

SOCIETIES

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# The Women's United Services League

*(Registered under the Companies Act and War Charities Act)*

PRESIDENTS:

THE  
VISCOUNTESS  
FRENCH



THE  
VISCOUNTESS  
JELlicoe

## ANNUAL REPORT

*May 31st, 1917-1918.*

WOMEN'S SERVICE.

P

PAMPHLET

Published from the Offices:

8. VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

Telephone: VICTORIA 3700.

OFFICE HOURS, 10 to 5 p.m. SATURDAYS, 10 to 12 p.m.

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# THE WOMEN'S UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE

(Registered under the Companies Act and War  
Charities Act.)

## Joint Presidents :

\*THE VISCONTRESS JELICOE,  
29 Sussex Square, W.

\*THE VISCONTRESS FRENCH,  
The Manor House,  
Waltham Cross.

## Vice-Presidents :

THE COUNTESS OF DERBY      †LADY ROBERTSON  
THE COUNTESS OF LIMERICK   †LADY HUNTER  
THE COUNTESS OF MARCH      LADY CARSON  
†THE VISCONTRESS SANDHURST   LADY CODRINGTON  
THE LADY MAUD WARRENDER    LADY MADDEN  
THE LADY ADELAIDE COLVILLE   MRS. MCKENNA  
THE LADY ST. HELIER          MISS BALFOUR  
                                 †THE HON. EMILY KINNAIRD

## Honorary Treasurer :

SIR HENRY KIMBER, BART.

## Hon. Solicitors :

MESSRS. KIMBER BULL, HOWLAND AND CLAPPE AND CO.,  
6 Old Jewry, E.C.

## Hon. Auditors :

MESSRS. BULL, DARTON AND POLLOCK,  
10 Old Jewry Chambers, E.C.

## Secretary :

MISS L. HILL.

## Council :

LADY EADY	MRS. ARTHUR LUCAS
†LADY GRANT	†MRS. JOHNSTON
†LADY GOODRICH	MRS. MOUNSEY
†LADY DU CANE	†MISS ROSAMUND FRENCH
†LADY GREENWOOD	†MISS WILLIAMS
†MRS. DEEDES	†MISS GWYNNETH BURNS
†MRS. HUGH WATSON (Hon. Sec.)	(Hon. Sec.)
†MRS. DREYER	†RT. HON. SIR WILLIAM BULL, M.P.
†MRS. BREEKS	R. MURRAY LESLIE, Esq., M.D.
	†F. J. HIGGINBOTTOM, Esq.

\* Ex-Officio Members of Council.  
† Co-opted Members of Council.

‡ Members of Executive.

## AIMS AND OBJECTS.

This League has the full approval of the Admiralty and the War Office, and exists to co-ordinate Women's War Clubs for Sailors' and Soldiers' Wives and Relatives, and to assist those Clubs that become affiliated to it.

The League has about 100 Clubs affiliated to it, 20 of this number being in London, and others in various parts of the United Kingdom. These Clubs are all worked under different conditions, to suit local surroundings.

Amongst the various benefits to which the Clubs become entitled through affiliation to the League are the following:

1. Grants of money in approved cases if unable to be entirely self-supporting.
2. Letters for Convalescent Homes and for Hospitals.
3. Speakers to give instruction on subjects of practical interest to women, such as Citizenship, Infant Welfare, Home Nursing, Cooking, Dressmaking, etc.
4. To participate in Competitions in Needlework and Music.

Thrift Clubs are encouraged both for Women and Children.

A monthly Meeting of Club Presidents and Secretaries is held at the League's offices, in order to bring together (for purposes of discussion and consultation) the representatives of affiliated Clubs.

Help is given in Social entertainments, in order to assist in linking up the Clubs.

Clubs are arranged on constructive lines, and are as far as possible self-supporting and self-governing, to enable them to be carried on after the War, if desired.

There is no distinction of classes or religious sects.

The Committee of the League would be glad to hear from anyone interested in Women's War Clubs, and to receive practical suggestions, which might lead to new ideas being introduced into the work already being done. Such communications should be addressed to the Organising Secretary.



## THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

I have much pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the League's work for the year ending June 30th, 1918.

Great anxiety has been caused by the serious illness of our joint-President, Lady Jellicoe, but the last reports, telling of the continued improvement in her health, lead us to hope that in the autumn we may again have her valued help and support, which have been much missed during her absence.

The growth of the League has been most encouraging, and the results achieved show how greatly such an institution was needed.

