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Central Council for Women's Church Work

Annual Report

Pamphlet

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THE CHURCH HOUSE,

WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

Central Council for Women's Church Work.

Chairman: The LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL, D.D.

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. WILLIAM TEMPLE. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Charles Taylor.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

Chairman: The Rev. S. C. CARPENTER, B.D.,
Master of the Temple.

Vice-Chairman: Miss SIBYL THESIGER.

TRAINING AND EXAMINATIONS COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Miss M. PERCEVAL, S.Th.

Vice-Chairman: The Rev. C. J. BERESFORD, M.A.

CONFERENCE (AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE).

Chairman: Mrs. THEODORE WOODS.

Vice-Chairman: Mrs. G. K. A. Bell.

Overseas Secretary: Mrs. Henry Knight.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

Miss CICELY PELLY,

Room 25, The Church House, Westminster, S.W.1.

Telephone: VICTORIA 0309.

Bankers: Barclays Bank, 95, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

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SECRETARIES OF DIOCESAN BOARDS OF WOMEN'S WORK.

Canterbury.—Miss Scarth, Charing, Kent.
Training:—Miss M. Skinner, 9, Vernon Place, Canterbury.

London.—Mrs. Forbes, 33, Bedford Square, W.C. 1.

Durham.—Deaconess Lucy Gibb, 3, Palatine View, Durham.

Winchester.—Miss Cole, 31, Beaconsfield Road, Basingstoke.

Birmingham.—Miss D. W. Gibson, 193, Portland Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Bradford.—Miss M. C. D. Law, 28, Victor Road, Manningham, Bradford.

Chelmsford.—Miss S. M. Baber, 199, Romford Road, Forest Gate, E. 7.

Chichester.—Training:—Mrs. E. T. G. Hunter, Upper St. Leonards Rectory, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

Derby.—Miss H. M. Penfold, Sterndale House, Litton, near Buxton.

Lichfield.—Deaconess Lilian Siddall, 8, Newbridge Crescent, Wolverhampton.

Liverpool.—Head Deaconess Florence Turnbull, 8, Princes Avenue, Liverpool.

Manchester.—Deaconess Mary Lister, St. Hilda's House, Victoria Park, Manchester.

Newcastle.—Head Deaconess Ethel Bowden, Diocesan Deaconess House,
South Ashfield, Gloucester Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Portsmouth.—Head Deaconess Eva Barton, St. Andrew's House, Portsmouth.
Rochester.—Miss Bowyer, 28, The Avenue, Beckenham, Kent.
St. Albans.—Miss I. Cæsar, Galleycroft, Hatfield, Herts.
Sheffield.—Deaconess Gertrude Western, The Church House, Sheffield.
Southwark.—Miss C. Wilmot, 129, Kennington Road, S.E. 11.
Southwell.—Miss W. Robinson, Brentwood, High Oakham Road, Mansfield.
Worcester.—Miss Blackwell, Church House, Worcester.

THE COUNCIL'S ASSESSORS.

BRANCH I.

Biblical and Theological Knowledge.

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Rev. T. W. Crafer, D.D.
Miss D. Evans, s.th.
Dean W. R. Matthews, D.D.
Miss B. K. Rattey, s.th.
Rev. R. W. D. Stephenson, M.A.
Canon H. C. O. Lanchester, M.A.
Rev. B. M. Pickering, M.A.

BRANCH II.

Pastoral and Evangelistic Work.

Mrs. Mosse (Convener)
Canon B. K. Cunningham, O.B.E., M.A.
Rev. Ernest A. Dunn
Canon T. Guy Rogers, B.A., B.D.
Head Deaconess Lilian Siddall
Rev. J. W. C. Wand, M.A.

BRANCH III. Social Work.

Miss H. M. Kelly, O.B.E. (Convener)
The Bishop of Southwell, D.D.
Miss F. M. Barton
Miss A. K. Baumgartner, B.A.
Rev. W. C. Roberts, M.A.
Miss Dorothy Swayne
Miss Eveline Todd

BRANCH IV. Educational Work.

