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362.86 (00) Information Bureau

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

53, VICTORIA STREET

Telephone : VICTORIA 6397

WOMEN'S SERVICE

NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

ANNUAL REPORT

1931-1932

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20.6.32.

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.

PICNIC LUNCH ROOMS FOR GIRLS.

Open daily from 12 to 2,
where girls can take their sandwiches and buy tea and coffee at popular prices.

CITY.

- St. Alphage, London Wall.
St. Bride's Institute, Bride Lane, Fleet Street. (*Girls and boys welcomed. Enquire at the Office.*)
St. Dunstan-in-the-East, Idol Lane, Eastcheap.
St. James' Parish Room, Huggin Lane, Queen Victoria Street. (*Y.W.C.A.*) *Temporarily closed.*
St. Mary-at-Hill, Love Lane, Eastcheap.
St. Mary Somerset, Upper Thames Street. *Cheap lunches also served.*
St. Michael's Retreat, 11, Pilgrim Street, Ludgate Hill. *Cheap lunches also served.*
St. Vedast, Foster Lane, Cheapside.

EAST.

Toynbee Hall, Commercial Road.

WEST CENTRAL.

- Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, 2nd Floor. Main Entrance. (*Winter only.*)
St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. *Canteen Fellowship rooms. Down steps on North Side of Church. Cheap lunches also served.*

WEST.

- King's Weigh House, Thomas Street, Oxford Street. *Upper Lounge. (Boys and girls welcomed.)*
St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church, Soho Square. (*Entrance through Church Porch.*)
12, Kingly Street, Regent Street. (*Y.W.C.A.*) *Also Cafeteria.*

SOUTH WEST.

- Bluecoat Fellowship Room, Caxton Street. (*Girls and boys welcomed.*) *Also Cafeteria.*

*These rooms are all available for, and used by, girls of any creed.
No questions are asked.*

This list is published by the

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

53, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1.

Tel.: VICTORIA 6397.

from whom further copies may be obtained.

362-83060421 CGN

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.

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
Church of England Advisory Board for Moral Welfare Work	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
Traveller's Aid Society	1
Wayfarers' Sunday Association	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,

President :

The LADY EMMOTT, J.P.

Vice-Presidents :

The COUNTESS OF IVEAGH, M.P. The VISCOUNT ASTOR.
The VISCOUNTESS SNOWDEN OF ICKORNSHAW.

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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.

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the Hon. Officers *ex-officio* :

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The Hon. Mrs. MICHAEL BEAUMONT.

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Miss BROOKE.

Assistant Secretary :

Miss ISAAC.

53, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.1.

Telephone : VICTORIA 6397.

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

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.

ENQUIRIES AND RESEARCH.

Special Enquiries 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 Enquiry 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.

An Enquiry into Lodging Accommodation for girls and women in London, printed in 1932, comments on Common Lodging Houses and Shelters, Emergency Accommodation, Temporary Accommodation, Hostels, and Flats and Flatlets.

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 beginning of this report.

The first problem 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 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 1931-32.

PRESIDENT.

In 1932 the Central Council had to face the serious task of electing a President to succeed the Viscount Astor.

Lord Astor resigned the office owing to pressure of other work, and because he felt that after ten years a change of President was desirable for the Council.

The Council are most grateful to Lord Astor for all he has done for them since the Council was established in 1922. In accepting his resignation with great regret, they asked him to become a Vice-President, which office he has accepted, thus indicating his continued interest in the aims of the Council and his approval of their methods of work.

The Council have been very fortunate in that the Lady Emmott has accepted their invitation to succeed Lord Astor, and has become the second President of the Council. The Lady Emmott's well-known interest in all that affects the welfare of girls and women, and her wide knowledge of social conditions will further strengthen the Council who under her leadership may hope to continue and develop their useful work.

FINANCE.

During 1931 the Council received several generous special gifts. Their grateful thanks are due to the Trustees of the Pilgrim Trust, who have given £500, half of which sum appears in the accounts for 1931 ; also to the Trustees of the London Parochial Charities who have again made an invaluable donation of £300 ; to the Executors of the late Mr. Robert Boyle for a gift of £100, and to Lord Astor,

Lord Iveagh, and an anonymous donor, for gifts of £100 each.

The Council tender special thanks to the Trustees of the London Parochial Charities for their further donation ; the support which has been given and which they deeply appreciate, has enabled them to carry on their work.

The Appeals Committee of the B.B.C. were good enough to give the Council the opportunity of broadcasting an appeal for funds in December. Mrs. Mark Kerr made the appeal, in response to which £151 was received.

While the Council are very grateful for the substantial help they have received, it is their duty to point out that, where there is no endowment, it is exceedingly difficult to budget for the future, unless part at least of their income is in the form of regular subscriptions which can be definitely relied on to meet future commitments. The special gifts they have received can hardly be anticipated again, and the outlook for the future will be very grave unless more annual subscriptions are received ; the Council trust that those who read the report and realise the useful work which is done, will not let it fail for want of funds. It is the large number of small subscriptions which are needed, and for which the Committee plead.

