

servants, a large children's service, a Sunday afternoon meeting for women, and many other similar societies for the benefit and upraising of the masses. They co-operated, where possible, with existing agencies, and during the last two years had established branches of the Country Holiday Fund, the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants, &c. They were also represented on the Board of Guardians and Local Relief Committee, and their influence, which was personal and individual, was felt in many other ways.

Then Miss DON, late student of Somerville College, Oxford, later Principal of Aberdare Hall, Cardiff, and author of a child's History of Holland, reviewed the work of the Women's University Settlement, founded by Women's Colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. An excellent paper was next contributed by Miss ETHEL PORTAL, a delegate from the Christian Social Union. She detailed the mode of working the St. Margaret's Home, Bethnal Green, which endeavours to keep in view, as far as possible, the high objects and ideals of the C.S.U. We have not space to give a description of the "Home" now, but we hope, in an early issue, to be able to do so.

THE CARE OF THE AGED POOR

occupied much earnest attention in the afternoon. Lady BLYTHSWOOD presided. She doubted whether any scheme to suit all circumstances could be formulated; but nothing could be done without the sympathetic co-operation of all. She then called upon Miss PAULINE TOWNSEND, for years a fellow worker with Canon and Mrs. BARNETT in their arduous work at St. Jude's Whitechapel, and at Toynbee Hall, to give her opinion on the subject of Voluntary Charitable Effort. She dealt with (1) the causes of old age poverty among the industrious and deserving men and women of large towns, (2) the extent to which voluntary charity could supplement the resources of the aged poor. She showed how, as in the case of the Tower Hamlets Pension Committee, voluntary charity could with advantage be substituted for outdoor relief.

MISS M. C. TABOR, the able coadjutor of Mr. Charles Booth, in several of his statistical researches, particularly in his Old Age Enquiry, then contributed a carefully-written paper on Self-Help and State Aid, in which she showed that while among people from sixteen to sixty years of age, those who required State help through sickness, imbecility, drink, etc., only amounted to 2½ per cent. of the population, above the age of sixty-five 30 per cent. were paupers. This showed that the majority of working people earned enough for present support, though they could not or would not lay by sufficient for old age. "But it goes hard with a man and goes hard with a woman," said she, "to take the bread out the mouths of children to provide for an old age which may never come." State aid to the aged should take the form of regular allowances, to enable them to live among their natural surroundings. Miss TABOR traced pauperism largely to unthrifty habits. The wives should have had a practical education to enable them to spend husband's wages to the best advantage.

HEAD DEACONESS GILMORE, of Rochester, opened the discussion. Miss E. S. Haldane, sister of the eminent politician and Q.C., favoured Mr. Chamberlain's scheme of old age pensions as against that of Mr.

Booth's, for the former, she believed, would not, to any great extent, increase taxation.

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

The promise of a discussion on this subject, from both the point of view of the servant and the mistress, attracted a densely crowded audience, among whom were not a few servants. LADY LAURA RIDDING, wife of the Bishop of Southwell, read the first paper. She attributed the unpopularity of the work to the yearning for new experience which is the note of the day. Mrs. ANGUS, twenty-five years a domestic servant, then gave her opinion of the subject generally, and of mistresses in particular. She was firmly convinced that the life was a better and healthier one than that led by factory and workshop girls who, day after day, "dined" off bread and butter. But the order, "No followers allowed" was an unreasonable hardship. As regards references, girls were always expected to give one; but no guarantee could be obtained beforehand as to the mistress's character. Mrs. ALFRED BOOTH (Liverpool), an American by birth, advised servants who disliked hard work not to emigrate to the States, as they would have to work there a great deal harder than in England. But as to references, the first time she had tried to engage a girl she was questioned very closely before she was given one chance to elicit from the girl references as to her character and ability. Mrs. CREIGHTON, wife of the Bishop of Peterborough, declared that the longing for liberty among servants, and which one or two speakers had seemed to deprecate, was worthy to be fostered. Servants should be allowed to live some part of their lives apart from that of their mistresses.

THE OFFICIAL WORK OF WOMEN

came before the Conference on the morning of the second day. Miss LIDGETT, Poor Law Guardian, St. Pancras, gave a description of the work of administering the Poor Law, and was followed by Miss OGLE MOORE, who read a paper written by Miss JESSIE BOUCHERET, on Inspectors. Miss IRWIN, late Royal Commissioner on Women's Labour, introduced the discussion, and in a few pregnant sentences said that Women should be debarred from no sphere of work from which they have not already been debarred by nature. She strongly advocated the employment of Women Inspectors, as it is far easier for women to state their grievances to their own sex. Among the qualifications necessary for successful work are knowledge of industrial questions, the conditions under which special labour is done, ability to look without prejudice at the points of view of both workers and employers; and, above all, women should possess tact. Miss ROSE SQUIRE also took part in the discussion.

THE STUDENT LIFE OF WOMEN

occupied the attention of the Conference in the afternoon. Miss MAITLAND, Principal of Somerville College, Oxford, read a charming Paper on the subject. She traced the history of Girton and Newnham Colleges, and of Lady Margaret and Somerville Colleges, Oxford. She referred to the development of the halls of residence at Aberystwith, Cardiff and Bangor; to Queen Margaret College, Glasgow; and Masson Hall, Edinburgh. She then referred to the advantages of life in halls of residence, in its effect

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