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CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE
OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN LONDON,

53, VICTORIA STREET

Telephone : VICTORIA 6397

ANNUAL REPORT

1930-1931

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Pamphlet

AIMS OF THE COUNCIL.

To bring together in helpful co-operation the various statutory and voluntary agencies concerned with the welfare of girls in the metropolitan area.

To keep themselves acquainted with the current provision in London for women and girls in moral danger, to consider the sufficiency of such provision, and to take steps to provide its extension where the need is manifest.

To ensure that the girls of London have the fullest opportunities of developing their spiritual, mental and physical capacities under healthy conditions, so that the influences which work for evil may be effectively defeated.

Present Constitution of the Central Council for the Social Welfare of Girls and Women in London.

REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER PUBLIC AUTHORITIES.

Ministry of Health	2
Home Office	1
Board of Education	1
Ministry of Labour	1
Charity Commission	1
London County Council	6
Corporation of the City of London	1

ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

Society of Medical Officers of Health (Metropolitan Branch) ...	1
National Association of Probation Officers (Metropolitan Branch) ...	1
Joint Council of Juvenile Organisations Committee	1

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.

Archbishops' Advisory Board for Preventive and Rescue Work ...	1
Association for Jewish Youth	1
Bishop of Southwark's Council for Work among Adolescents ...	1
Catholic Girls' Society	1
Catholic Women's League	1
Central Association for Mental Welfare	1
Chelmsford Diocesan Association for Girls' Aid	1
Church Army	1
Dr. Barnardo's Homes	1
Girls' Friendly Society	1
Girl Guides	1
Girls' Guildry	1
Girls' Life Brigade	1
Institute of Hospital Almoners	1
Jewish Association for the Protection of Girls and Women ...	1
London Diocesan Council for Rescue Work	1
London Diocesan Council for Youth	1
London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution	1
London Welsh Friendly Aid Society for Girls	1
Mabys	1
Mothers' Union	1
National Council for the Unmarried Mother and Her Child ...	1
National Vigilance Association	1
National Council of Girls' Clubs	1
Police Court Mission	1
Reformatory and Refuge Union	1
Rescue Society	1
St. Alban's Diocesan Association for Girls' Aid	1
St. Anne's Catholic Settlement	1
Salvation Army	1
Sodality of the Children of Mary	1
Southwark Diocesan Association for Rescue and Preventive Work ...	1
Travellers' Aid Society	1
Women's Council of the National Council of the Evangelical Free Churches	1
West London Mission	1
Young Women's Christian Association	2

WITH ADDITIONAL ELECTED MEMBERS.

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CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE
OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN LONDON,
53, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1.

President :
The VISCOUNT ASTOR.

Vice-Presidents :
The COUNTESS OF IVEAGH, M.P. Mrs. PHILIP SNOWDEN.

Chairman :
Sir OSCAR WARBURG, O.B.E., L.C.C.

Vice-Chairman : The Rev. AUSTIN THOMPSON, M.A.
Hon. Treasurer : Mr. J. S. OXLEY, C.B.E.

Executive Committee
the Hon. Officers *ex-officio* :
Dr. F. BARRIE LAMBERT, C.B.E., L.C.C., D.P.H.
The Hon. Mrs. MICHAEL BEAUMONT.
The Right Rev. Monsignor Provost Brown,
Bishop of Pella.
Mr. S. COHEN.
Commissioner ADELAIDE COX, C.B.E.
Miss EASTON.
Mr. S. W. HARRIS, C.B., C.V.O.
Colonel HARRISON, D.S.O., M.B.
Lady ELEANOR KEANE.
Mrs. MARK KERR.
Miss C. MORRIS.
Miss NEWILL.
Mrs. EDWIN ORDE.
The Rev. W. R. RICE.
Mrs. STAREY.
Sister THORPE.
Miss WAMSLEY, O.B.E.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE
OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN LONDON

THE Central Council is now entering on the tenth year of its work, and the time seems appropriate to restate its aims and to give a brief history of its development.

ORIGIN, PURPOSE AND CONSTITUTION.

The Central Council for the Social Welfare of Girls and Women in London was first established (under the name of Central Council for Rescue and Preventive Work in London) as the result of a Conference held at the Ministry of Health in 1922, its aim being to bring together in helpful co-operation the various statutory and voluntary agencies concerned with rescue and preventive work in the Metropolitan area.

EARLY WORK.

As a first step the Council made and published a comprehensive 50-page Report on all rescue and preventive work carried on in London.

Following up the information thus collected, Conferences were held which drew together all workers in this field. By thus making known the aims and methods of the most progressive and successful organisations, the Council was able to assist materially in the improvement in methods of rescue work, which has been so marked in the last few years.

INQUIRIES AND RESEARCH.