It is satisfactory to realise that the various Clubs have derived much benefit through affiliation to the League, and are now worked on broader lines, being in many cases self-supported and self-governed. Wherever possible an industry has been started in connection with the Club. A few details of these matters are given on another page.

I may here state that the Provincial Clubs share in any benefits offered by the League, including facilities being afforded for participation in Competitions, and grants being given in approved cases to further local aims.

At the Third Ordinary General Meeting of the League, held on February 5th, the following elections were made to the Council:—

Lady Goodrich.

Lady Du Cane.

Lady Eady (one of the retiring members, who was re-elected).

\*Miss Williams (Hon. Sec. of the Federation of Women's Institutes).

\*Mrs. Arthur Lucas.

\*Lady Greenwood.

\*Mrs. Johnston.

I regret to announce the resignation of the following members from the Council:—

The Countess Ferrers.

The Lady Loch.

Lady Henry Somerset.

Mrs. Eyres-Monsell.

Miss Grant.

Miss Beeton.

Miss Head.

Sir William Bennett.

Sir Hedley le Bas.

*\*(These members were elected during the year, but not at the above Meeting.)*

**Change of Secretary.** Miss Faithfull, the Organising Secretary, who had been most assiduous during the three years she was with the League, found it necessary, in January last, to send in her resignation. The League owes a great deal to Miss Faithfull for all the valuable work she did during the time she was with the League, especially in organisation.

Her place has been taken by Miss Lilian Hill, and there is every reason to believe that the League is making further progress, and that the interest in the Clubs is extending under the influence of her enterprise and energy.

**Secretary's Visits.** During July and August, 1917, the Secretary visited several Clubs in the West of England and Wales. Other tours followed, one in September to the South of England, and one in October to the Midlands, the North of England and Scotland.

There are 100 affiliated Clubs in London and the Provinces, all of which have been visited, with the exception of three in Ireland, one in Scotland, and one at Ipswich.

Grants amounting to £200 have been given to various Clubs at the following places:—

Bristol (Bedminster).

Liverpool.

Manchester.

Glasgow.

Wallsend and Willington Quay.

Eastbourne.

Ventnor.

North Lambeth.

Hoxton.

Tottenham.

Fulham.

Notting Hill (Unicorn Club).

Kilburn (Netherwood Street).

**Convalescent Homes and Hospitals.** Letters have been received for various Hospitals. One of the chief features of this year's work has been the subscribing to Convalescent Homes at Birchington-on-Sea, Clewer, Limpsfield, Bourne-mouth, Bexhill, and Dunoon, near Glasgow—also the Raid-Shock Home for Children at Chailey, Essex. The Clubs at Liverpool, Manchester and Wallsend have likewise been enabled to send patients to Homes in the neighbourhood.

These Homes have proved the greatest boon to our members, several of whom have been enabled to obtain a much-needed change and rest. The two following cases are taken at random from our note-book:—

Mrs. C., a member of the Mile End Club, was sent to the sea for the first time in her life, although nearly eighty. This was almost the only holiday she had ever had, and she never ceases talking of the good food and rest, and of the kindness of those at the Home,



Mrs. L., of the Chimney Corner Club, Paddington, was sent to the Bexhill Convalescent Home, after having undergone several operations. She has two elder girls at work, and three younger girls at home. She wrote saying how very happy she was at the Home, and spoke most enthusiastically of the good air and food, and said she had gained four pounds in three weeks.

**Further Plans.** Various schemes are being originated, and Baby Week was made a special feature at our Clubs; Miss Musson, Secretary of the National Baby Week Council, and Mrs. Lucas, our representative on the same Council, kindly arranged to send lecturers on Infant Welfare to some of the chief centres. A poster was shown, and leaflets describing the work of the League were distributed at the Baby Week Exhibition held at the Central Hall, Westminster.

It is proposed to link up the Clubs with local Infant Welfare Centres, and to arrange for experts to visit the Clubs and give "talks" on Mothercraft and Child Welfare all through the year.

Arrangements are now being made to provide Convalescent Home treatment for recently confined mothers, where they can go with their babies for a fortnight's change and rest in the country.

Plans are now in contemplation to found a Maternity Home in the London district in accordance with the recent recommendations of the leading Public Health Authorities, where soldiers' and sailors' wives can be attended during the whole of the lying-in period. It is intended to equip this Hostel on the most modern lines.

A sum of money has been specially set aside for brightening up the poorer Clubs and making them more attractive. It is intended to supply books, pictures, plants, rugs, comfortable chairs, etc. Applications may now be received from the local Secretaries.