ENQUIRY INTO LODGING ACCOMMODATION.

This enquiry, begun in 1931, was completed during the year and a report was published in February, 1932.

The report shows clearly (what is not always fully realised), that a great number of girls and women working in London live away from home. Everyone is aware that domestic work is largely done by girls from the provinces, but apart from these posts, London provides more work than can be done by Londoners ; the amount and variety of lodging accommodation provided, and used to overflowing, indicates that the office, the shop, and the work-room are largely staffed by girls whose homes are at a distance.

The various kinds of lodging accommodation now available for girls and women in London were investigated and the Report is divided into sections, dealing with Common Lodging Houses and Shelters, Emergency Accommodation, Temporary Accommodation, Hostels, and Flats and Flatlets.

At the end of the report comment is made on the lack of accommodation of certain kinds and in certain areas. Many districts, for instance, are without adequate provision for temporary and emergency lodging; it is hardly necessary to stress that it is important for girls in any difficulty or danger to be able to find shelter quickly. In bringing such deficiencies to the notice of its constituent bodies, the Council is carrying out the work for which it was founded.

The needs of older women, and women who have ceased work are discussed.

Hostels provided by various Committees and by private companies are considered in some detail. The last chapter is devoted to conclusions and suggestions, and finally, points which deserve consideration when new Hostels are built are set out. The suggestions made include separate bedrooms, however small, a variety of public rooms, so that rooms can be set aside for games, writing, and so on, a small laundry and drying room, rooms which can be hired for private parties, and, in large Hostels, a restaurant where meals can be obtained as they are wanted.

The report contains much information which is of interest to the general public. The price is 1/-.

MOTOR COACH TRAVEL.

The great development in motor transport has brought its attendant problems for those who are concerned with the welfare of girls in London. When all arrivals were by train, it was comparatively easy to ensure that girls travelling alone got any help and advice they needed on arrival. A great deal of work has been done, and still is

done, at railway stations. The National Vigilance Association has workers regularly on duty at the large stations. The Travellers' Aid Society arrange to meet any girl of whose arrival they have been advised. Notices are displayed in waiting rooms giving addresses where girls can get information and help.

There is undoubtedly the same need for meeting motor coaches as for meeting trains, but the difficulties are infinitely greater. At present motor coaches set down their passengers at very many points, often in the open street in front of a booking agent's office, where no waiting room exists. In addition to the difficulty of place, there is the difficulty of time, as the arrival of coaches cannot be timed with the same accuracy as that of trains.

These difficulties may be temporary, as in some areas more organised arrangements for arrival and departure of coaches are being rapidly developed.

The Central Council have felt, however, that it is important to take any steps which may help the present difficulties, and have prepared a list of some large emergency Hostels in various districts of London, which are willing to receive a girl who may be stranded in London at any hour. All these Hostels have night bells. The list is not intended to be exhaustive, but aims at giving an address within reach of the main points of arrival of motor coaches. The addresses have been clearly printed on varnished cards ready for hanging up and have been distributed to the various motor coach companies. The officers of the companies have been very ready to co-operate with the Central Council in this matter, and make use of the facilities for obtaining addresses, to which they can refer girls who may be in difficulties, with safety.

The Central Council are watching developments in the organisation of motor transport in order to take any action which would be useful.

The cards of addresses prepared for display, which measure 10 x 15 inches, may be obtained from the office of the Council, free of charge, by anyone able to make use of them.

CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU.

The enquiries during the past year have been largely concerned with Clubs, and the demand has generally been for Clubs open all the week, with sports and hiking sections, and frequently mixed Clubs of this sort are required. It has been difficult to answer all enquiries very satisfactorily, but in practically every case some suggestion has been made. The need, however, for more good open Clubs, particularly in the outlying and new suburbs of London, remains a very urgent one. The Bureau is doing its utmost to get the fullest possible information of all Clubs which are available, and is also investigating the possibilities of getting new Clubs started.

Several girls wrote to ask for Clubs where they might go on Christmas Day, and a list of parties where they would be welcome was prepared. The Wayfarers' Sunday Association very kindly arranged a special party at St. Peter's Boys' School, near Victoria Station (by kind permission of the Vicar). The experiment was fully justified, and it is evident from the letters received that lonely folk, who have no home circles of their own, greatly appreciate this expression of friendliness and good will at Christmas time.

The work of getting girls visited on their arrival in London has continued steadily. The Mabys Association have undertaken to visit the young girls in domestic service: to Mabys, and to all the other visitors who have looked up older girls, sincere thanks are due. This visiting is not easy work, but the Committee are convinced of its value; proof of this has come to the Bureau many times during the past year.

Co-operation with various organisations in the provinces has continued, and in this way it has been possible to get into touch with many girls who have come to work in London, and not only to help them in an emergency, but by introductions to Clubs, and to a friend in their own neighbourhood, to assist them to settle down happily. Requests for such help have come from workers in Cardiff, Gourock, Houghton-le-Spring (Durham), Lichfield,

Merthyr Tydfil, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Rhondda Valley, Sheffield, Sunderland and Whitby. Requests for information and advice have also been received from Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland and Sierra Leone.

