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The Women's United Services League

Presidents :

VISCOUNTESS
FRENCH



LADY
JELlicoe

ANNUAL REPORT

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PAMPHLET

THE
WOMEN'S UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE.

REFERENCE
ONLY

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* Signifies Ex-Officio Members of Council.

+ Signifies Co-opted Members of Council.

AIMS AND OBJECTS.

This League, which has the full approval of the Admiralty and War Office, has been founded for these objects :

- (a) To co-ordinate, and register all the work done by, War Clubs throughout the Kingdom, so that they may be started and carried on under the best conditions obtained by varied experience, as to situation and general arrangements.
- (b) To provide funds and gifts in kind to those Clubs which are unable to start, or carry on without such assistance.
- (c) To arrange and provide funds (when necessary) for classes in Mothercraft, Cooking, Home Nursing and other Subjects.
- (d) To form a Register of all Clubs in the United Kingdom provided for the benefit of sailors' and soldiers' wives and relatives. This may be inspected at the offices of the League by anyone wishing to start a Club. Any help in perfecting this Register will be gratefully received.

LADY FRENCH'S ADDRESS.

A meeting of the Council of the Women's United Services League was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on Wednesday, July 12th, 1916, at which Lady French presided. Lady French addressed the Council, as follows :

I am so pleased to welcome the Council to-day, and I only regret that Lady Jellicoe is unable to be with me, because she takes such a keen interest in these Clubs, and has done so much for them, but I am glad to tell you that she was in town at the opening of the National Economy Exhibition, and was able to receive the Queen at the Women's United Services Stall on June 26th.

In a few minutes you will hear the formal report of the League's work during the past year, and I think after that report is read, you will feel that the League has justified its existence.

I have visited several of the Clubs, and was much impressed by the reception I received at Leyton on July 1st, which was arranged by the Club belonging to this League.

I think there is one important consideration for the Council to-day, and that is the future of the Clubs after the War. Some practical conclusions have been arrived at, based on personal visits and interviews with Club Organisers. These are :

1. That, in most cases, the rough women have not yet been brought into Club life, this is, because rough and smooth women will not amalgamate; the rougher ones feel out of place in a very refined Club.
2. Self-government is not widely enough encouraged, though it has proved the most satisfactory method of organisation when adopted.
3. The Club houses are, generally speaking, too ambitious for self-support, and could not be run after the War on Subscriptions and Canteen profits. So some scheme is necessary to provide for a better type of Club, and one which will especially take in the rougher class.

I have to announce the resignation of the following Members of Council: Mrs. Robert Harcourt, Mrs. Ley, Mrs. Wilson-Potter, Mrs. Leveson and Mrs. McGlashen.

I also have pleasure in welcoming the following Ladies on our Council and Executive Committee: The Countess Ferrers, Lady Sandhurst, Mrs. Priestley, Miss Beeton and Miss Hilliard.

REPORT.

The following Report, covering the year's working, was read by Mrs. Hugh Watson, Joint Hon. Secretary :—

Lady French, Vice-Presidents, and Members of Council, I beg to submit the report for the year ending May 31st, 1916.

This year has proved one of progress in the work of the League and the War Clubs affiliated to it.

During October the Secretary visited Liverpool in order to see the various Clubs established there, and a large group of them decided to affiliate to the League a few days after her return. Other tours followed, and the places visited were Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sheffield, Leeds, Halifax, Bradford, Manchester, etc., etc. The Secretary spoke at many affiliated Clubs, and interviewed Committees connected with such Clubs. She also got into touch with various people associated with non-affiliated Clubs, and interested them in the League's work. Recently the South Coast from Southampton to Eastbourne has been visited, and as a practical result of these tours 34 new Clubs have affiliated to the League, making the grand total of Affiliations 106 since January, 1915. Visits to the number of 97 have been made in London and the Country. These visits have brought the Clubs and League closer together, and the varied working and conditions have been useful and interesting to the League.

Nearly all the Clubs have savings banks, and the working of these is very varied. A very large proportion are doing

Needlework for the Soldiers and Sailors, such as Knitting, "Lady Smith-Dorrien's bags," sandbags, etc., as well as a large quantity of children's clothes and other garments for their own use.

A certain number of Clubs have had Classes in Cutting-out, Cooking, First Aid, Singing, and Boot-Mending.

Competitions in Needlework and Singing, arranged by this League, took place on May 8th, and proved the thoroughness and ingenuity of the work done in the classes connected with the former, including the following categories:—

(Class I.—Converted Garment.)

(Class II.—Article made for 6d.)

(Classes III. and IV.—Darning and Patching.)

(Class V.—Knitted Stocking.)

The work done in the first two Classes was of such a high order that the Imperial Health Authorities gave us a double stall at their recent National Economy Exhibition on June 26th—July 8th at Princes Skating Club.

The Singing, too, was praiseworthy for a first attempt, and the judging was undertaken by Mr. Darke of the Bach Choir, whose report of the work done was encouraging.

The various Choirs of London Club Members were judged at this Hotel in the presence of Lady Jellicoe and other Members of Council, and Lady Jellicoe awarded Certificates for Needlework and Singing.

These Competitions tend to stimulate the interest of the Members, not only in the work, but in each other, and in other Clubs, and we hope to arrange Competitions next spring in Home-Mending, Cooking, Singing and Needle-

work and to arrange for distant Country Clubs to form their own Competitions for which the League's Certificates will be awarded.

The Clubs are nearly all self-supporting, but Grants to the amount of £46 9s. 2d. have been given in suitable cases approved by the Executive Committee, after seeing the Club Balance Sheet.