The Committee desire me to say that they regret they can only renew in general terms their acknowledgment of the help received from friends of the League; they would be glad to receive the names of further subscribers and donors, as they are desirous of enlarging the circle of those interested and willing to help, and at the same time of augmenting the funds.

MILDRED ROBERTSON (*Chairman*).

**A Successful "Penny Day."** The League is much indebted to Dr. Murray Leslie, whose practical suggestion of a "Penny Day" collection from our Soldiers and Sailors, in November last, resulted in a very hearty response, and the splendid sum of £1,834 8s. 11d. was subscribed, thus enabling the Committee to further the work of many Clubs which were greatly in need of funds.

Through the kindness of Lady Head and Mrs. Stephens, who organised an entertainment in China, the welcome contribution of £375 4s. 6d. was received.

## A YEAR'S WORK OF THE LEAGUE.

### EMPIRE DAY CELEBRATION.

The Annual Empire Day Celebration was held at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on May 24th, when about 600 women were present from eighteen of the London Clubs. The Hall was gaily decorated with flags, through the kindness of Mrs. Meers, who also arranged a guard of honour formed by the banner-bearers of the various Clubs.

H.R.H. Princess Patricia of Connaught most graciously consented to come and present the certificates won by the competitors in the Needlework Competition.

Her Royal Highness expressed much pleasure at being among the mothers, wives and sisters of brave men fighting for their country's freedom, and said how sorry she was at the enforced absence of Lady Jellicoe, who had worked so hard in the cause of the League.

Tea was provided for the members (the catering being excellently carried out by the Vogue Restaurant), after which a most enjoyable concert took place. The following artistes very kindly giving their services: Madame Ada Crossley, Miss Rene Maxwell, Rev. Dr. Houston Collisson, Miss Nicola Blake, and Miss Nathalie Rosenwax.

Each item was much appreciated by the audience. The members of the Clubs were led by Madame Ada Crossley in singing "Land of Hope and Glory," and later on, the National Anthem.

Thirty-nine Clubs competed this year, as against twenty-two in 1917, and the work (which was on exhibit at the Hall) was of a high standard, and showed that the Annual Competition does much to foster and encourage good work. The Challenge Shield was won by the Hotwells Women's Club, Bristol. Two representatives from this Club were present to receive the Shield and the many certificates won by the members. Ventnor came second, Rotherhithe third, and Aberdare fourth, and many other Clubs gained certificates and showed excellent work.

Lady Robertson, who took the chair in the regrettable absence of Lady Jellicoe, spoke a few words as to the work of the League. The Rt. Hon. Andrew Fisher, High Commissioner for Australia, gave a stirring address appealing to the patriotism of the audience. Sir Henry Kimber moved a vote of thanks to the Princess for her kindness in presenting the certificates, and to the artistes, and this was ably seconded by Mr. F. J. Higginbottom.



## MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

The Annual Musical Competition, followed by a concert, took place on Saturday, June 15th, in the Caxton Hall, in the presence of H.H. Princess Helena Victoria, who kindly consented to present the Shield given by Mrs. Stewart Erskine, and the Banner given by Mrs. Mounsey, as well as the certificates won by the members of the various London Clubs competing.

Her Highness was received by the Viscountess French, Lady Goodrich, Lady Eady, Dr. Murray Leslie, and other members of the Committee, and also by Mrs. Mounsey, who had been one of the chief workers, and whose able assistance contributed in no small measure to the success of the afternoon.

A guard of honour was again formed by the banner-bearers of the various Clubs. The same arrangements were made for tea as on Empire Day.

Ten choirs took part, whereas only eight competed last year, and the music chosen for the Competition numbers was of a more advanced standard than at former examinations, and therefore all the more credit is due to those Clubs which gained certificates.

Mr. Harold Darke, Mus.Bac., again kindly acted as judge and director, and the success of the Festival is largely due to his careful guidance, thoroughness, and kind criticism, which latter will prove of great help to any Clubs entering for future examinations.

We should like to take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to Mr. Darke for all the time he gave in arranging the Competitions and rehearsing the choirs, and to convey our best wishes to him on his approaching marriage with Miss Dora Garland, who on this occasion delighted all by her artistic rendering of a violin solo, "Romance," by Mr. H. Darke, in addition to a Prelude and Allegro by Pugnani-Kreisler.

Songs were contributed by Miss Etty Ferguson, who also sang the solo in Sir Hubert Parry's "And did those feet." Mr. George Ball, who accompanied the professionals, also judged the sight-reading competition to the entire satisfaction of the various choirs.