Special inquiries were undertaken into the accommodation available for medical cases, and also into the arrangements for after-care and training when the infectious stage of the illness is past. In co-operation with the London County Council, a scheme has been inaugurated for securing extended care when necessary.

Again, in co-operation with the London County Council and the Medical Research Council, an inquiry was undertaken into the mental status of girls in Rescue Homes.

The data collected show the need for further research, which will be undertaken when funds are available.

PUBLICATIONS.

A Handbook of Residential Clubs and Hostels for professional and working girls was prepared and issued.

The book is in great demand and is now in its fourth edition.

A Survey of Facilities for the Social Welfare of Girls in London was made and printed in 1928. It contains notes of the aims and activities of all Societies which provide such facilities for normal girls.

ENLARGEMENT OF SCOPE AND CHANGE OF NAME.

The ideal which the Central Council has always pursued is to obtain for the girls of London the fullest opportunities of developing their spiritual, mental, and physical capacities under healthy conditions, so that the influences which work for evil should be defeated.

In accordance with this policy the Central Council decided in 1928 to enlarge its scope and to change its name to that which it now bears, and which expresses more accurately its full aims. The Public Authorities and the Societies concerned with the general social welfare of girls were invited to join the Council, which is now fully representative. A list of the constituent bodies is given at the end of this report.

The first problem to be considered by the new Council was the difficulty, familiar to all social workers, of ensuring

that girls coming to London as strangers should get the help and advice they so often need.

The Central Council requested the Home Secretary to convene a Conference in order to consider this matter.

HOME OFFICE CONFERENCE AND COMMITTEE.

The Conference met in July, 1928, and as a result the Home Secretary appointed a Committee (the Girls' Social Welfare Committee) to carry into effect the resolutions passed at the Conference. This Committee made a survey of the existing arrangements for befriending girls coming to work in London, and submitted a report to the Home Secretary, which was approved by him.

The report recommended that a Central Information Bureau for girls should be established. The Central Council was invited to undertake this work, and the London County Council was asked to co-operate, and consented to do so.

CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU.

The Central Council gladly acceded to the request of the Home Secretary, and in the summer of 1929 the Central Information Bureau was established. The work being done has abundantly justified the experiment. Local Authorities and Voluntary Societies in the provinces have been most willing to co-operate in the work by displaying notices of the Bureau in public libraries and other suitable places. As a result the Bureau has had a steady stream of inquiries, and has been able to direct hundreds of girls to hostels and clubs. Since the Bureau does not represent any one society or one Church, but is in touch with all their organisations, no girl need hesitate to come to the Bureau on the ground that it is meant for another class or another creed than her own. Thus the Bureau can, and does, help those girls who, having no link with any society, are most likely to fall into difficulty and danger.

REPORT FOR 1930-31.

NEW OFFICES.

In the autumn of 1930 the Council was obliged to leave its office in Piccadilly, the room being needed by the landlords. The Executive Committee had considerable difficulty in finding any other office, but finally secured two small rooms at 53, Victoria Street.

The new office has the advantage of being in a well-known street, and very accessible, and is proving far more convenient than the old, both for callers and as a centre from which to conduct the general work of the Council.

FINANCE.

The financial position of the Council gives great anxiety to the Committee. The work has been carried on up to the present only by special gifts and substantial guarantees from a few persons specially interested in the Council's aims. The greater part of these guarantees, which were for three years, cease in the current year.

The Trustees of the London Parochial Charities have been good enough each year to give a special donation of £300, without which the work could not have continued. These are special grants, however, given in order to establish the work, and cannot be regarded in any sense as regular income.

Up to the present it has not been possible to obtain more than a few pounds in annual subscriptions, and it is on regular annual subscriptions that any work must be built up if it is to be stable and permanent.

The Committee very earnestly asks all members of the Council, and all others interested in the welfare of girls in London, to give this matter their careful consideration and to endeavour to secure for the Council a body of regular subscribers.

The Committee's anxiety for the immediate future has been relieved by a very kind and welcome promise of £500 from the Pilgrim Trust. The money will be given before the end of the year, and the Committee wish to express their sincere gratitude for this timely help.

The Committee would have wished to invest this sum, and thus make it the nucleus of a permanent income. But this will not be possible, unless a very great deal more money can be obtained in subscriptions.

CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU.

The number of inquiries dealt with during the twelve months following the last General Meeting is 1,360, as against 1,140 during the previous year. About one quarter of these have been names and addresses sent to the Bureau by the National Vigilance Association. Station workers of this Association meet many girls when they arrive in London for the first time, and give them help in reaching their place of employment. The addresses are then sent to the Central Information Bureau, and it is arranged that a local worker in the district to which the girl has gone shall call on her, and assure her that there is some one to whom she can turn in case of need. In the majority of instances the situations to which the girls have gone have been satisfactory, but in many cases the girls have appreciated a visit and have been glad to know of clubs where they may spend their free time and make friends. Mabys workers are good enough to look after any of these girls who are under 18 and are in domestic service. For the other girls various visitors have been found, and the Committee take this opportunity of expressing their gratitude for all assistance given in this matter; more is needed, and the Committee would welcome offers of help from social workers in different districts of London, more especially the outer suburbs.

