GUIDE LAW.

- (1) A Guide's Honour is to be trusted.
- (2) A Guide is loyal.
- (3) A Guide's duty is to be useful and to help others.
- (4) A Guide is a friend to all, and a sister to every other Guide.
- (5) A Guide is courteous.

- (6) A Guide is a friend to animals.
- (7) A Guide obeys orders.
- (8) A Guide smiles and sings under all difficulties.
- (9) A Guide is thrifty.
- (10) A Guide is pure in thought, in word, and in deed.

#### THE GUIDE PROMISE.

On my Honour, I promise that I will do my best—

- (1) To do my duty to God and the King.
- (2) To help other people at all times.
- (3) To obey the Guide Law.

#### GIRL GUIDES.

The Girl Guide movement in England is managed by a National Council, under which work the County Commissioner, Division Commissioner, District Commissioner, Captain of Company, Leader of Patrol and Guides.

*London.*

London is divided into 14 divisions, which are again divided into 77 districts, each with a number of companies.

#### CLASSES OF GUIDES.

*Brownies* are girls under the age of 11.

*Guides* are girls over the age of 11, and usually they leave the company at the age of 18.

*Rangers* are over the age of 16 and may remain in their companies indefinitely.

#### BRANCHES OF GUIDES.

*Lone Guide Branch*, for girls who by reason of distance from an active company, ill health or studies are unable to join a company in the usual way.

*Extension Guide Branch*, including companies and packs for physical or mental defectives in institutions, hospitals, and sanatoria, or in their own homes.

*Auxiliary Branch*, companies in rescue homes, penitentiaries, etc.

*Kindred Societies Branch*, approved societies for girls within the British Empire wishing to include Guide companies in its organisation, may do so by becoming an affiliated society.



For the girls with whom the Central Council is chiefly concerned, the Ranger companies are the most important branch of the Girl Guide movement.

It is stated that "the Ranger scheme was started with a double object: that of retaining the older Guides, who under ordinary circumstances would leave their companies at the age of 18, and that of attracting into the movement older girls and women who have not previously been Guides, and inducing them to adopt the Guide Laws and ideals."

Any girl over 16 is eligible for enrolment as a Ranger. Ranger patrols may be formed in any Guide company, or separate ranger companies can be formed. The Ranger training emphasises the special importance of training in citizenship and homecraft.

The training is given by means of classes, debates, visits to places of interest, suggestions for reading, camping and all day walks in the country. The opportunities given for outdoor life and the chance of learning to recognise and understand natural objects and bird and animal life are of very great value for Londoners. The various tests which Rangers may pass are serious examinations, which mean that a real knowledge of the subject has been obtained.

A definite ideal of public service is put before Rangers, and where possible, companies take up some work for the community, such as helping at infant welfare or play centres, etc.

There are in London 252 Ranger companies and patrols which thus offer to London girls opportunities of interesting and stimulating occupation for their leisure, with all the advantages of companionship and the inspiration of union with a great movement.

Any girl desiring to join the Guides, or to learn more about the Association, should apply in the first instance to any Guide officer, or to Girl Guides Headquarters, 25, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.

### THE GIRLS' GUILDRY.

*Headquarters* : 41, Burnbank Gardens, Glasgow.

*London Centre* : Headquarters, 16, St. James's Street, S.W.1.

#### AIMS.

- (1) To help girls to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (2) To promote in girls discipline, self-respect, helpfulness and reverence.

### METHOD.

Each company of the Girls' Guildry shall be formed in connection with a church, mission, or other Christian organisation, on application to the Headquarters' Committee, and with its sanction.

In each company discipline shall be inculcated by means of infantry drill, in addition to whatever instruction may be given in physical exercises, nursing, or other subjects.

The religious instruction of a company is subject to the approval of the Christian organisation in connection with which the company is formed.

The members of a Guildry company must attend a recognised Bible class or Sunday school.

### ORGANISATION.

General Council, which appoints headquarters' committees.

Executive committees carry on the work of centres and appoint sub-committees for special purposes.

Companies are under the charge of a guardian, nominated by the church and appointed by the Headquarters' Committee.

Members of a company are divided into seniors, over 14, and juniors, over 10 years of age.

### FINANCE.

Each company contributes if possible 10s. 6d. annually to the General Funds of the Girls' Guildry.

The Girls' Guildry was founded in Glasgow in 1900, and its work is mainly in Scotland, but there are three centres in English towns, and numerous isolated companies.

*London Centre*.—Consists of about 18 companies with a total strength of about 1,000. All information regarding the work in London may be obtained from the Secretary at London Headquarters. Inquiries should be made by letter.

### THE GIRLS' LIFE BRIGADE

*(In association with the National Sunday School Union.)*

*Headquarters* : 56, Old Bailey, London, E.C.4.

#### AIMS.

- (1) To awaken in our girls a sense of their responsibility in life.



- (2) To help them to make the best of their powers of body and mind.
- (3) To train them to be self-reliant, useful women.
- (4) To influence them to dedicate all their powers to the service of God.
- (5) To keep them in touch with the Church and Sunday School during those years when they often become lost to both.

#### PROMISE.

"I promise to do my utmost to keep the G.L.B. Law in letter and spirit, and to set a good example to my comrades and to all around me."

#### LAW.

- (1) Abstain from intoxicating drink.
- (2) Be regular at Sunday School or Bible Class.
- (3) Be clean in person, neat and tidy in dress.
- (4) Be pure and true in thought and deed.
- (5) Learn to be useful in emergencies.
- (6) Be kind and helpful to all.
- (7) Be straightforward, honest and truthful.
- (8) Cheerfully obey the orders of officers.
- (9) Cultivate self-respect and courtesy.
- (10) Remember the G.L.B. motto—"TO SAVE LIFE."

#### REGULATIONS.

- (1) Each company must be affiliated with a church, Sunday School or other religious organisation.
- (2) The committee of a company shall be composed of selected Sunday School officers and church members, together with the commissioned officers of the company.
- (3) Members must be on the roll of a Sunday School, or attend the company Bible Class.
- (4) No member must be under 10 years of age. Girls under 10 are enrolled as cadets.
- (5) Members must be total abstainers.
- (6) Before a company applies for affiliation, six drills should have been held, and it should have at least 10 girls on the roll.
- (7) Each company should be inspected annually by a competent person, who should make an official report on a form supplied by Headquarters.

(8) A correct roll must be kept, and detailed figures sent to Headquarters in annual returns.

(9) Companies are pledged to follow the Brigade constitution in such matters as uniform, examinations, etc.

(10) An unaffiliated company may not wear the uniform or use the registered title of the Brigade.

(11) A company may consist of one or more of the following sections:—

- (1) Seniors: comprising girls 14 years and upwards.
- (2) Juniors: comprising girls 10 to 14 years of age.
- (3) Cadets: comprising girls 6 to 10 years of age.

Outside these regulations companies are free to draw up their own rules and to develop along their own lines, subject to the approval of Headquarters.

The G.L.B. was founded in 1902 by the National Sunday School Union, with the express purpose of retaining the senior scholars in the school for the Church, by whom it was managed until 1926. Then a new governing body was formed composed equally of members of the N.S.S.U. Council and Brigade officers.

"The Girls' Life Brigade is distinctly a religious movement. It exists to meet the needs of the girls in schools and churches. Its constitution decrees that a company can only be formed in connection with some religious organisation, and all the girls must attend some Sunday School or Bible Class. Its officers are appointed by the school and church, and thus there is always the closest link between the two. The minister of the church is, in most cases, the chaplain of the company."

Companies usually meet once a week, classes are arranged both for handicrafts and educational subjects, drill, gymnasium, and outdoor pursuits, including swimming and organised games. Excursions—days in the country are organised, when nature study is encouraged.

The membership of the G.L.B., which extends to every part of the British Isles and overseas, is at present about 30,000 in connection with all denominations of the Free Churches, and with the Church of England.

Any further information regarding the work may be obtained from the Organising Secretary at Headquarters.

#### M.A.B.Y.S. ASSOCIATION FOR THE CARE OF YOUNG GIRLS.

The Association was started in 1874 with the principal object of befriending and protecting girls brought up in the schools of Guardians and other public authorities in the Metropolitan



area. The Association tries to assure for these girls the same chance in life and the same status as girls have who come from their own homes.

The Association does not, however, confine itself to these girls, but is ready to give a helping hand to any girls over 14 who apply for situations at a branch office, or who are brought into touch with it in any other way. Girls are frequently referred to the Mabys by the Ministry of Pensions, N.S.P.C.C., the C.O.S. and other organisations.

#### METHOD OF WORK.

There is a Central Office and 23 branches in the Metropolitan area.

The Central Office of the Association is notified by the schools of all girls placed in service by them. The branches in the localities where the girls are working are then informed, and become responsible for the wellbeing of the girls, reporting regularly to the Guardians.

The machinery of after-care (for all girls who are members of Mabys) include:—

(1) A "friend" for each girl who will keep in touch with her during the first critical years of employment.

(2) Clubs and social evenings.

(3) Clothing clubs.

(4) Loyal Mabys Lodge of the Manchester Unity of Odd-fellows Friendly Society, which gives special terms to Mabys girls.

(5) Twenty-three registry offices (licensed by the L.C.C.) where individual attention is given to placing girls.

(6) Eight homes for girls, three of which are certified training homes for domestic work, and the others lodging homes and hostels where girls can stay between places or during holidays, or in some cases can live and go out to daily work.

One of the training homes specialises for backward girls or those with special difficulties.