Professor Albert A. Cock, M.A. Miss Phyllis Dent Miss Winifred Mercier, M.A. Canon S. Blofeld, B.A., B.Sc. Miss M. A. Rice, M.A. Miss F. Johnson, M.A. Miss F. E. Newman, S.Th. Miss C. R. Newby, B.A., S.Th.

BRANCH V. Health Work,

Lady BARRATT, C.H., M.D., M.S. Miss OLIVE BAGGALLAY.

A Year of Progress.

At the beginning of a New Year, when the world looks back to twelve months of anxiety and economic depression, the Council is glad to be able to issue what it hopes will be an encouraging Annual Report. 1931 has, indeed, been a year of progress in women's work for the Church.

PENSIONS FOR DEACONESSES AND SALARIED LAY-WORKERS.

To those who know the financial anxieties of many Church workers—the smallness of the stipends received, the insecurity of employment dependent often on changes of staff in the parishes, the difficulties faced by those over 50 who are obliged to seek new posts—the approval by the Church Assembly of a Pensions Scheme is welcomed as doing something to mitigate conditions of work which call for real heroism. The scheme was approved at the June meeting of the Assembly and provides for a pension of £52 per annum at the age of sixty-five. It only becomes operative in any diocese when it is accepted by the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Conference.

PROGRESS IN THE DIOCESES.

Since the publication of the last Annual Report considerable progress has been made in the development and organisation of women's work in the dioceses. We welcome the co-operation of four additional Diocesan Boards of Women's Work; Sheffield, Portsmouth, Lichfield and Worcester.

The number of dioceses is increasing in which the Bishop now gives his licence to women who are doing full-time Church work. On December 4th Southwark Cathedral was filled to witness the presenting of licences to 76 lay-women. With the exception of a few lay-workers trained at the Diocesan Deaconess House the Bishop's licence had not previously been given to women in that diocese. In most dioceses where the Bishop's licence is given to women the Certificate of the Council is held to be a necessary qualification.

THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN.

At the request of the Council the Bishop of Southwell moved the following resolution in the Upper House of the Convocation of Canterbury at its meeting in June: "That the resolutions passed by the Lambeth Conference, determining the nature and sphere of women's work in the Church, make it desirable that the theological principles governing the Church's development of the Ministry of Women should be thoroughly examined and stated by a body of competent theologians, and that the President be asked to consult with the President of the Convocation of York with regard to the steps which should be taken to secure the issue of such a statement as the question seemed to demand." A similar resolution was moved by the Bishop of Blackburn in the Upper House of the Convocation of York. In both Houses the resolution was carried and the Archbishops have now appointed a group of people to draw up the statement asked for by the Council.

THE COUNCIL AND THE CHURCH ASSEMBLY.

The Report of the Commission on Lay-Workers (Central Organisations) has now been published, including a recommendation to the Assembly that the work of the Council is of great value and worthy of the support of the Church. The Commission further recommends that the Standing Committee of the Assembly appoint six members to serve on the Council, of whom two at least shall be members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. It also recommends that the Assembly ask the Central Board of Finance to consider the possibility of granting assistance out of the Central funds of the Church. The assistance which is likely to be given will only be a small proportion of the total annual expenditure, but it encourages us in going forward to feel that our work may be thus officially recognised.

ORDINATION AND FUNCTIONS OF DEACONESSES.

In the Upper Houses of Convocation of Canterbury and York the Resolutions of the Lambeth Conference (1930) concerning the ordination and functions of deaconesses have been confirmed. They have yet to be considered by the Lower Houses of Convocation.

MEETINGS OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE.

The Central Conference has held two meetings during the past year. In June the discussion was continued of the subject taken at Liverpool, "The Christian Doctrine of God," and the speakers dealt mainly with the teaching of the Christian Doctrine of God in the Church to-day. At the November meeting the subject was, "Steps towards a Way of Renewal," including addresses on some interesting experiments in adult religious education.