The Bureau has also co-operated with organisations in the Provinces, whose workers have been interested in girls coming to London, and it has been possible to put such girls into touch with societies and friends willing to give help.

Co-operation with the Employment Exchanges and Registry Offices in London has been maintained and extended, and girls in need of emergency accommodation have been sent to the Bureau. In one case a girl (aged 15) had run away from her home in Gloucestershire without the knowledge of her parents, and had applied to a West End Registry Office for work. The manager telephoned to the Bureau, accommodation for the night was secured, and finally the girl returned to her parents and found work near her home.

There is a constant demand for clubs for girls of all classes. The need for more good clubs in the suburbs, open every night and particularly on Sunday, still remains very urgent. Some inquiries were received for clubs which would welcome lonely girls at Christmas time, and it was possible to find for several girls a club where they could spend Christmas Day happily.

Inquiries have not been only for social clubs, but for rambling, camping and holiday, tennis, badminton, hockey, running, choral and dramatic clubs, and a few requests for educational classes have been made.

An interesting feature of the work has been the increasing number of inquiries from foreign girls, who ask advice about taking up work in London, where to stay, and how to meet girls of their own country. On one occasion a German girl speaking very little English arrived at a London station late in the evening to take a post, and not finding anyone there to meet her, inquired from the police what she should do. The address of the Bureau was given to her, and with the help of the National Vigilance Association difficulties were overcome and the girl was placed safely in her situation.

Advice has often been asked on difficult points regarding sudden dismissal and non-payment of wages, and in this connection the help of the Industrial Law Bureau of the Y.W.C.A. has been invaluable.

The scope of the inquiries, coming from many sources, has been considerably widened during the past year; information has been sought on many different matters, and the names of clubs and hostels have been asked for in many different places: in Birmingham, Stockport and Manchester, and in several parts of Scotland. It has generally been possible through the local Council of Social Service to put the inquirer into touch with those who can meet the need, but it is apparent that similar Bureaux of Information in provincial towns would serve a very useful purpose.

The Committee believe that an efficient clearing house can make more effective the work already carried on for girls in a great city. Many girls have lived in London for months without finding safe and comfortable lodgings or anywhere to spend their leisure but the streets or the pictures. Many girls go back to their lodgings on Saturday

knowing they will have no one to speak to till Monday morning, while, did they but know it, a friendly Hostel or Club may exist in the next street. These things could be obviated by a Central Office if its resources were sufficient to advertise widely and to keep in close touch with all social organisations, both in London and the provinces.

The great difficulty in developing the work of the Bureau is publicity. What is already being done shows both the need for the Bureau and that it can help those who use it, but it could help many more, were it more widely known. The Committee ask for help in this matter from all readers of this report. There are many ways of obtaining publicity; by paragraphs in the local press, Club or Church magazine; by short talks at meetings of workers, or of girls and their parents; and by the distribution of notices and leaflets. The Secretary can always arrange to send a speaker to any meeting; notices for display and for handing to girls who may be coming to London, will gladly be sent to anyone who can make use of them, on receipt of a post card addressed to the Secretary of the Council at 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

CO-OPERATION WITH SOCIETIES IN WALES.

The Welsh Division of the Y.W.C.A. has consulted the Central Council regarding further steps which might be taken in Wales to prevent girls starting to London without making inquiries and securing suitable work before they start. This matter is being discussed with the Y.W.C.A. and the National Vigilance Association with a view to publishing leaflets in Welsh, and taking any other action which may seem desirable.

INFORMATION BUREAUX IN THE PROVINCES.

Two societies in provincial towns invited the Secretary to address a meeting of their members and to give an account of the Central Information Bureau in London. These were the Brighton Council of Social Service and the Birmingham Citizens' Society. In Brighton several other speakers emphasised the need which exists there for some information office, and gave illustrations from their personal experiences. While no special Bureau has yet been opened in these towns the Councils are alive to the needs of girls who come, as strangers, to work there, and are endeavouring

to see that the needs are met. In both towns the Councils are ready to receive the names of any girls going there and to see that they are called upon and introduced to friends.

An inquiry on the same subject has been received from the secretary of the Bristol Civic League.

HOSTEL HANDBOOK.

The Hostel Handbook was reprinted during the year, and many new addresses were added. It is important that all who use the handbook should make sure that they have the last edition, as others are now out of date and misleading. The new book has an orange cover and is marked "1930."