The Mabys Association works in close touch with other girls' societies. The G.F.S. looks after Mabys girls in service in the country, and the Y.W.C.A. opens its clubs to Mabys members in districts where they have no club of their own.

#### M.A.B.Y.S. HELPERS.

The elder girls form a band of Mabys helpers, who befriend the younger girls, and help the Association in various ways, both with gifts and service.

The M.A.B.Y.S. Association differs from other girls' societies

in that girls are definitely put in its charge by the guardians, and the Association is responsible to them for looking after their girls.

There is therefore no test for girls joining the Association and no promises are asked from them.

The Association is known to members as "The Mabys Guild of Friendship," and this is the attitude of the Association to its members. The work consists largely in personal visits to the girls and in efforts to keep in close personal touch. It is not merely a question of providing a club to which girls may come when they wish, but a serious endeavour is made to know how a girl is getting on and to help her if she falls into difficulties.

The Central Office of the Association is at Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road. All information regarding the Association and its branches may be obtained from the Secretary.

#### SODALITY OF THE CHILDREN OF MARY.

The Sodality of the Children of Mary is established in nearly all the Roman Catholic churches, and any Catholic girl prepared to keep the rules may join. Each branch has its own spiritual director, president, secretary, etc.

In London the office of the Children of Mary's magazine (*The C.O.M.*), forms a central headquarters, and in connection with the magazine many activities for the benefit of Catholic girls and young women are organised, which include socials, dances, Saturday afternoon rambles, etc. These are announced each month in the magazine and all Children of Mary are welcome. The Saturday afternoon rambles are particularly valued and girls coming to London find them to be a means of making congenial friends. There is no fee, but each girl pays for her own tea and fares, if any.

The Rev. Editor or the Hon. Secretary of the magazine are very ready to help Catholic girls, whether Children of Mary or not, and any girl coming to London or going to a new neighbourhood, should write to the Hon. Secretary, *The C.O.M.* Office, 7, Mitcham Lane, S.W.16, who will be pleased to put her in touch with suitable companions and to assist her in any way. Employers and others interested in girls should send the address of lonely girls whom they may know.

#### YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

*London Headquarters* : 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W.1.

#### AIM.

The aim of the Association shall be to call young women and



girls to the allegiance of our Lord Jesus Christ, the fellowship of His Church, and the service of His Kingdom.

To unite them in a fellowship of prayer, Bible study and service, through which they may make their contribution to the spiritual, moral and social progress of the world.

To make available for them all that will minister to Christian character, mental capacity and physical health.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

The Association shall consist of (a) Full members, (b) Associate members, (c) Junior members.

(a) Full membership shall be open to women and girls over 16 years of age, who, having read the basis and aims of the Association as set out in Articles 3 and 4, are willing to make the following declaration: "I wish in joining the world-wide fellowship of the Young Women's Christian Association to declare my faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and my desire to serve others in His spirit of Love."

(b) Associate membership (which shall include club or institute membership) shall be open to women and girls over 13 years of age who wish to share in the activities of the Association.

(c) Junior membership shall be open to girls under 13 years of age.

#### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION.

(a) The subscription (otherwise known as capitation fee) of a full member shall be 1s. per year, of an associate member over 16 years of age, 6d. per year, of an associate member under 16 years of age, 3d. per year, and of a junior member, 1d. per year.

(b) Clubs and branches shall in addition to the above fix their fees according to local conditions.

#### ORGANISATION.

The work of the Y.W.C.A. in England is organised under a national council, which decides the policy of the Association, appoints an executive and finance committee, elects national committees for special purposes: divisional councils which administer the work of divisions, and branches (consisting of not less than 6 members) clubs, and hostels, which are grouped under divisional councils.

#### LONDON.

In London the activities of the Association include:—

30 *Residential Hostels*, open to girls whether members of the

Association or not. These hostels provide for all sorts of workers; students, professional girls, business girls, shop assistants and domestic workers. The prices vary according to the class of accommodation and locality. One hostel caters especially for theatrical girls. One offers training for domestic workers, who then take daily work while living at the hostel.

50 *Non-Resident Clubs*, these are usually open 6 evenings a week (closing one, usually Monday, to give the club leader rest) and some during the day. The Central Club at the London Headquarters in George Street is open all day and every day.

Club leaders are carefully selected and appointed by Headquarters. The clubs are then managed where possible by local committees on which members are represented. The committee of members decides what classes, etc. shall be held.

The club leader is left very free to organise the club on the lines best suited to the locality. Each club decides whether dances should be held. Practically all have country dancing, and a good many ordinary dancing as well. It is usual to have one or more evenings in the week when men guests may be brought.

4 *Canteens* open in the middle of the day for dinners. At the Headquarters' canteen one large room is set aside for girls bringing their own food. They can sit there in warmth and comfort, and buy tea or coffee if they wish.

Any girls wishing for information about hostels or clubs in London should apply to the London Secretary at Headquarters.



## THE PREVENTIVE WORK FOR GIRLS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

The societies referred to in this section carry on, as is well known, many varieties of work of a far-reaching nature all over the country and overseas and deal with every class of the population. That part of their work which comes within the scope of the present survey is relatively a very small branch, namely the provision made for girls and young women living and working in London: this work is usually carried on by providing clubs, hostels, and emergency accommodation.

The immense rescue work done by all these societies, is outside the purview of the present survey, and is not referred to here.

### THE CHURCH ARMY.

*Headquarters*: 55, Bryanston Street, W.1.

The work of the Church Army coming within the present survey may be considered under 4 heads:—

#### (1) INQUIRY BUREAU.

Women and girls needing advice and help can get both at Headquarters during office hours, 9.30 to 5. From that hour stranded girls and women can apply at the Marylebone Night Advice Bureau, 8, Harrowby Street, Edgware Road.

#### (2) EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION.

In addition to several licensed lodging houses, the Church Army provides an emergency home in Harrowby Street, where in case of necessity girls and young women can be admitted at any hour.

This house is intended for emergency use only, and no one stays for more than a few nights, pending other arrangements being made. In the case of a stranded girl using the home, every effort is made to help her and to establish her satisfactorily. Either she is enabled to go home, or if ready for work she is helped to find it and is recommended to lodgings or hostels. Sometimes if training is needed it may be possible to give it in Church Army training homes, of which there are two in the London area making special provision for the training of girls in domestic work.

#### (3) HOSTELS.

The Church Army provides 4 hostels for girls working in London. One receives blind girls, and makes special arrangements for them. The hostels are managed from Headquarters by an hon. secretary, and are each in charge of a Church Army sister or superintendent and staff. They are open to all girls of good character. Residents are expected to attend family prayers. Accommodation consists of bedrooms and cubicles, with public sitting-rooms and dining-rooms. Board provided is breakfast and supper, with all meals at the week-end. The hostels are usually closed in the evenings at 10, but later on certain evenings to allow of visits to entertainments, etc. Prices vary from 18s. (cubicles) to 30s. (bedrooms), according to accommodation.

#### (4) CLUBS.

The Alexandra Club is a large and flourishing organisation with a membership of about 1,000. All members and residents must be recommended. The premises are in Edgware Road and include a club-room and several small rooms used for classes, and also accommodation for about 135 residents, consisting of bedrooms divided into cubicles, and a few separate rooms. There is a restaurant in the basement at which all meals, including breakfast, can be obtained by all members of the club.

The club is open to all girls over 16, and the subscription is 5s. a year. Younger girls have their own club in another building and are drafted on when old enough.

The club is mainly, but not exclusively, for domestic workers. It is undenominational, but church on Sunday is encouraged. There is no test, but *residents* are expected to attend family prayers once a day.

*Residents* are girls (members or otherwise) seeking work or changing their situations; it is not intended to provide permanent lodgings at the club. A few girls in special circumstances stay, but ordinarily no girl remains for more than three months.

This club is managed by the sister-in-charge and a committee of girls elected at the annual meeting and serving for one year.

The club is open daily from 7 a.m., including Sundays. There are various classes with L.C.C. teachers: singing, handicrafts, etc., also drilling and country dancing. A feature of the club is a weekly debate at which a woman barrister takes the chair, and topics of current interest are seriously discussed.

Games in the parks are arranged as far as possible, but the club feels the lack of a sports ground.

There is a holiday home at Tankerton open from Easter to October. The charge is 25s. for non-members, £1 for members a week, and it is in constant use and greatly appreciated.



The club is affiliated to the Federation of Working Girls' Clubs, and takes a prominent part in the various competitions organised by the Federation.

### THE JEWISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF GIRLS AND WOMEN.

The activities of the Association cover every aspect of work for girls and women. That part which is within the scope of the present survey may be set out under four heads:—

(1) At the Central Office, 45, Great Prescott Street, E., advice and help is given to any girl or woman stranded or in difficulties. Here is also some emergency accommodation where a girl can be housed until arrangements are made for her.

(2) Cases Committee.

(3) Visiting Branch Committee ; Recreation Club.

(4) Sara Pyke House—a hostel for respectable working girls.

#### THE CASES COMMITTEE.

Deals with cases referred to them either by parents, guardians, the school, the court, or social workers.

A certain number of these are preventive cases: girls who have got beyond their parents' control, girls who have run away, or who are living in dangerous surroundings.

Each case is considered and dealt with according to circumstances. The girl is visited, full investigations made, advice and help given, and supervision continued as long as may be necessary. This may mean frequent visits for very many months. The office is open for one evening a week, when a sort of informal club or recreation evening is held for the girls known to the workers who are too uncontrolled to be willing to join an ordinary club. This is found to be a very useful piece of work, and the committee would like to extend it.

