

poultry, and attending to the flower and vegetable gardens, which is all they are capable of getting through. All the young offenders are transferred to other institutions, which leaves only short-sentenced and elderly women who are physically unable to do much work. Two evenings a week and every other Sunday afternoon ladies come out from town and sing to the inmates and teach them to sing. The music has quite improved the inmates' general conduct, and they look forward to the entertainments. The Official Visitors and a few chosen ladies have kindly given high teas on holidays, entertained the inmates generally, and in this way have made friends with them. When an inmate is discharged and in a situation, as many as three ladies will take an interest in her and take it in turn to meet her on her afternoon off, and in this way keep her in her situation, which otherwise she would leave. The women appear to appreciate the kindness shown them, and if they do fall again their conduct in the prison is much improved. Only four women have refused help, and have no desire to do better. Official Visitors and friends have kept the institution well supplied with magazines, books, and papers. The religious services are held by the Rev. Canon Bean, Rev. Revell, and the Salvation Army. The Roman Catholic sisters come every Sunday, and the priest visits once a month, so that all inmates attend a service every Sunday.

*Point Halswell Reformatory.* There were in custody at the beginning of the year 20 inmates. During the year 74 were received and 54 discharged or transferred to other institutions. The health of the inmates has been good. All rations and medicines supplied of good quality.

We have had in the institution during the past year a baby belonging to one of the inmates. He has been no trouble or bother to us, never having had a day's sickness. He is much loved and will be greatly missed when his mother takes him away.

The usual work goes on in the garden, the dairy, and the institution. There is much work to be done, and many improvements still needed, but to any one who only visits us once or twice a year they can see many changes, and they realize better than we do how much has really been done to improve the grounds and garden.

There is a new wing in course of erection, containing twenty bedrooms, a large day-room, kitchen, hospital, church, and administrative quarters. The Department provided transport for all clergymen, Official Visitors, and the Visiting Justice, also for all those who entertained the inmates to Christmas cheer.

During the year the west ward has been gazetted a "State Reformatory Home," with accommodation for fifteen inmates. This division is given over wholly to the girls, and is kept strictly apart from the prison section. Here the girls enjoy a life quite different from that lived by the inmates of the prison. We have made the conditions as pleasant and as bright as possible, and try to make the girls feel it is a "home" they are living in, not an institution.

With the opening of the home section a general dining-room was started, and dinner is served to the girls at 5.30 p.m. Two girls are detailed to attend to all the requirements of the table. As the dining-table is provided with everything necessary in the way of table appointments, the laying of the table, and all the work the dining-room entails, is a training for the girls in that branch of domestic work.

The girls are out in the recreation-room every evening until 8 p.m., and in the evenings we make use of the wireless set until 9 p.m.

Three evenings a week we have school, conducted by a member of the staff, and there is a marked improvement in the girls' writing. There was much room for improvement, especially with the girls who came from the industrial school, their writing and spelling being exceptionally bad.

One evening a week is devoted to fancy-work and another to plain sewing and mending. Two or three of the girls are very good knitters and crocheters. It is noticeable that perhaps the girl who is very dull and backward at school can copy from a book the most intricate pattern in knitting and crochet. Yet if she were asked to spell a simple word she could not do so. It is a pity that a girl who could earn her living at work of this sort is doomed to domestic work as a means of livelihood (work which perhaps she dislikes) because nobody will come forward to take charge of such a girl on her release and help her to find the work congenial to her.

Each girl makes an outfit for herself prior to release. What one cannot do another can, and with help from the staff and one another the girls return to the world with a well-stocked wardrobe. They buy most of the material out of their earnings, and as a member of the staff does the shopping for them the money is wisely spent.

The girls in the home section wear a different style of dress to those in the reformatory. We have got quite away from the old order of things. At present they are wearing neat checked gingham frocks and white shoes. Most of the girls are employed on outside work in the garden, dairy, or the care of pigs and poultry. On coming in from work the girls change their frocks and get ready for dinner at 5.30 p.m. To them this is the event of the day, and it hurts very much when they are taken from the dining-room as a punishment.

It is not all work with the girls in the evenings, as they have a piano, gramophone, and games to help while away what would be, without these, some very dull hours. The piano especially has been a godsend.

A wireless set has been installed for the benefit of the girls, and great pleasure is derived from the use of it. The whole cost of the outfit was donated by the Women Prisoners' Welfare Group.

Before closing my report I would like to express to you the appreciation of the staff and myself for your consideration in providing a motor-car for our use to and from the city. One needs to live here to realize how much the car means to us.