

## SOCIAL SERVICE.

### BRISTOL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR WOMEN PATROLS AND POLICE.

One of the many branches of social service to which women have turned their attention during the war, and a most useful one, is that of Women Patrols and Police, and to meet the need of those who wish for instruction in the duties connected with this work a Training School has been established in Bristol, the Metropolis of the West, under a very representative Committee, of which Mrs. Burrow Hill, Oakhurst, Leigh Woods, is Chairman.

The object of the School is to find promising women and to test their fitness for Patrol and Police work before passing them on to such posts as Patrol Leaders, Paid or Super Patrols, Munition Police and Patrols, Railway Police, and Police-women in Borough Forces. The course of training lasts for three months and great pains are taken to render it thorough in every way. Twenty-three women have already been placed, four as police-women as members of the City Police Force, in Bath and Coventry; three as Patrol Leaders, in Portsmouth, Ryde and Trowbridge; five as Super Patrols in Weston-super-Mare, Taunton, and Clevedon; thirteen as Munition Policewomen in various factories, under the Explosives Department, and one as Munitions Patrol in Admiralty Cordite Works.

It is interesting to know that the women in training include nurses and midwives. It is found that about ten per cent. of those who apply are suitable for training. During the process of transforming them into Policewomen or Patrols they are not put into uniform, but wear a plain blue or black coat, skirt, hat, and white gloves, and the squad of recruits on the drill ground soon puts on an air of smartness and efficiency.

The scheme of training is as follows:—

*First Month.*—Report daily at school. Visits to Police Courts under the charge of an officer. Evening patrolling of city and outlying districts. Practice in the art of report writing, and study of first-aid, drill, and elementary criminal law.

*Second Month.*—Work as voluntary helpers in Offices of Civic League, including experience in case-investigation, in the home and social conditions of the working classes, and in the powers and duties of the various Public Authorities and

Voluntary Organisations. Attendance at School for drill, Patrol duty and occasional classes.

*Third Month.*—Practical experience in another town under Patrol Leader, as probationary Super-Patrol, or Munitions Policewoman, so that each recruit may have as varied and thorough an experience as possible before receiving a training certificate and taking a post.

The School also acts as an information bureau and sends its officers to address meetings in regard to the work in all parts of the country.



"ON DUTY."

Voluntary patrols reporting to their leader.

One of the most encouraging facts in the work is the increasing appreciation by the public of the work of women in connection with Police Forces.

It is found that the presence of the Women Patrols on their beats is an assistance in safeguarding wholesome recreation, and promoting a higher standard of self-control, boisterous behaviour is checked, and chance acquaintanceship relinquished.

An instance is given of a night on Brandon Hill. The Patrols on duty heard a scream and found a woman on the ground with a man belabouring

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