#### DOCK AND RAILWAY WORK.

Unprotected Jewish girls arriving in London are met. All incoming boats and continental trains are met—girls found travelling alone are interviewed. If they have an address to which they propose to go, this is verified, and if found to be satisfactory the girls are seen safely to their destination. If they have no suitable place to go to arrangements are made for them.

#### VISITING BRANCH COMMITTEE.

All those girls remaining in London are visited constantly until the committee is satisfied that they have settled down

happily and safely, whether with relatives or friends or in an ordinary situation. Work is found for them and if necessary they are helped to attend classes in English; they are put in touch with clubs, and a general interest is taken in their welfare.

Apart from girls newly arriving in London, the committee looks after any girl needing help, whether because she is lonely or unsuitably placed in lodgings or work.

A recreation club is held in a large room in the office where any girl is welcome. The accommodation is not sufficient to allow of regular classes being held, but such things as community singing, lectures and debates are provided and enjoyed in addition to dancing and games. Treats and outings and summer holidays at the seaside are arranged.

#### THE SARA PYKE HOSTEL.

Provides lodgings for Jewish girls working in London. Girls leaving Montifiore House (H.O. Certified School) frequently begin their working life at the hostel. A certain number of girls are received from local and provincial Guardians.

The charge made is graded according to the wages a girl is earning; care is taken to leave the girl adequate pocket money. The committee are convinced that this is a most important point, so much so that when a girl is learning her trade and earning no wages the committee themselves give her 2s. 6d. a week pocket money in addition to providing free board and lodging, until she is earning wages.

The hostel is run as far as possible as a home, and the girls are looked after as they would be at home. Young girls are not allowed out alone in the evening, but have to be accompanied by some of the older girls.

Late nights to allow of going to theatres and entertainments are fixed periodically, and special arrangements made when necessary. Normally the girls are expected to be in at 9.30.

There is a good garden, with tennis court for the girls. Social evenings, to which boy friends are invited, are held. The food is good and usually lunches are packed up and taken from the hostel.

Girls can remain at the hostel until they are earning enough to live suitably outside.

#### THE SALVATION ARMY.

*Headquarters for Women's Social Work*: 280, Mare Street, Hackney, E.

The preventive work of the Salvation Army, which comes within the scope of the present survey, may be considered under four heads.



## (1) INQUIRY BUREAU.

At the office at 280, Mare Street, any girl or woman may apply for advice and help in difficulty.

## (2) EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION.

In addition to shelters and licensed lodging houses, the Salvation Army provides, at 259, Mare Street, a receiving home, where a stranded girl can get shelter for the night. This home of course is used for all sorts of cases, most of whom would probably be "rescue," but many others do come, and these get help which is in the truest sense "preventive" work. A girl needing shelter is, in the morning, helped in the way which seems best, either to return to her friends or to get work. If training is needed, this is given where possible in one of the Salvation Army industrial homes. Girls leaving industrial homes are visited and looked after by an officer appointed for the purpose, until they are fully established and able to look after themselves.

## (3) HOSTEL.

A hostel, accommodating about 33, is provided at MacKirdy House, Great Tichfield Street. Here girls working in London can lodge in safe and homelike surroundings. The accommodation consists of bedrooms and cubicles and common sitting-rooms and dining-rooms. Board provided is breakfast and supper, and full board on Sundays. The price charged is from 25s. a week. The hostel is in charge of a superintendent, and the aim is to provide a safe and cheerful home. There is a religious atmosphere, but no rules are made as to religious observances, and any girl of good character is welcomed, irrespective of creed. Simple rules are laid down as to conduct in the hostel, and the doors are usually closed at 9.30 at night, but special arrangements can be made for girls going to parties or entertainments, on certain nights..

## (4) CLUBS AND SOCIAL EVENINGS.

The Salvation Army keeps in touch with young people after they have left Sunday Schools by means of the Young People's Legion, companies of which exist in many districts. Members of the Legion meet frequently for instruction, recreation and social life, and undertake some form of service in the Army. The meetings are usually held in the evenings at some of the Salvation Army halls or other centres. Members of the Legion need not have definitely joined the Salvation Army. Local leaders are appointed under the direction of the Salvation Army Corps commanding officers. Other activities for young people are the Life Saving Girl Guard Organisation. Here Salvation

Army officers are helped by others, not necessarily in the ranks. The troops meet and carry on the usual occupations of "guides" and study first aid, home nursing, child welfare, various handicrafts, and so on, and have put before them ideals of service. The membership of the Girl Guard Troops is not confined to those who have joined the Salvation Army. All are welcome. Their motto is "To save and to serve." The Salvation Army has a great belief in the value of giving responsibility to young people, and this is well developed in the Girl Guard Troops. Any young people who are in any way in touch with the Salvation Army and leave their homes to work in another place would always be referred to an officer in the place to which they were going who would look them up and make them feel that they had a friend at hand. This is specially valuable in the case of girls coming to work in London.

All particulars as to work for girls may be obtained from the Leader of Women's Social Work, at Headquarters.

## WEST LONDON MISSION.

*Headquarters* : Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2.

The work of the West London Mission is carried on from the Headquarters, and that part of the work which may be classed as preventive may be considered under four heads: emergency accommodation, a hostel for girls living in London, clubs for girls at Kingsway Hall, and the young people's institute, also at Kingsway Hall.

## EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION.

The Sister Mabel Hostel, off Drury Lane, provides a shelter where as long as there is a bed available girls can be received at any hour of the day or night.

The hostel is, of course, used largely for real rescue work, but in an emergency any stranded girl can find a safe shelter, and in the morning can be helped to return to her friends or to find work.

## HOSTEL FOR GIRLS WORKING IN LONDON.

Emerson Bainbridge House in Cleveland Street was built and endowed to provide good lodgings with a cheerful, homely and religious atmosphere for girls working in London for small wages. There is room for 36 girls, and the accommodation consists of cubicles, with good living and reception rooms. Breakfast and supper are provided daily, with full board on Sundays. The hostel has simple rules as to hours of closing,



etc., but there is no attempt to drill the girls or to force them to a rigid rule. The aim is to create the atmosphere of a home.

#### GIRLS' CLUBS.

A girls' club, open to any girl over 14, meets in a room at Kingsway Hall, and has a membership of about 50. The management of the club is in the hands of the club leader, who is a whole time worker of the mission.

The club is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the evening. There is a gymnasium, singing class and arts and crafts class with L.C.C. teachers. On Mondays the club is open for a voluntary Bible class, and on Sundays it is open in the afternoon, when a 6*d.* tea is provided. On Saturday there is usually an excursion or a social evening. The subscription to the club is 2*d.* a week.

An interesting experiment is being tried in starting a club for M.D. girls. It is worked in connection with some of the special schools, who refer girls who have passed through the school and are living in the neighbourhood of Kingsway to the club. This club is in its infancy, but should develop into a most valuable piece of work. There is only one other such club in London.

#### KINGSWAY INSTITUTE.

This is practically a club for young men and women. Membership is open to all, but members are usually young people living away from home in lodgings and working or studying in London. The premises are excellent, and consist of a common room, a library for quiet reading, a buffet where refreshments can be obtained, a billiard room and a gymnasium. There are tennis and football clubs, university extension lectures, and other activities. Members of the institute join to a considerable extent in the work of the mission, and make themselves responsible for raising a certain sum of money every year for the crèche. The institute is open every day from 4 to 10.15 p.m. It is managed by a committee, elected at the annual meeting, with *ex officio* representatives of the West London Mission. The secretary is appointed by the mission. The subscription to the institute is 7*s.* 6*d.* a year. Membership of the various sports clubs is voluntary, and there are additional subscriptions for these. The members of the institute number at present about 300.

The institute is doing a valuable work. It solves, for one part of the community, that difficult problem of life under modern conditions, namely, securing that young men and women living away from home should have opportunities of meeting each other, to follow common pursuits, and have healthy

social intercourse. The institute provides common interests and opportunities for common service, and through these congenial friendships are formed.

The institute caters for people of a certain education, capable of managing their own affairs, with a little help and guidance from older people: it would not be suitable for the less educated. But it does provide companionship for just those whose lives are most lonely and dreary without some meeting place and centre of interest. Such clubs would be valuable in every part of London.

#### THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

*Headquarters:* 116, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

The Catholic Women's League is a non-political national organisation for the promotion of religious and intellectual interests and social work, for ensuring the representation of catholic interests on important public bodies, and for the formation and collective expression of catholic opinion.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

Is open to all Roman Catholic women over 18 years of age.

#### SUBSCRIPTION.

Minimum 1*s.* a year.

The league has branches in over 100 towns. It undertakes varied work, each section of which has its committee and hon. secretary. Its work for youth includes the provision of social centres, girls' clubs, hostels, etc.

#### RESIDENTIAL CLUB.

The league provides in Kensington a residential club for Roman Catholic girls, students and professional women. Price: from 35*s.* per week.

#### INFORMATION BUREAU.

At headquarters there is an information bureau, open daily during office hours, where any girl can get information and advice regarding lodging accommodation, clubs, etc.

#### JUNIOR BRANCH OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

*Membership.*—Open to all Roman Catholic girls over 14.

This branch has 10 sections, 2 of which are in London, including 2 companies of C.W.L. Girl Guides. Each section is



left free to develop on its own lines, aiming at the spirit embodied in the motto, "Charity—Work—Loyalty." Members are encouraged to undertake work for their parish. Most sections arrange weekly meetings for dancing, singing, acting, as well as practical work in needlework and cooking. In London successful debates have been held to discuss various social questions.