The successful Choirs and the winners of the Trio and Soprano Solo took part in the programme. The following were the winning Choirs and competitors:—

- Class A. 1st, Tottenham; 2nd, Mile End.
- Class B. 1st, No award; Hoxton, 2nd Class Certificate.
- Class C. 1st, Princess Road Club, Kilburn; 2nd, Britannia Club, Notting Hill.
- SOLOS. Soprano. 1st, Miss Covington, Hoxton.  
2nd, Mrs. Beeston, Tottenham.  
2nd, Miss Cox, Notting Hill, Britannia.
- Contralto. 1st, Miss Cox, Rotherhithe.
- Duet. 1st, Miss Barker and Mrs. Beeston, Tottenham.
- Trio. 1st, Mrs. E. Casey, Mrs. E. Sullivan and Mrs. A. Butt, Mile End; 2nd, Misses G. D. and W. Backhouse, Tottenham.

Dr. Murray Leslie moved a vote of thanks to the Princess for so kindly being present, and spoke of the good work done by the League during the year, while Lady Goodrich thanked Mr. Darke and Mrs. Mounsey for their valuable help, and also the conductors of the Choirs, without whose loyal and untiring efforts the competition would not take place. She spoke of the high aims of music, and how greatly it was longed for by our men at the Front.

## THE WORK OF THE CLUBS.

The following extracts, taken from the records of a few of the Clubs, may prove of interest and serve to demonstrate the varied sides of Club-life.

### COUNTRY CLUBS.

BEDMINSTER PATRIOTIC CLUB, BRISTOL.—A Maternity Centre and School for Mothers. Workrooms have been started in connection with this Club for widows with small pensions and soldiers' wives with one or two children. This is to encourage them to keep their children with them, and not to board them out. A Nursery is provided where the children are cared for during the day. Mothers are given a good dinner for twopence (and child according to age). It is arranged that school-children attending school can come to this centre to have dinner with their mothers.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—There are 450 regular members on their books. The Savings Bank is well subscribed to.

WALLSEND AND WILLINGTON QUAY TIPPERARY CLUBS.—Amongst other features, such as Blanket and Thrift Clubs, are the following:  
(a) A collection made in the Club for every "Tipperary" baby born;  
(b) A fund to help wives and mothers to visit their husbands and sons at the hospitals.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Is running a Needlework Competition of its own. Certificates are being granted by the League. A library of 200 books, subscription halfpenny a week. A Thrift Club, well managed. Has £22 in Lloyd's Bank. The Coal Club has had many members during the winter. Members do mending for Military Hospital. Debates and discussions on subjects of public and national interest are held.

GLASGOW, COWCADDENS.—Has a kindergarten connected with it.

HOTWELLS WOMEN'S CLUB, BRISTOL.—The Club has two nurseries and a creche for delicate babies, open daily from 9—6 p.m., has been added. Won Challenge Shield in Needlework Competition.

WALSALL.—Has a canteen in connection with the Club.

VENTNOR.—Has again done exceedingly well in the Needlework Competition, has won a great number of certificates, and has not fallen far short of the highest marks. The members have won the Voluntary Workers' Badge for Lady Smith Dorrien's Fund for making 1,000 bags. Over 200 pairs of socks have been knitted by members in their own homes. It has an Infant Welfare Centre.

ABERDARE.—Is self-governing, under the supervision of the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Jenkins.



BELFAST, ALBERT STREET.—Has a Babies' Club in connection. This is a very well worked Club, and much has been done to improve the condition of the members.

#### LONDON CLUBS.

UPPER HOLLOWAY.—Has made over 1,000 Treasure Bags for Lady Smith-Dorrien's Fund, and has received the War Workers' Badge in recognition of this.

FULHAM.—Has its own inner committee subject to the ladies interested in the Club. Has raised £27 by a Sale of Work.

KILBURN, PRINCESS ROAD.—Is starting a Day Nursery very shortly. A morning nursery has been most successfully carried on during the past year. There is a Mothers' and Babies' Welcome in connection with the Club. One thousand, two hundred and fifty-six attendances were made during the year, and 103 new babies were brought. There is a War Savings Association. Other features of the Club are: Weekly war talks; Lectures on various subjects; Visits to places of interest, such as Westminster Abbey; Cookery demonstrations; Needlework classes; Weekly soldiers' working party at which many Treasure Bags have been made for the local V.A.D. Hospital. This Club won the Banner for Unison Singing at the Musical Competitions.