The testimony of the Clubs as a whole concerning their Members goes to prove that the Clubs have definitely helped the women to help themselves, and to become better Citizens, Wives, and Mothers. Some of the Clubs are attached to Infant Welfare Centres, and this has been most helpful.

The Membership of individual Clubs in the North and the Midlands in some cases averages 700-800. In the South the average is 200-300. The Northern Clubs open, as a rule, in the evenings two or three times a week, whereas in the South the afternoon is more usual, and a small *daily* attendance is kept up, instead of a large bi-weekly one.

In nearly all cases the Members pay a small Subscription weekly of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 1d., and also pay for all food at cost price; some of the Canteens are running at a good profit.

Our Presidents, Viscountess French and Lady Jellicoe, and Members of the Executive Committee have visited various London and Country Clubs, and such visits have been heartily appreciated.

Next autumn (when the Clubs re-open after a short period of closing) the League has been asked to enquire whether Vice-Presidents or Members of Council will visit and speak at the following places:—

Bradford, St. Leonards, Tunbridge Wells, West Norwood, Mile End, Rotherhithe, Chiswick, Brixton, and Poplar.

The Clubs *do* look for some recognition in this way from the League, and I shall be glad if any lady will volunteer to undertake one or other of these visits.

The Secretary found most responsive audiences wherever she went, and the Committees were in all cases most kind and appreciative.

The Year's Balance Sheet is before the Council, and has been kindly audited by Messrs. Bull, Darton and Pollock, who were quite satisfied with the system of Accounts, and the books generally in use.

Annual Subscribers are badly needed, and additional Members and Associates of the League would be very welcome.

The income of the League has been derived from the following sources:—

1. Donations resulting from:—
 - (a) Appeals in the Press,
 - (b) Special Circularising of the Public,
 - (c) Lectures, Concerts and Theatricals in aid of the Funds,have realised £454 6s. 2d.
2. Subscriptions from Council, Members and Associates amount to £67 1s.
3. Affiliation Fees from Clubs amount to £20 9s. 6d.

We feel that, now the work has developed on Educational lines, there might be more general support given to it, and we think that in the autumn some stimulus might be

afforded by Drawing-room Meetings, and perhaps a Mansion House Conference, where the objects and work of the League and Clubs might be made widely known and discussed.

The League wishes to record its gratitude for the constant consideration and generosity on the part of the Board of the Westminster Palace Hotel, and Sir Henry Kimber, the Chairman, who is also Treasurer of the League. The rent for the Offices has been reduced to a nominal sum, and, in addition, the Company have from time to time lent us their suites of Public Rooms for our gatherings, and have arranged most excellently for the catering and comfort of these entertainments.

Last November the League held a Conference of Affiliated Clubs at this Hotel, and Lady Jellicoe, Lady Henry Somerset, Miss Kinnaird, and Lady Codrington addressed the Delegates on the management of Clubs.

The League hopes next autumn to arrange Classes in Household Mending, such as repairing furniture, soldering, riveting, as well as simple house decoration, whitewashing, papering, and painting. It was enabled last spring to grant small sums for instruction to those Clubs who were unable to defray the expenses of such. Further tours to the West and North of England are proposed for September and October.

THE WOMEN'S UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, for Year ending 31st May, 1916.

EXPENDITURE.				INCOME.									
				£	s.	d.							
To	Salaries			218	5	0	By	Subscriptions			67	1	0
	„ Rent, Lighting and Telephone			65	0	6		„ Donations			303	16	10
	„ Registration Fees and Stamp Duty			20	11	4		„ Sale of Lecture Tickets			150	9	4
	„ Affiliation Fee, Patriotic League			1	1	0		„ Affiliation Fees			20	9	6
	„ Grants to Clubs			36	9	2		„ Sundry Receipts			0	9	6
SI	„ Grant to Hospital (Chair)			1	1	0					542	6	2
	„ Postage and Telegrams			66	3	3		„ Balance, being Excess of Ex-			58	14	5
	„ Printing and Stationery			60	8	11		penditure over Income					
	„ Competition Expenses			37	8	9							
	„ Advertising (Printing and Postage)			13	8	7							
	„ Reporting and Lecture Expenses			7	14	3							
	„ 5 Provincial Tours			45	19	5							
	„ General Expenses			22	2	10							
	„ Travelling Expenses			5	6	7							
				£601	0	7					£601	0	7

THE WOMEN'S UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE.

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.				May 31st, 1916.									
				£	s.	d.							
Sundry Creditors			53	11	0	Affiliation Fees due from Clubs			4	17	6
	Balance from 1914-15, being excess of Income over Expenditure			295	4	4		Subscriptions due from Members of Council			6	0	0
	Less balance being excess of Expenditure over Income for year 1915-16			58	14	5		Stock of Badges on hand			5	5	10
				236	9	11		Cash at Bank			273	17	7
				£290	0	11					£290	0	11

We have audited the above Balance Sheet. We have obtained information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the League's affairs according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the League.

(Signed) BULL, DARTON & POLLOCK (Chartered Accountants),
Honorary Auditors.

THE WOMEN'S UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE.

Nomination Form.

I desire to be elected * _____ of this League.

Date _____

Signature _____

Address _____

WE, the Undersigned, hereby respectively propose and second the nomination of Mr. (Mrs. or Miss) _____ of _____ as a Member of The Women's United Services League.

Proposed by _____

Seconded by _____

* Fill in the words "a Member" or "an Associate" as the case may be.

To the Secretary,

I wish to support the objects of The Women's United Services League, and give an annual subscription of:—

£ s. d. Donation of £ s. d.
(Please strike out the words not used.)

Name _____

Address _____

Cheques may be sent to Sir HENRY KIMBER, Bart., Hon. Treasurer, payable at the Capital and Counties Bank, 39, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.; or to the Secretary of the League, 8, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

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