Full particulars may be obtained from the Vice-President of the Junior Catholic Women's League at Headquarters.

The Catholic Women's League are starting in the autumn a "Business Girls' Branch" in London, which, it is hoped, will have its own headquarters with a club room.

### THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND WOMEN'S HELP SOCIETY.

The society consists of a central council with executive committee, diocesan councils and branches.

The membership is divided into workers, members, associates and children.

Workers and members must be communicant members of the Church of England. Associates are members of the Church of England who are preparing to become communicants.

Members of the Society pay 6*d.* a year to the central fund through the secretaries of branches. Associates pay 3*d.* a year. Members of the central branch pay not less than 2*s.* a year to the funds.

The work of the society may be divided into the following departments:—

#### HELP IN DAILY LIFE.

(*a*) Bible classes; (*b*) secular classes; (*c*) recreation and reading rooms.

#### HELP IN SICKNESS.

(*a*) Visiting; (*b*) convalescent homes.

#### TEMPERANCE.

(*a*) Meetings and addresses; (*b*) periodicals.

#### LITERATURE.

Lending libraries.

Members moving from place to place are "commended" by the branch secretaries to the central office, upon which they are put in touch with branches in the places to which they go, or, if no branch exists, are made members of the central branch. They can then be introduced to individual members near them or told of clubs in other organisations.

The society accepts as members all communicants of the Church of England without distinction or reference to past history. It is therefore able and very willing to be helpful to girls leaving training homes. The secretary is in touch with many of the community homes, and hopes to develop this part of the work still further.



## CLUBS.

There are many organisations of girls' clubs, and their functions and relations are a little difficult to explain clearly.

The following list sets out the main organisations, whether national or local, dealing with clubs in London.

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF GIRLS' CLUBS.

The National Council of Girls' Clubs is an advisory body seeking to unite all girls' clubs, and to speak with one voice for all clubs on all subjects which are best dealt with nationally.

The following national societies, divisions, unions and federations, together through their representatives, form the National Council of Girls' Clubs :—

#### NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

The Federation of Working Girls' Clubs.  
The Girls' Friendly Society.  
The Girls' Guildry.  
The Girls' Life Brigade.  
The Young Women's Christian Association.

#### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF GIRLS' CLUBS DIVISIONS.

*North-West Division.* (11 unions of clubs.)  
*London Division.* (22 London unions or federations of clubs.)  
UNIONS AND FEDERATIONS IN PROVINCIAL TOWNS.  
(Not yet formed into divisions.)

#### THE LONDON DIVISION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF GIRLS' CLUBS.

Consists of the following bodies :—

- (a) Societies which provide clubs for their own members.  
These are :—  
Girls' Friendly Society (joins in respect of its London clubs).

Girls' Guildry (joins in respect of its London clubs).  
Girls' Life Brigade (joins in respect of its London clubs).  
Young Women's Christian Association (joins in respect of its London clubs).

- (b) Unions and federations to which individual local clubs are affiliated. These are :—  
Federation of Working Girls' Clubs (joins in respect of its London clubs).  
London Girls' Club Union.  
London Diocesan Girls' Fellowship.  
Social Institutes Union for Women and Girls ; and  
15 Borough Federations of Girls' Clubs.

#### OTHER SOCIETIES.

The following societies work in close union with the National Council of Girls' Clubs, but are not actually members of the Council :—

Girl Guides.  
M.A.B.Y.S.

These societies provide clubs for their own members.

#### NOTE.

In London individual clubs of those societies which provide clubs for their own members, frequently affiliate, as separate units, to one or more of the bodies forming the London division of the National Council of Girls' Clubs. Thus a single G.F.S. or Y.W.C.A. club may itself affiliate to a borough federation and also to the London Girls' Club Union, Federation of Working Girls' Clubs or Social Institutes' Union for Women and Girls, etc. This multiplication of affiliations makes girls' club organisation somewhat bewildering, but it promotes free intercourse and exchange of ideas, and healthy competition between clubs.

Particulars of the work of the various club organisations are given in the following pages.

### NATIONAL COUNCIL OF GIRLS' CLUBS.

*Headquarters :* Mary Ward Settlement, Tavistock Place, W.C.

#### AIMS OF THE N.C.G.C.

- (1) To unite local club unions and national societies which have for their primary object the spiritual, social, recreational,



physical, educational and industrial advancement of working girls.

(2) To organise, assist and increase the efficiency of girls' clubs throughout the British Isles.

(3) To promote the formation of district divisions and club unions in areas where they do not already exist.

(4) To assist in and arrange for the training of club leaders.

(5) To undertake investigations and to arrange deputations to government departments and public bodies, such as the local education authority, in connection with social or industrial amelioration, and to bring the club movement into closer touch with such bodies.

(6) To arrange annual conferences of club leaders and members.

(7) To receive annual reports in order to maintain a register of societies, persons and activities helpful to club workers, to act as a central information and assistance bureau in all matters relating to the club movement, to make suggestions for united activities and to guard against overlapping.

(8) To organise a central reference library and book room, co-operating with existing libraries, to collect publications, and to issue literature, etc., which may be helpful to club workers.

(9) To assist in the organisation and control of athletics and games for women and girls by means of a national games council.

#### THE N.C.G.C. IS COMPOSED OF :

(a) National Societies :—

Federation of Working Girls' Clubs.

Girls' Friendly Society.

Girls' Guildry.

Girls' Life Brigade.

Young Women's Christian Association.

(b) Divisions of the N.C.G.C.

(c) Unions in various parts of the country where divisions have not yet been formed.

#### GOVERNMENT.

The National Council consists of the honorary officers and the executive committees, two representatives from each local union and national society, and six representatives from the national members' council.

The national members' council consists of one delegate for every ten affiliated clubs from each union.

As set out in the above, the N.C.G.C. endeavours to unite and help all clubs throughout the country. Definite work in this direction has already been done, and several pamphlets containing information and advice for the use of clubs have been produced.

The N.C.G.C. is the agent for advising the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust as to the allocation of grants to girls' clubs for libraries.

The N.C.G.C. has a free employment bureau for club leaders. The training of club leaders has also been considered and the sub-committee dealing with this is co-operating with the Joint Council of the University School of Social Studies.

### LONDON DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF GIRLS' CLUBS.

*Headquarters* : 4, Portugal Street, Kingsway, W.C.2.

The National Council of Girls' Clubs has territorial divisions which, ruled and guided by the general principles of the central body, are able to develop on their own lines and give practical help to club unions and federations in their area. These divisions are the channel for making known the work of Headquarters office, including conferences, grants for club libraries and training of leaders.

The London Division of the National Council of Girls' Clubs has 23 unions and federations affiliated to it, of which 15 are borough federations or juvenile organisations committees uniting all the clubs in a given borough.

#### MANAGEMENT.

Each federation or union affiliated to the London division has representatives on its council, which meets not less than six times a year. Representation is in proportion to the number of clubs in the respective unions; for every five clubs a union or federation is entitled to send one representative of their club leaders and one representative of their club members.

#### FINANCE.

The affiliation fee from each club in each union is  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  per member per annum, payable by the hon. treasurer of the union to the hon. treasurer of the London division, who in her turn passes on half these fees to the hon. treasurer at the Headquarters of the N.C.G.C.

The work of the London division is carried out largely by



sub-committees. These include committees for games, lectures, and drama.

Help and advice regarding club holidays is also given.

All information regarding the work of the London division may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary at Headquarters.

### BOROUGH FEDERATION OF GIRLS' CLUBS.

The London Division of the National Council of Girls' Clubs aims at having in each borough a Federation which will unite all girls' clubs in the borough of every sort and creed. The secretaries of the Federations know all clubs and can advise girls newly coming to the neighbourhood as to the club likely to meet their needs.

The Borough Federations are frequently identical with the Juvenile Organisations Committee of the borough, and in any case work in close co-operation with them.

### FEDERATION OF WORKING GIRLS' CLUBS.

*Headquarters* : 73, Bolsover Street, W.1.

#### AIMS.

The Federation of Working Girls' Clubs is an interdenominational union of working girls' clubs which seeks to promote the educational, industrial, social and spiritual welfare of its members and to call them to the service of God and their country.

#### ORGANISATION.

Work is carried out by an executive committee and sub-committee, a club leaders' council and club members' council. The club members' council consists of two elected representatives from each club.

#### FINANCE.

Expenditure is met by voluntary subscriptions and special efforts, and also by fees paid by clubs. Entrance fee 5s., and annual affiliation fee 1d. per member. 1s. 6d. for the *Girls' Club Journal*.

#### ACTIVITIES.

- (1) Competitions in educational and handicraft subjects.
- (2) Conferences for leaders and girls.

- (3) Co-operation with other societies dealing with girls.
- (4) Flower Guild which supplies flowers to town clubs.
- (5) Forewomen's Guild—to unite forewomen and club workers in the common aim of helping girls.
- (6) Holiday arrangements in the Federation holiday home and camp and in other homes and camps.
- (7) Lectures and quiet days.
- (8) Lending library for workers—2d. a volume.
- (9) Literature: *Girls' Club Journal*, 1s. 6d. per annum; *Handbook for Club Workers*, 6d.; *Prayers for use in Clubs*, 6d.; *Federation Hymn on card*, 1d.
- (10) Club members' council, composed of two elected representatives from each club.