KILBURN (UNION JACK), NETHERWOOD STREET.—Has a Nursery School which is doing well. The children have a fully qualified teacher, who was a pupil of the Maria Grey Training College. Students from that college give help in the mornings and use the school as a training ground. A grant has been given to further its work.

MILE END.—Is working a Communal Kitchen in connection with the Club.

NORTH LAMBETH.—Has a Thrift Club doing well, with many members, several of whom have War Savings Certificates. The members have organised entertainments to wounded soldiers, teas being provided by the members, who practised a week of self-denial in order to do this.

BRITANNIA CLUB, NOTTING HILL.—Has started a library. During the summer the Club meets at the houses of various members, who act as hostesses in turn.

PADDINGTON.—A Club Savings Bank has been turned into a War Savings Association.

STEPNEY.—A Mothers' Welcome and Babies' Clinic are run in connection with the Club.

TOTTENHAM.—A most successful canteen is run in connection with munition works near by. There was a great want of this. Has given an excellent entertainment at Hoxton, and another to wounded soldiers by their own choir members. Won the Challenge Shield at the recent Musical Competition.

#### SUBSCRIBERS TO THE LEAGUE.

Balfour, Miss  
Barttelot, Mrs.  
Beeton, Miss  
Breeks, Mrs.  
Bull, The Rt. Hon. Sir William,  
M.P.  
Burns, Miss Gwynneth  
Du Cane, Lady  
Codrington, Lady  
Colville, The Lady Adelaide  
Deedes, Mrs.  
Derby, The Countess of  
Dreyer, Mrs.  
Duncan, Miss Margaret  
Eady, Lady  
French, The Viscountess  
French, Miss  
Goodrich, Lady  
Grant, Lady  
Grant, Miss

Harman, Mrs.  
Higginbottom, F. J., Esq.  
Hunter, Lady  
Jellicoe, The Viscountess  
Lloyd Jones, Mrs.  
Kimber, Sir Henry, Bart.  
Kinnaird, The Hon. Emily  
Leslie, R. Murray, Esq., M.D.  
Lucas, Mrs. Arthur  
Mackenzie, Mrs. Muir  
Madden, Lady  
Meers, Mrs.  
Robertson, Lady  
Sandhurst, The Viscountess  
Tryon, Lady  
Tudor, Lady  
Warrender, The Lady Maud  
Watson, Mrs. Hugh  
Williams, Miss Alice

#### DONORS TO THE LEAGUE.

Balfour, Miss  
Breeks, Mrs.  
Burns, Miss Gwynneth  
Edith Cavell Red Cross Society  
Colville, The Lady Adelaide  
Cross, Mr. Shaw (20 per cent.  
Proceeds of Guildford Flag  
Day)  
Dawson, Sir Trevor  
Deedes, Mrs.  
Derby, The Countess of  
Dreyer, Mrs.  
d'Eyncourt, Miss E. T.  
Eyres-Monsell, Mrs.  
Fisher, Mrs.  
Fowke, Lady  
Gair, G. H., Esq.  
Gould, Miss  
Grant, Lady

Head, Lady  
Howard, Miss N.  
Hughes, Mrs.  
Jellicoe, The Viscountess  
Leslie, R. Murray, Esq., M.D.  
Madden, Lady  
Morley, Mrs.  
Pirrie, The Lady  
Robertson, Lady  
Roberts, Lt.-Col., M.B.  
Smiley, Lady  
Stephens, Mrs.  
Major-Gen. Sir A. Turner  
Mrs. Telleyer  
Watson, Mrs. Hugh  
Williams, Mrs. Varco  
West Norwood Club, The Com-  
mittee of the



# THE WOMEN'S UNITED SERVICES LEAGUE.

## BALANCE SHEET.

*For the Year ended 31st May, 1918.*

LIABILITIES.					ASSETS.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
Sundry Creditors ...				51	5	0	By Amount paid in advance		4	19	0
Balance, June 1st, 1917 ...	285	19	11				Stock of Badges in hand...		3	6	9
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ending May 31st, 1918 ... ..	1,972	5	5				Treasury Bills ... ..	978	8	3	
				2258	5	4	Cash at Bank on Deposit Account ... ..	800	0	0	
							Cash at Bank on Current Account ... ..	522	16	4	
				<u>2,309</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>1,322</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>4</u>	
								<u>£2,309</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	

We have audited the above Balance Sheet. We have obtained all the 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 AND POLLOCK, *Auditors,*  
Chartered Accountants.

10 Old Jewry Chambers, London, E.C.2.  
19th July, 1918.



**PAMPHLET**