At the request of the Conference Committee the Report of the Conference meetings is now published in the form of a Bulletin giving news of the Council and of developments in women's work as well as a report of the addresses at the Conference. The Bulletin has been welcomed by the Diocesan Boards of Women's Work and others interested, and it is hoped that its circulation will increase. It is issued twice a year, the annual subscription, including postage, being 7d.

It had been hoped that it might be possible to hold the autumn meeting of the Conference, 1932, at some centre in the provinces,

but on carefully considering the matter the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Conference Committee have agreed to recommend to the Council that both meetings this year be held in London. It is felt that at the present time the added expense which might be involved would not be justified, and a burden might be imposed in asking for hospitality for members.

THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL'S ASSESSORS.

The Council is indebted to its Assessors in various Branches for a very considerable amount of work. They have frequently had to deal with suggestions made for the improvement of the training and testing of students, and with special courses of training proposed for individual candidates for the Certificate. The Regulations concerning the Certificate have been revised, and certain alterations recommended by the Assessors have been accepted by the Council. The Branch I Assessors have marked 762 examination papers on theological subjects during the year. In Branch II 227 examination papers have been taken, and the qualifications of 59 candidates for recognition in Pastoral and Evangelistic Work have been approved. In Branch III 76 examination papers have been dealt with by the Assessors. Although Branch IV involves the Council in no examination work a considerable number of candidates offer very varied qualifications for recognition in this Branch, and the grading of these qualifications needs careful consideration. Only occasionally does a candidate offer Branch V, Health Work, for the Certificate, but the Council is very glad to have the help of Lady Barrett, C.H., M.D., M.S., and Miss Olive Baggallay, of Bedford College, as new Assessors for that Branch.

From among our Assessors we regret to announce the resignation of Dean Bate as Chairman of Branch I; Canon Thompson Elliott as an Assessor for Branch II; Miss Collie, Branch IV; Mrs. Forber and Miss Finch, Branch V. We are glad to be able to report the appointment of the following new Assessors: The Rev. B. M. Pickering, M.A., Branch I; Miss M. A. Rice, late of St. Mary and St. Ann's, Abbots Bromley; Miss F. Johnson, St. Gabriel's College, Camberwell; Miss C. R. Newby of St. Christopher's College, Blackheath; and Miss F. E. Newman, until recently Divinity Mistress at Clapham High School, as Assessors for Branch IV.

CONFERENCE OF SECRETARIES OF DIOCESAN BOARDS OF WOMEN'S WORK.

A week-end Conference of Secretaries of Diocesan Boards of Women's Work was held in May, 1931, and it is hoped that a similar conference will be held in May, 1932. It is found that an unhurried and somewhat informal conference enables Board Secretaries to meet each other and talk over common problems, and also strengthens the co-operation between the Council and the Boards.

THE YEAR IN THE OFFICE.

It is with very real regret that we have to report the resignation of the General Secretary, Miss Helen Paxton, which took effect on April 30th, 1931. Miss Paxton had most ably acted as Secretary of the Council during the difficult period of amalgamation, and previous to that as Secretary of the Inter-Diocesan Council. Miss Cicely Pelly, who had previously been Education Secretary and, later, an Assistant Secretary of the Missionary Council of the Church Assembly, has been appointed as General Secretary in Miss Paxton's place.

The work in the office has gone on steadily during the year. There have been over thirty meetings of the Council, Conference and Committees, including meetings of the Assessors. During 1931 134 Certificates have been issued, compared with 80 in 1930, and 120 in 1929. This is the highest number of Certificates ever issued by the Council in one year.

FINANCE.