(11) Visits to clubs by the secretary and committee members.

Advice is given on matters concerning club work by letter and by personal interview. Arrangements are made on application for the transference of a club member to another club when she leaves the neighbourhood.

The Federation is a constituent body of the National Council of Girls' Clubs.

The number of clubs affiliated to the Federation throughout the country ranges from 145 to 160. Of these about 120 are in London.

### LONDON DIOCESAN GIRLS' FELLOWSHIP.

#### CONSTITUTION.

The Girls' Fellowship is a Church of England organisation, but membership is not conditional. Groups may be started in clubs, hostels, factories, or in any other community. Membership is open to all girls over 14 who are willing to pledge themselves to the Rule of Life.

#### RULE.

- (1) To say daily a prayer uniting all members.
- (2) To defend the right and fight evil anywhere.
- (3) To join with other girls for mutual help and united witness.
- (4) (Full members.) To make their Communion at least once a month.

The practical objects of the Fellowship are:—

#### AIMS.

- (1) To promote social fellowship through clubs, etc.



(2) To provide instruction for all its members in Christian citizenship, through lectures, discussions and joint conferences of the groups.

(3) To maintain spiritual union through the bond of daily prayer and of combined services in central churches at stated intervals.

#### COMMITTEE.

The committee of the Fellowship consists of the director of the Council for Youth, the organiser for girls' work, the warden of Fellowship Hall, the secretary of the Girls' Fellowship, and six members elected by the annual business meeting of leaders and secretaries. The committee reports to the standing committee of the Council for Youth.

#### GROUPS.

The Fellowship is built up of groups of members, each of which has its own leader, committee and secretary. The committee is elected annually, at a business meeting of the group, from among the full members of the Fellowship.

(Several branches in one district form a Federation, the committee of the Federation is composed of two members of each group and the secretary of the Federation. The committee of the Federation arranges the programme of lectures, discussions and quarterly services for the whole district.)

#### MEMBERSHIP.

There are two grades of membership. A *full member* is one who is over 14 years of age and is a communicant member of the Church of England. An *associate member* is one who is not confirmed.

#### ENROLMENT.

Members may be enrolled by the secretary of the group at any fellowship meeting.

#### ADMISSION TO THE FELLOWSHIP.

Admission to the fellowship is made, and badges are given, only at a service in church.

At an admission service associates receive membership cards. Full members receive membership cards and badges.

(Badges, 6d. each, and membership cards, 2d. each, may be obtained from the secretary of the Girls' Fellowship at Headquarters.)

#### GRADING.

Groups may be graded into—

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| (1) Senior fellowship groups              | } 16 years and upwards. |
| (2) Ranger companies                      |                         |
| (3) Junior clubs, 14 to 16 years.         |                         |
| (4) Girl Guide companies, 11 to 16 years. |                         |
| (5) Children's Guilds, 8 to 14 years.     |                         |
| (6) Brownie packs, 8 to 11 years.         |                         |

#### FINANCE.

Each group is responsible for its own running expenses, and should be self-supporting. An annual subscription—at the rate of 1s. per annum for each member—is sent by each group to Headquarters, towards the cost of postage, affiliation fees, etc.

#### ANNUAL GATHERINGS.

There are four important annual gatherings:—

- (1) A service for the whole fellowship in the spring.
- (2) A garden party for the whole fellowship in the summer.
- (3) A rally for all members in the autumn.
- (4) A business meeting for all leaders and secretaries.

#### GIRLS' COUNCIL.

The Council is composed of the secretary and one elected representative from each group of the fellowship, together with the organiser for girls' work and the secretary to the fellowship committee. The Council meets twice a year for the purpose of giving practical help in matters concerning fellowship activities.

#### AFFILIATION.

The Girls' Fellowship is affiliated to the London Division of the National Council of Girls' Clubs. No group may be affiliated to any federation or union of clubs separately.

The Girl Guide section of the Girls' Fellowship is also affiliated to the Girl Guide Association, and aims at linking together within the Girl Guide movement all church companies of Guides and Rangers. Companies are registered at Girl Guide Headquarters and also at Girls' Fellowship Headquarters.



## LONDON GIRLS' CLUB UNION.

### AIMS.

- (1) To maintain a high ideal of life and conduct.
- (2) To encourage the study of music, literature, physical culture, arts and crafts, among London working girls, and a high standard in classes by means of annual competitions.
- (3) To arrange holidays at Barn House, by the gracious invitation of Her Majesty the Queen, and at other places through friends of the union.
- (4) To stimulate the interest of working girls in important questions of the day, and organise conferences, lectures and debates.

The union is inter-denominational, and whilst desirous of giving assistance to clubs that are affiliated to it, it leaves freedom of action to each club in its constitution and working.

The L.G.C.U. is the oldest of the various federations of girls' clubs; it was founded in 1882 by the late Hon. Maude Stanley.

### MANAGEMENT.

The union is managed by an executive and a management committee. There is also a standing committee of girls elected at the annual club members' conference. The girls' standing committee has power to make suggestions and resolutions which are submitted to the executive and management committees for approval. It does a considerable amount of work in connection with the competitions.

### FINANCE.

Clubs affiliated to the union pay an affiliation fee on the basis of 1*d.* per member on the average membership, of which half is paid by the union to the National Council of Girls' Clubs, to which, *as a federation*, it is itself affiliated. The subscription to the union magazine is an additional 2*s.* per annum. Clubs who belonged to another federation before belonging to the L.G.C.U. pay the N.C.G.C. through their federation, and a subscription of 6*s.* to the L.G.C.U.

### ORGANISATION.

No rules whatever are laid down by the union as to the management and methods of affiliated clubs. Each club is entirely free to work on its own lines.

The function of the union is to encourage vigorous club life

by the organisation of inter-club competitions, debates and conferences.

In this the union is very successful. Its competitions cover a wide field, and include drilling, singing, country dancing, swimming, as well as all sorts of handicrafts and cooking, and also dramatic and literary competitions.

In addition to the holidays arranged under (3) above, the union rents a house at Herne Bay which is used as a holiday home in summer by parties of girls from affiliated clubs. In winter the house is used as a convalescent home, with a suitable staff. This is an exceedingly valuable provision which is greatly appreciated.

## THE SOCIAL INSTITUTES' UNION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

*Headquarters* : 4, Portugal Street, Kingsway, W.C.2.

### AIMS.

To unite existing clubs and social institutes for women and girls of the industrial community by promoting amongst them mutual interest and friendly intercourse.

To utilise suitable buildings in London and throughout the provinces, as centres (when not otherwise occupied) for healthy social life and popular educational influence.

To provide luncheons for workers at moderate prices in pleasant and restful surroundings.

### MANAGEMENT.

The union is directed by a finance and general purposes committee, which meets each month, and by councils of club leaders and club members which are called together at least four times a year. These councils have practically the character of club congresses, and through them the union is ruled by the federated clubs. It, however, in no way concerns itself with the internal management of the clubs, but endeavours to help them with their work by organising inter-club competitions, lectures, outings, games, holidays, etc.

### FINANCE.

#### *Affiliation Fees.*

The affiliation fee paid by each club is 2*d.* per annum for each member. Individual subscribers of 2*s.* per annum and upwards can become associate members of the federation.



The affiliation fee for junior clubs is  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  per member per annum when the senior club is affiliated.

The affiliation fee for junior clubs is the same as that of senior clubs where there is only a junior club affiliated.

An excellent work is done by the S.I.U. in London, in providing a restaurant open to girls and men, with a rest-room open to girls using the restaurant without extra charge. The restaurant is self-supporting with a paid staff, but the cashiers are voluntary helpers who are able to give a friendly welcome to those who come to lunch.

All information about the work of the union may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, at Headquarters.

### THE SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN COUNCIL FOR WORK AMONG ADOLESCENTS.

#### AIMS.

To develop work for adolescents in the parishes on social and religious lines.

The branch of the Council which deals with work for girls has its Headquarters at 122, Kennington Road, S.E.11.

The work undertaken includes advising as to organisation of clubs and other work for girls in the parishes; the provision and management of holiday camps for girls; the training of workers for club work, and in this connection arranging "training week-ends" for workers, including senior club members. The Council is convinced that club work in the future must depend more and more on the senior members, and for this reason devotes much attention to the question of how they can best be helped and trained for the work.

The Secretary for girls work, at Headquarters, will always advise anyone regarding clubs in the diocese, and is glad to put any girl applying to her into touch with suitable clubs.

### JOINT COUNCIL OF LONDON JUVENILE ORGANISATIONS COMMITTEES.

*Headquarters:* St. Margaret's Rectory, Ironmonger Lane, E.C.

#### AIMS.

As a semi-official body of the Board of Education and Local Education Authorities, to co-ordinate and help existing work

for boys and girls and through consultation to increase its scope and efficiency.

Juvenile Organisations Committees are composed of leading representatives of all bodies working for youth in their respective areas. They are thus in touch with both boys' and girls' clubs, and in many districts have gathered the clubs into federations, which federations have then affiliated to one of the national club organisations.

The work of all London Juvenile Organisations Committees is co-ordinated by the Council, and the Council is thus in a position to know what is being done in all parts of London.

The Secretary, at Headquarters, is always glad to give information and to put inquirers into touch with local work.

### GENERAL NOTE ON CLUBS.

There are in London a very large number of clubs, generally (but not always) affiliated to one or more of the club organisations set out in the preceding pages.