PICNIC LUNCH ROOMS.

The list of these rooms printed by the Central Council has proved very useful. It is interesting to note that the small rooms are on the whole the most popular. Rooms provided in a large Institute take longer to become known and used.

CONFERENCE.

An informal Conference was arranged, to discuss Education and Vocational Training in Rescue Homes, which followed up a Conference on the same subject held a few years ago. The Conference met on May 4th, and was attended by about 120 people. The Reverend Mother Superior of the Community of St. Peter, Horbury, introduced the subject and gave a most interesting account of an experiment in vocational training at St. George's Home, Bourdon Street, where very thorough training in cooking and dressmaking is given by teachers of the London County Council. Girls are received for as short a period as six months, if on probation for that time, and the results of the professional teaching are excellent, both in fitting the pupils to earn good wages in the future and in giving wholesome vigour to life in the Home. The Reverend Mother did not minimise the difficulties; in so short a time training could only be begun, and after-care of the girls when they left the Home was urgently necessary; it was not easy to fit in other duties such as the household work in term time, when so much time was given

to classes; also more financial help was needed as no laundry work was taken in, though orders for needlework were carried out; but she felt that the experiment was abundantly justified. The speaker looked forward to the time when all Training Homes would be run on such lines, and when the money given to support Homes would be sufficient to allow them to train their girls for various suitable trades. At present lack of funds obliges too many Homes to give almost their whole time to laundry work, as this is the only means of getting enough money to keep open.

Miss Macbeth, Head of the Sayer Street London County Council Women's Institute, explained the method of obtaining teachers, and emphasised the fact that teaching in non-vocational as well as vocational subjects was available. She gave some account of the good results of non-vocational classes carried on in a short-time Home in her own district.

Discussion followed, in which representatives of Public Authorities, as well as those engaged in work in Voluntary Homes, took part.

It was suggested at the Conference that another meeting would be useful, to consider what educational help could be secured for Refuges and Homes where girls remained for a few weeks only. The Central Council promised to arrange this as soon as possible.

INQUIRY INTO LODGING ACCOMMODATION.

During the year the Committee have made some inquiries into the various types of lodging accommodation available for women workers in London. A short report has been made, containing some notes on Common Lodging Houses and Emergency and Temporary Accommodation, in addition to an account of the various classes of Hostels and Residential Clubs, Flats and Flatlets.

In making this inquiry the Committee have had the valuable help of Miss Oliver (sometime Head of the Dockland Settlement), and they wish to express here their sincere thanks for her assistance, without which the inquiry could not have been carried out.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR THE SOCIAL WELFARE OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN LONDON

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1930.

Dr.	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Cash at Bankers and in Hand							
1st January, 1930 :—							
At Bankers—							
On Deposit Account ...	100	0	0				
On Current Account ...	20	6	6				
On Entertainment Account	18	16	8				
In Hand—							
Petty Cash ...	3	18	4				
					143	1	6
„ Donations ...	779	18	0				
„ Grant for Office Work undertaken for London Durham Girls' Committee ...	75	0	0				
„ Sale of Literature ...	19	16	9				
„ Interest on Deposit ...	1	3	3				
„ Sale of Office Fittings ...	2	0	0				
„ Entertainment Account :—							
Balance of Proceeds of Matinee, and Special Gift	31	3	8				
					909	1	8
					£1,052	3	2

Alderman's House, Bishopsgate,
London, E.C.2.
18th March, 1931.

	PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Cr.
By Salaries and Insurance ...	689	4	8					
„ Rent of Office and Hire of Room	109	14	8					
„ Printing and Stationery ...	69	16	2					
„ General Purposes, including Telephone, Postage, Travelling and Removal Expenses, etc. ...	62	17	9					
					931	13	3	
„ Cash at Bankers and in Hand, 31st December, 1930 :—								
At Bankers—								12
On Deposit Account ...	50	0	0					
On Current Account ...	63	4	3					
					113	4	3	
In Hand—								
Petty Cash ...	7	5	8					
					120	9	11	
					£1,052	3	2	

Audited and found correct.

BARTON MAYHEW & Co.,
(Chartered Accountants),
Hon. Auditors.

PUBLICATIONS.

GENERAL.

Annual Report of the Council	Free
Handbook of Residential Hostels in London for Professional and Working Girls and Women	1s.
Survey of Social Facilities for Girls and Women in London	1s.

INFORMATION BUREAU.

Leaflet for Girls	Free
Leaflet for Workers	„
Notices for display (small and large)	„
List of Picnic Lunch Rooms per 100	1s.

May be obtained from the Office of the Central Council ;
53, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.
Tel. Victoria 6397

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THE BOTOLPH PRINTING WORKS
GATE STREET, KINGSWAY, W.C.2.