The finance of the Council also shows signs of hope and improvement. Our balance this year is a credit in place of a deficit, but not yet the credit we need in order to start the year quite happily. A balance in hand at the end of the year of one quarter's income (not less than £200) is necessary before we can feel at all easy; still we are grateful to all those who have contributed to this happier state of affairs. First we are grateful to the Diocesan Boards of Lichfield and Portsmouth, which have joined the contributing dioceses; then to subscribers, old and new, who have greatly increased the subscription list; then to the Conference for their balance of £70; and last, but not least, to the Liverpool Board of Women's Work for their magnificent gift of £100, for which we can never be sufficiently grateful. These last two assets cannot be repeated, so, despite all the depression of the moment, we would beg the dioceses and subscribers to do all in their power to maintain their contributions. Even at the present level new money must be raised this year if the work is to be continued, let alone increased. As has already been said, the Report of the Commission on Lay-Workers (Central Organisations) includes a recommendation to the Assembly that the work of the Council is of great value and worthy of the support of the Church. We appeal to all our friends to interest members of the Assembly in the work of the Council, so that when the Resolutions proposed by the Commission come before them they may have unanimous support.

HENRY SOUTHWELL, Chairman.

DIOCESAN CONTRIBUTIONS, 1931.

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GENERAL SUBSCRIPTION LIST, 1931.

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DONORS AND SUBSCRIBERS OF 5/- AND UNDER.

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CONTRIBUTIONS PER OVERSEAS SECRETARY.

Mrs. J. G. Adam (Calgary), Miss P. Bishop (Gibraltar), Mrs. Buckton (Gibraltar), Miss Edith Carter (Quebec), Lady Crewe, O.B.E. (Grahamstown), Mrs. Henry W. Davis (Atlanta), Mrs. R. Melville Dunn (Willochra), Mrs. P. S. Gardiner (Mississippi), Mrs. Gray (Edmonton), Mrs. Frank W. Haskins (Montana), Miss von Holt (Honolulu), Lady Horwood (Newfoundland), Mrs. Hicks (Gibraltar), Mrs. Stephen Johnson (Newark), Mrs. W. H. Johnstone (Lexington), Mrs. Jesse Jones (Iowa), Miss Mary Marsh (Quincey), Miss Emily Matthews (Washington), Mrs. Cornelia B. Mills (Wyoming), Mrs. MacInnes (Jerusalem), Mrs. Phelps (Cape Town), Mrs. C. C. Randall (Daluth), Mrs. W. Blair Roberts (South Dakota), Mrs. Louis D. Simmonds (South Carolina), Mrs. Samuel Thorne (New York), Mrs. Barclay Trippe (Easton), Mrs. Tod (Kansas), Miss Trollope (Corea), Mrs. Deane Turner (South Florida), Mrs. J. P. Tyler (North Dakota), Miss M. G. Weed (Florida), Mrs. J. R. Wheeler (Tennessee), Mrs. Walter Whichard (South Virginia), Mrs. William H. Wills (Vermont), Mrs. Wright (Sydney), Women's Auxiliary (Niagara). £13 18s. 8d.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN'S CHURCH WORK. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1931. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.

ABJURGE AND DATEMBRICKE ACCOUNT.					
January 1st, 1931— To Balance brought from last Account December 31st, 1931— To Rent of Offices and Committee Rooms "Salaries	December 31st, 1931— By Subscriptions				
BALANCES AS AT	31st DECEMBER, 1931.				
Assets. £ s. d. Cash at Bankers 130 15 7 Telephone Deposit 10 0	LIABILITIES. £ s. d. Expenses outstanding— Examiners' Fees and Expenses 30 13 6 Church House, for Rent of Rooms, and Lighting and Heating 5 3 2 Telephone Calls 0 11 1 Surplus Revenue, as above 95 7 10				
£131 15 7	£131 15 7				

I have audited the above Accounts and certify that the same are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Council's transactions, according to the best of my information and explanations given me, and as shown by the Council's books.

MARGARET TAYLOR, Hon. Treasurer. CICELY PELLY, Secretary.

18th January, 1932.

ARTHUR H. FIELD (Member of the Church Assembly), Hon. Auditor.

Press of BAKER & Co., 149 Southampton Street Camberwell — S.E. 5.