The clubs themselves are of every kind, ranging from the highly organised body with its own building and providing every sort of recreation and education, to the little club with a handful of members meeting once a week in a corner of a church hall. There are clubs of the big girls' societies, clubs connected with schools, and clubs run by large employers for their staff.

Every kind of club is needed, and each provides for certain girls. Probably the most valuable work—if comparison can be made—is carried on by the well organised local club, not too large for the girls to be known individually to the leader. These clubs by affiliation with a federation gain all the advantages of healthy competition and association with a large movement, while retaining the friendly atmosphere of the club where members are well known to each other.

The large central club has its attractions, but it can only cater for girls able to afford tram and bus fares, or who work in the immediate neighbourhood.

Excellent clubs are provided for the employees of some firms, with good premises and well equipped: the objection to such clubs is, however, a serious one—a girl loses employment and club at the same time—and it is just when she is out of employment that a club is so valuable.

It is difficult to ascertain if the provision of clubs in London is adequate. In most districts the secretaries of the borough federations consider that there are enough clubs in existence if all are efficiently managed and working to the full extent of their opportunities. No one would say that all girls needing clubs



are using them, but it is a question whether starting new clubs or enlarging the scope of old ones is the most hopeful line of development. At present the chief difficulties in club work appear to be two: first, to secure and keep a good leader, and, second, to ensure that the clubs are known to the girls who need them.

The first difficulty is common to all forms of work. The special trouble with clubs is that not very many are large enough to need the full time services of a paid leader. The clubs which meet once or twice a week must depend on voluntary help, and this is often a difficulty. The woman who has both time to devote to the work, and the right personality and attainments to carry it on successfully is not easily found. A definite effort to meet this difficulty is being made by some federations, who look to the older club members to carry on the work in the future, and endeavour to give them training for this purpose.

The question of making the clubs known to girls in the neighbourhood is causing concern to many club leaders and secretaries of federations. Members tell each other and bring their friends, but it is the girl arriving to work in London without friends to whom a club may be of most value, and it is difficult to ensure that these hear of its existence. Few girls have the initiative of a small maid of all work who walked into a C.O.S. office and said "I want to join a club."

#### CLUBS FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS.

There is one class of worker needing rather special provision, and that is the domestic worker. When working single handed these girls are very lonely, and even when one of a staff they have fewer opportunities of making friends than workers in factory, shop, or office. They are drawn in large numbers from remote districts in Wales or the North, and frequently arrive in London absolutely friendless. Many have, under modern conditions, a considerable amount of spare time, but at very varying hours, and clubs to be useful to them must be provided in many districts and be open every afternoon and evening. The difficulty of making adequate provision of this kind is obvious, but when it is remembered that a number of girls to be found in rescue homes and kindred institutions belong to the class of domestic workers, it is equally obvious that the difficulty should be faced. It is not suggested that loneliness is the only cause which fills rescue homes, but it is one cause, and one with which energetic and organised effort should be able to deal.

Various suggestions have been made to meet the difficulty of clubs for domestic workers. Some advocate the provision in each district of a couple of simple rooms where the girls can drop in any time, read, write and get tea or light refreshments.

But experienced workers are sure such provision is not sufficient. They point out that the girls are too young and too uneducated to be happy without some organised occupation and amusements. An interesting experiment of a club run on the lines of an ordinary women's club is being tried in Kensington, but it is found that it appeals mainly to the older and better educated woman, the head of a department in a shop, or supervisor in an office, and is used by a comparatively small number.

Another suggestion is that clubs should be started in every district, in conspicuous positions, prepared to welcome any girl coming in. These clubs should have no tests and no rules beyond good behaviour on the premises. The head, who must be a woman of experience and sympathy, would regard the club definitely as a clearing house; as she got to know the girls and their needs and capacities she would endeavour to put them in touch with other clubs suited to them.

Such a club would also act as an information bureau for girls newly arriving in London. It would be known to registry offices and labour exchanges, who could refer girls to it. It would have a chance at least of being used by girls not attached to any church or religious body, and who are rather alarmed at such a title as the Young Women's Christian Association, and who are not ready at the moment to accept the discipline of such organisations as the Girl Guides. Experiment on some such lines would be valuable.

It is not, of course, desirable to confine the membership of clubs to one class of worker: mixed membership is obviously more interesting and in every way better. But the needs of the domestic worker are special, and unless special thought is given to the matter she who needs a club more than most people, may be left unprovided for.

It is sometimes said that domestic workers will not use clubs, but this probably depends on the sort of club provided. There is a Sunday Club in London, run by the head of a registry office for her girls. This is overflowing, and the head is convinced that she could fill it every night were she able to give her time to it.

#### MIXED CLUBS.

The question of mixed clubs is receiving a good deal of attention at present. They are not common in London, and on the whole are not advocated by most experienced workers. All are agreed on the need for giving boys and girls opportunities for meeting and joining in common pursuits, but the mixed club does not always meet the need so successfully as might have been expected. It is found that boys and girls tend to each follow their own pursuits separately, and it is difficult to unite them for any purpose except dancing. Most workers,



therefore, advocate separate clubs, with frequent social evenings when guests and other clubs can be invited. Boys' and girls' clubs can also unite for singing and dramatic work, and debates. All these lines of development are being explored by those engaged in organising club work.

A good mixed club for young men and women might meet a need which does seem to exist: that is a place where couples who are definitely engaged or "walking out" can go together. At present, unless these young people have one of them a home to which they can invite the other, they are reduced to walking about and going to the pictures. No special effort to meet this difficulty has been made, so far as is known.

The Kingsway Institute caters very successfully for young men and women of some education. It is open daily, provides club rooms, lectures, sports clubs, etc. This is referred to in detail under the work of the West London Mission.

## RESIDENTIAL HOSTELS.

Probably the most satisfactory form of lodging for a girl first coming to London is a good hostel. Here she can get far better food and accommodation than she would secure for the same price in lodgings, and in addition has the companionship of other girls and a certain amount of friendly supervision and advice from the head of the hostel. Invaluable work may be done by the right head of a hostel who cares for the girls in her house and gains their confidence, and by a little timely help or advice may often make the whole difference to a girl's future.

There are a considerable number of hostels in London, many of which are admirably managed and provide excellent accommodation and public rooms where the girls can spend pleasant evenings in each other's company, and receive their friends when they wish.

Where hostels, of whatever class, are well managed on broad and sympathetic modern lines they are full and many have long waiting lists. There are a certain number of hostels which are not always full, but this seems to be accounted for by rules which are perhaps over-strict and burdensome to the modern girls. Some rules, of course, there must be for any life shared with other people, but the heads of the best hostels seem agreed that the fewer of these there are the better, and they also agree that it is the rarest thing for the liberty to be abused. If a hostel is started with some of the right sort of girls, it is surprising how soon a tradition grows up, and new-comers fall into it insensibly.

One of the most difficult matters to settle is the time of closing. Naturally girls want to go out in the evening to entertainments and dances, but in hostels with a small staff it is not possible to keep them up late every night. There are objections to latch keys, certainly for young girls new to London. Undoubtedly it is a very great safeguard if girls and their friends knew that when coming home late they will be received by a responsible person. Most hostels arrange to keep open late on certain nights, and to make special arrangements when necessary at other times.

The practice is generally to close finally when the settled time arrives, and certainly in some otherwise excellent hostels there is no possibility of getting in after the closing hour. This may be late, 11 or 12, but after that the door is locked and there is no night bell.



This seems a most dangerous practice: there are such things as fogs and unpunctual trains, and any girl might find herself quite unavoidably delayed. A night bell for use in emergency should always be provided.

Hostels in London may be roughly grouped into four classes:—

(1) Those provided by large societies as one branch of their work:—

*The G.F.S.*—Seven residential hostels. Prices vary from 15s. to 35s. a week. The charge for non-members is slightly higher.

*The Y.W.C.A.*—Thirty residential hostels. Prices, 15s. 6d. to £2 2s.

*The M.A.B.Y.S.*—Five residential hostels. Prices vary from 12s. 6d. to 18s. 6d., according to earnings.

*The Church Army.*—Four hostels of this class. Prices from 15s. to 35s.

*The Catholic Girls' Society.*—One hostel. Prices, 18s. 6d. to 32s.

*The Catholic Women's League.*—One hostel. Prices from 35s.

*The Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls and Women.*—One hostel. Prices vary from 12s. to 25s., according to earnings.

*The Salvation Army.*—One hostel of this class. Price, 25s. per week or 5s. per day.

*The Westminster Girls' Association.*—One hostel. Prices from 20s. to 30s.

These hostels are intended to provide lodgings at a price within the means of girls earning small wages, and in many cases the prices charged do not cover all the cost. Running expenses are covered, but the initial capital outlay and sometimes part of salaries of staff are borne by the societies.

(2) Societies or trusts undertaking only the provision of hostels:—

*Homes for Working Girls in London (Incorporated).*—Six homes. Prices from 11s. (in special cases) to 18s.

*The Ada Lewis Women's Lodging Houses (Incorporated).*—Two houses. Prices about 18s. 6d.

In these the capital expenditure on purchase and equipment and the repairs are met by trust funds or subscription, the girls' payments covering running expenses. (Details of these two societies are given at the end of this section.)

(3) Lodgings provided in houses which have been given for the purpose, and in some convents, where the prices charged cover actual expenditure but make no profit, and probably would not cover the whole of the rent.

In these three classes the hostels are provided for the benefit of girls and are not intended to make money. In some of these,

in classes 1 and 2, it is possible to vary the prices charged according to circumstances, and a girl is often helped over a period of unemployment.