Parents have asked for investigation to be made regarding situations which their daughters proposed to accept, and several times a girl has been prevented from coming to an unsatisfactory situation. In such cases an offer is always made to supply the names of some good registry offices. In these investigations, and in endeavours to trace girls who are lost, or who are already in unsuitable places, the National Vigilance Association has constantly given ready and expert help.

Other enquiries dealt with have included requests for accommodation (permanent and temporary), advice about training and work, educational classes, holidays, financial relief, help for unmarried mothers, legal difficulties, emergencies of various kinds. There have even been applications, which presented some difficulty, from boys seeking introductions to girl friends.

There is urgent need for more publicity. The work done shows that trouble can be avoided if girls know about the Bureau and the help it is ready to give them. Many new enquiries have come through publicity given in the Press during the past year, and more might be done in this direction. Articles or paragraphs in magazines, and papers read by social workers, and also by girls and their parents, help the Bureau to fulfil more effectively the purpose for which it was established.

The number of enquiries received during the year was 1,800, as against 1,360 in the previous year, being an increase of 460.

REPORTS OF THE CONSTITUENT BODIES OF THE COUNCIL.

It is essential to its work for the Information Bureau to maintain the closest possible touch with all those making

provision for the welfare of girls and women. The Committee desire to thank those Societies who have sent regularly to the Office their printed reports and magazines, and have also sent prompt information about new work and changes in arrangements. The Committee ask all members of the Council who represent voluntary societies to help them in this manner.

CONFERENCE.

In the summer an Informal Conference was held to consider education and recreation in Rescue Homes which receive girls for short or interrupted periods.

The conference was largely attended and a useful discussion took place. The speakers pointed out that these Homes were faced with special difficulties. Training Homes, where girls stay for a long time and where the numbers are therefore stable, can obtain, through the L.C.C., excellent trained teachers for their girls. But Refuges and short stay Homes, where a girl may stay for a few days or a few weeks, and Mother and Baby Homes where the stay is interrupted, cannot arrange regular courses of teaching, and anything attempted must be done by the staff, already overtaxed, or by voluntary workers.

All the speakers dwelt on the great importance of making the stay in the Home, however short, of real use and profit to the girls and, in this connection, of the great value of education and organised recreation. In all Homes religious teaching and help is given; the standard of material conditions has improved greatly in recent years, and the girls' health and comfort are well looked after. But much more might be done to rouse their minds and give them intelligent interests and a fresh outlook on life.

The discussion showed that it is not an easy matter to arrive at the best method of attaining this end. The means used must vary with the conditions in individual Homes, but interesting suggestions were put forward.

1. It might be possible to arrange short, self-contained

talks on such subjects as Citizenship, Current Events, or Nature Study. These could only be given by people experienced in holding the attention of girls, but it is work which could well be done by volunteers, and could be undertaken by those who were unable to promise regular help for long periods at a time.

2. Organised games, community singing and simple handicrafts could be very useful indeed, and here the voluntary worker able to give a short time regularly once or twice a week could be of great assistance.

3. Some members of the London Gardens Guild suggested that help and instruction in caring for the gardens of Homes might be useful.

As a result of the Conference, Miss Swaisland, one of the speakers, gave a series of four talks on Citizenship in several Homes, on the lines she had suggested. These proved most successful. It is evident that a very useful experiment is being made, and the Central Council will gladly receive offers of help for this or other work, and will pass them on to the Homes wishing for assistance.

The suggestion of instruction in gardening was eagerly taken up, and the Secretary of the London Gardens Guild had difficulty in responding to all the applications received. This work will, it is hoped, develop further in the coming year.

GATHERING OF FRIENDS AND HELPERS OF THE CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU.

On January 23rd a pleasant gathering took place by the kindness of the President at her house in Ennismore Gardens. Over fifty people accepted Lady Emmott's invitation to meet members of the Executive Committee. The object of the gathering was to make those who were helping in the work of the Central Information Bureau personally

known to the Committee and to each other. After tea there was an informal discussion on the advantages and the difficulties of getting into personal touch with girls who had been recommended to the Central Information Bureau. It was agreed that in spite of the difficulties, the work was both important and re-paying. Various suggestions were put forward about the best method of approach, and the sort of clubs which were most useful to girls in various areas. It was agreed that an opportunity of meeting, and discussing informally points connected with the Central Information Bureau, was valuable as well as very pleasant.

STAFF.

The Council wish to place on record their appreciation of the efficiency, enthusiasm and devotion of the Secretary, Miss Brooke, and the Assistant Secretary, Miss Isaac, which has been of the greatest assistance in the development of the work of the Council.

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.
Enquiry into Lodging Accommodation 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.
“Advice in Emergency” card for display in London (10 in. x 15 in.)	...	...	...	...	Free

May be obtained from the Office of the Central Council :
53, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.
Telephone: VICTORIA 6397.

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