(4) Lodgings provided in ordinary boarding houses or in hostels, where sufficient profit must be made to pay interest on capital. In this class, of course, the prices charged vary with the class of accommodation, and the position of the house. The most successful hostels are those either built for the purpose or very thoroughly adapted, and taking large numbers. Really comfortable accommodation can then be provided, with good public rooms at a surprisingly low cost. One such hostel in the South of London charges only 30s. a week, and is excellent. An entrance fee of 5s. is asked, and there is room for 200. It can, of course, only be made to pay at the price if it is always full.

A small hostel, in an unsuitable house, run with insufficient capital, may be an unutterably dreary place, and there are many which could not be recommended, and some where conditions are definitely bad as regards comfort and cleanliness.

The choice of a hostel must naturally be undertaken carefully, but the lists of the large societies and the handbook published by the Central Council afford some guidance.

## HOMES FOR WORKING GIRLS IN LONDON.

The homes were founded in 1878 by the late John Shrimpton.

### AIMS.

The homes are intended for girls and young women who are employed in workrooms, shops, offices, etc., who need homes in London where the weekly expenses come within the wages they earn. The charges are, therefore, based upon a graduated scale according to wages received. A minimum charge of 11s. 3d. (for special cases) up to 21s. per week.

Home life is the aim of the homes, the desire being to brighten the lives of the girls, to care for their bodily needs, and above all to surround them with Christian influence.

Any working girl or young woman of good character who has to earn her own livelihood is eligible for admission.

The homes are thus carried on with a definitely religious intention, but there is no religious test for applicants, and no compulsory attendance at prayers, but the residents are asked to attend. Practically all do so, and appear to value the religious privileges.



## CONDITIONS OF RESIDENCE.

Each resident is required to make her own bed, keep her cubicle tidy, and empty her own toilet basin and pail.

Each resident must look after her own luggage and belongings, as *no guarantee* against loss of any kind can be given. Upon leaving she must take her belongings with her. A charge will be made of 1s. per week for each trunk, box, basket, or package left behind when a resident leaves.

The use of candles is not allowed.

No stimulants, smoking, or card-playing are allowed on the premises.

Residents are asked to attend Family Prayers daily, and the weekly home meeting.

The house is closed at half-past ten. In individual cases arrangements may be made occasionally for a resident to return later. An extension of the hour of closing is arranged on two nights a week.

There are six homes in London—between Fitzroy Square, Tottenham Court Road, W., and Draycott Avenue, Chelsea, S.W.3—and the committee feel that being in central districts the homes are a greater boon to the girls. They are thus near their work and can come in for midday dinner. Full board and lodging are provided.

The bedroom accommodation is divided into cubicles (both wooden partition and curtained) and there are large sitting- and dining-rooms.

There is a charge of 2d. *per week* for baths, which can be had constantly.

The staff of each home consists of a superintendent, and her assistant, and domestic staff.

The accommodation thus provided costs more than the girls can afford to pay, and subscriptions and donations have to be sought towards the maintenance expenses. There is no possibility of the homes being self-supporting, as the desire is to help the young and lower paid girls. The charges have to be low, and are graded according to wages. Girls are frequently helped over periods of unemployment.

The homes do receive girls from training homes, either guardians' homes or voluntary, and this is very useful for young institution trained girls. Each case is dealt with, through the secretaries, on its merits.

The homes are fairly full through the year, but naturally feel the result of fluctuations in trade, and numbers vary with the state of trade. There are a few vacancies at present owing to slackness in some trades. There is accommodation for 374 girls.

## ADA LEWIS WOMEN'S LODGING HOUSES.

Two houses have been erected and equipped by the trustees of the above charity out of funds bequeathed by the will of the late Mrs. Ada H. Lewis Hill, and which funds are subject to a scheme approved by the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice.

The ordinary running expenses of the Houses are met out of receipts and income from capital funds.

A lady superintendent for each house is appointed by the trustees and she is responsible for the management under their supervision.

The house in New Kent Road, S.E.1, was opened in 1913, and the scale of charges at that house is as follows: cubicles 7s. per week, and rooms 9s. and 11s. per week, and in addition, each resident has to purchase a book of "Food Coupons" each week for the sum of 7s. to ensure that she spends at least that amount weekly on food in the house.

The house at Palliser Road, West Kensington, W.14, was opened in April, 1927, and at that house an inclusive charge of 18s. 6d. per week is made for a bedroom, breakfast and dinner, and full board at week-ends.

At each house the use of the laundry and bathrooms is free.

Application for rooms is made to the superintendents.



## EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION

One of the most necessary forms of preventive work is to secure that in all districts there is some safe shelter to which a stranded girl can be directed and where she can be cared for. The existence of such a shelter should be made widely known to all local social workers, to the police, and if possible to the staff at stations, the tram or bus terminus, shops which are open late, and any place at which a girl would be likely to ask for directions. The need for such accommodation arises constantly in many districts, and may arise at any moment in any district. A girl comes back late and finds herself locked out: a girl in a fit of temper "walks out" from her situation and finds too late that she has no lodging: a girl misses the last train or bus home, and even if provided with money does not know where to turn. Such girls if given shelter and sometimes a little wise advice, can return to their homes or their work in safety: but if they have no place to which they can turn are often in grave danger.

All the large societies engaged in rescue and preventive work recognise the need for such emergency accommodation and meet it to the best of their power. In the centre of London accommodation of this nature is on the whole adequate. The well-known Refuge of the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institute in Liverpool Street, King's Cross, has for many years had an open door and serves the district immediately round the group of big railway stations, and girls are also referred there from all parts of London. Near Victoria is the emergency hostel of the Westminster and Pimlico Rescue Association which is constantly full. Paddington and Waterloo are covered by some of the Church Army homes. In the East End there are the shelters of the Salvation Army, the Jewish Association and others, in Chelsea is an emergency hostel provided by a Roman Catholic committee.

In addition to these and other specifically emergency homes, most of the refuges and short stay homes of the diocesan societies are prepared to take in a girl needing help at any hour in an emergency, though they are not able to provide for older women. Salvation Army industrial homes will also always shelter a girl for a night in an emergency. This provision in homes not dealing exclusively with emergency work is very useful in outer and suburban districts, where the need is not sufficient to justify the provision of a special house, but where it is most necessary to have some shelter available on the occasions when the need does arise.

All these homes are ready to give help far exceeding a night's shelter. Of course, in some cases a night's shelter is all that is needed: in others it is all that will be accepted. But every effort is made to give permanent help to any girl needing it and ready to be helped. Work is found, advice is given, sometimes training can be arranged. The night's shelter is often only the beginning of what can be done.

Provision of emergency accommodation in outer London is not yet fully adequate, but it is gradually increasing.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board provide a night office on the embankment, open from 10 to 2, where applicants are told where they can get shelter. This office is, of course, mainly used by the down and out section of the community, but the officers are in touch with every class of accommodation and will always advise in an emergency. The police have orders to admit any woman at once without keeping her waiting in the queue.

The L.C.C. publish a small special list of emergency accommodation in London. It is small enough to go into the pocket or handbag and is exceedingly useful. It should be universally known.



## TRAVELLING.

Very necessary and valuable work on the preventive side is done by meeting girls arriving in London at the stations and seeing them safely to their destination, or putting them on their way to places beyond London. This is a rather special form of work and is undertaken, on behalf of all girls' societies, by the Travellers' Aid Society.

### TRAVELLERS' AID SOCIETY.

(For girls and women. Founded in 1885.)

*Headquarters*: 30, Upper Gloucester Place, N.W.

#### AIMS.

The object of this society is to guard respectable young women, as they move from place to place in search of employment, from the dangers to which all young girls are exposed who have no natural guardians to protect them.

If a three days' notice is given to the society's secretary at the office, young women can be met on their arrival in London or at almost any of the large provincial towns.

It has, moreover, workers in all quarters of the world, who are most ready and willing to befriend any girls who apply to them, and who will also meet girls, if sufficient notice is given through the society's secretary.

Ladies are especially begged to tell country girls about the society, so that they may apply to the secretary before going to any town in search of employment, and thus ensure getting into safe and good hands on their arrival.

Young country women are urgently warned against taking situations without previously making inquiry as to their respectability from some reliable, independent source. If they are unable themselves to obtain the necessary information, the secretary will gladly seek it for them.

Young country women are also most earnestly warned not to go to London or other large towns without being in communication with some special and trustworthy person, who will most thoroughly look after them on their arrival.

#### ORGANISATION.

The general committee consists of representatives of the following societies:—

- The Young Women's Christian Association.
- Girls' Friendly Society.
- The Women's Help Society.
- Reformatory and Refuge Union.
- Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls and Women.
- The Girls' Aid Department of the National Children's Home and Orphanage.
- The Church Emigration Society.
- Charity Organisation Society.
- The Mothers' Union.
- The Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women.
- Mabys Association for the Care of Young Girls.
- The Girls' Guildry.
- Together with elected members.

#### FINANCE.

The society is supported by voluntary subscriptions, and the fees paid by travellers. For an *arranged* meeting a fee of 1s. is charged, in addition to out-of-pocket expenses.

The work is carried out by the secretaries and special workers in London, and local workers over the country.

Notices are put in the waiting-rooms of the stations and the society is well known to station-masters and station staffs at all the London termini, who are only too glad to refer girls at and women in difficulties to the office of the society, at which there is a night bell, and attention can be given at any hour of the day or night. The society has one or two beds for use in emergency, and it is also in touch with safe, cheap hotels and lodgings to which girls can be referred.

This side of the society's work can then be divided into two parts:—

- (1) Meeting girls of whose arrival at the station they have had notice.
- (2) Assisting girls referred to the office by the station staff, police, or social workers.

Another very useful piece of work undertaken by the society is that of inquiring into the respectability of any situation a girl is thinking of taking. The society is greatly impressed with the need of this work at present, when so many misleading



(to say no more) advertisements appear in local papers in the provinces, and when in many districts the state of trade is driving girls, often young and untrained, to try for work in London.

Another society gives considerable help in the matter of girls arriving in London. This is

#### THE NATIONAL VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION.

*Headquarters* : 3-4, Old Pye Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

The association carries on much important international work. The particular branch of its work which concerns the present survey is that which provides patrols at the London stations. The association appoints patrol workers who are at the large London stations all day, and also meet trains arriving from the Continent at night. Though their object is in the first instance to watch for actual traffickers in women and children, their presence acts as a deterrent to touts and undesirable characters of both sexes.

These workers are able to do a great deal of most valuable preventive work by helping and advising any stranded girl, and the number of girls so helped in the course of a year is very large indeed.

The association undertakes to assist girls on their arrival at and departure from London. It will also make inquiries on behalf of any girl who wishes to know whether an offer of employment is a *bona fide* offer from a respectable householder ; numerous such inquiries are made on behalf of other societies.

The position of the association and its special knowledge of conditions in all parts of the world enables this work to be done very effectively.

#### THE CATHOLIC GIRLS' SOCIETY (Incorporated.)

*London Office and Hostel* : 79, Gloucester Street, S.W.1.

The work of this society is international. It is the London branch of the *Association Catholique Internationale des Œuvres de Protection de la jeune fille*.

Arrangements are made to meet girls on arrival in London, if notice is given beforehand, and enquiries into prospective situations are undertaken.

The aim of the hostel is to provide a Catholic home for Roman Catholic girls away from their own homes, at the lowest covering cost, and to offer them protection and hospitality while they are looking for work, or during employment. In cases of real need, hospitality is given.

## SUMMARY.

In the introduction to this survey, the needs of girls living and working in London were stated under five headings. The extent to which these needs have been met is shown in the notes on the work of the various societies, and it may be useful here to summarise briefly the information which has been collected and to consider what, if any, further provision is desirable.

### (1) CENTRES AT WHICH INFORMATION REGARDING LODGINGS, CLUBS, ETC., MAY BE OBTAINED.

These exist only to a very limited extent. The headquarters of the various girls' societies are always ready to give information and help to applicants, but this information is to a certain extent confined to the work of the particular society. Places to which stranded girls may turn in an emergency exist, and are invaluable, but these do not meet the need referred to here. What seems needed is an office where any girl can go to obtain information about clubs, lodgings, or any other matter connected with establishing herself in London. Such an office should not be confined to one organisation, but should have information about every sort of provision likely to be of use to girls. If one office in a central position could be started as a trial it might do very valuable pioneer experimental work.

The Women's Auxiliary Service Corps have started an information bureau, not specially for girls, but for anyone in a difficulty. They consider that this is meeting a definite need and is proving its value.

### (2) GOOD LODGINGS.

Hostels are provided by many agencies, and the supply is fairly adequate. The best hostels have waiting lists, and there is always need for more of the best. But there is not, so far as can be ascertained, a serious shortage of general hostel accommodation.

There are not enough hostels of certain special types. For instance, more hostels with heads willing to look after quite young girls, or girls with special difficulties of temperament, and who will do this efficiently and sympathetically, without undue fussing, are badly wanted. There also seems to be some lack of quite cheap accommodation for poorly paid workers.

### (3) OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION AND HEALTHY COMPANIONSHIP.

This is provided by clubs. Good organisations of girls' clubs are in existence, and though more clubs of special sorts are



probably wanted specially in certain districts, no fresh organisation seems necessary.

(4) OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

This need is fully met by the various evening institutes and trade schools provided by the London County Council and the various polytechnics. No girl desiring to attend classes on any conceivable subject need be at a loss in London. Information about the classes is well advertised and accessible.

(5) OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING SOCIAL SERVICE.

The life of a girl living alone and working in London is to a certain extent artificial; she is removed from family life where service and responsibility develop naturally; in work and in play she is apt to have only herself to consider. But it is important that a girl should recognise her responsibilities as a member of the community, and should have the opportunity of taking her share in social service. This is realised by the various associations and societies most of which place a definite ideal of service before their members. Perhaps the attitude which needs developing is that of regarding girls less as a class for whom things must be "done" than as citizens from whom much may be expected.

The information set out in the foregoing survey shows that a great deal of splendid work is being carried on in London. In reviewing it, two general questions suggest themselves. First, is full use made of the existing provisions, are they well known to those who might find them helpful, and is information about them easily accessible? Second, are the provisions themselves adequate; should more be done, and if so on what lines; can existing societies do all that is necessary or is some fresh organisation needed?

The first question is by far the easiest to answer, and the answer is emphatically no. No girls' society has so many members that it cannot do with more; most clubs, however flourishing, have room for new members. And the reason for this is partly that they are not widely known and information is not easily accessible. That does not mean, of course, that anyone knowing where to apply does not get the kindest attention and the fullest information. The point is, rather, that many Londoners themselves are very vague as to the exact names and functions of the various societies, to say nothing of their addresses, and certainly girls newly arriving in London might, and do, frequently fail to hear of a hostel or club in the next street. It is, of course, easy to see that information is not readily available, but it is not so easy to suggest how it may be made so. The establishment of information offices, as suggested above, might do much in London. But it must

be recognised that it is useless to wait until a girl has got to London to put her in touch with agencies which might be useful to her. Once a girl has got to London unattached, it is very difficult to insure that she hears of the various societies ready to welcome her and to put their services at her disposal. For this reason vigorous work in the provinces is needed both to point out to girls and their friends the danger of going to London without knowing some place where they can get information and help if needed, and to make known the place where such information and help can be obtained.

This has been insisted on for many years by religious bodies and individual societies. But at the present time, owing to the state of trade, girls are flocking to London in increasing numbers, and there is special need for united effort by all interested, and there is a special opportunity for constructive work. Possibly the first step in such an effort should be the issue of a small handbook stating briefly the names, aims and rules of the various organisations existing in London, and giving the addresses of the headquarters and any permanent district offices. At present each society has its own handbook, and their names appear in the year books of the religious bodies to which they belong, church societies in the Churchman's Almanac, Roman Catholic societies in the Catholic Year Book, and so on. But a small handbook, taking London as the unit, and containing information about all societies functioning there might be of real value.

Such a handbook could be widely distributed through the country, so that the information it contained might be available at every centre and in every village. It should be known in all churches and chapels, women's institutes, schools, labour exchanges, town halls, post offices and police stations.

In London the handbook might be in waiting-rooms and station-masters' offices, and registry offices might be asked to display it. Vigorous work on some such lines might at least insure that most girls coming to London know where they could look for information should they consider they needed it.

The second point as to whether the existing organisations are capable of meeting all the needs of girls in London cannot of course be answered categorically. When reading the admirable aims and methods of the various societies as set out in their constitution and reports, it seems as though every possible provision were made, and that no girl in London need be lonely or at any loss where to turn for help and advice in any emergency. But every individual citizen, to say nothing of every social worker, knows numberless cases of girls who do come to London and remain there knowing no one, having nowhere to go in their spare time, and no one to whom they can turn in an emergency.

How is this? There are of course many reasons, but two are obvious.



(1) All large girls' societies function through the local branch and the district worker, and it is here that they in some measure break down. The headquarters staff are admirable in their devotion and efficiency, but they all say the same thing. Responsible voluntary workers to do the local work are becoming increasingly difficult to find. It follows that unsuitable workers are appointed, or women past the work and out of sympathy with the modern girl keep their nominal positions simply because no one can be found to succeed them.

(2) The large societies, of course, serve the whole country and aim at establishing their branches everywhere: but it is, in practice, impossible for every girls' society to have a branch in every village. Each society provides specially for certain girls: none can cater for all. Therefore, in small country places there may be a branch of one or even of two societies, but girls for whom these are not suitable have no means of knowing of others with which they might get into touch before going to work in London.

The failure in the supply of voluntary workers is not of course confined to girls' societies, but is common to all forms of social work. It is not that interest in such work is less than it used to be, but rather that it is becoming more specialised and higher qualifications are felt to be needed. But whatever the cause, the fact remains, and it means, possibly, that the basis on which voluntary social work has been carried on hitherto must be altered and future work will follow new lines of development. If this is so, perhaps the new lines will be those of greater co-operation between all members of the societies. It may be that there will be less distinction between those giving and those receiving benefits (whether mental, moral or material), and that all members will have to take their share, both of work and responsibility. Certainly those bodies which seem most alive to-day, are those where this principle is recognised, not as a pious constitution on paper, but as the rule for practical work.

This method of work is far from making the task of organisation easier. It is much more difficult to get people to manage things for themselves, than to arrange things for them according to an excellent pattern and do the work yourself. Girls, like other people, though no longer willing to accept directions in the old manner, are far from ready to take responsibility on themselves. But they are responsible, and it is only when they can be led to see this and to assume responsibility that any solution of present day difficulties seems in sight.

The survey now completed suggests that new organisations are not needed. The old societies can do the work, and are doing it when they recognise frankly the new principles, or rather the new methods of applying the old principles, and carrying out the aims set forth in their constitutions.



