

other. If turned away from immoral girls and houses, they are quite content to go to some other form of amusement. The male police, both civil and military, are only too willing and anxious to leave the dealing of such cases with the police women. The difficulty has been to prove to the police authorities in command of military and civil police that there is no physical danger to the police women, provided they are in uniform, are properly trained, and patrol in couples. —There has never once during the last four years been any occasion on which physical force was necessary, nor have the police women suffered any kind of physical violence.

The following extract is from the report of another police woman working round the Eagle Hut:—

"On Thursday evening two policemen came up to me and said, 'You're wanted up the road, Miss.' I said, 'What is the matter?' They replied, 'A Canadian soldier out for trouble.' I said, 'Very well, I will come at once.' The soldier was proceeding to make himself popular by attempting to fight anyone and anything, including the lamp-post. I got him away and safely in the hut and to bed. The policemen told me quite frankly they do not care to have any dealing with these men, adding, 'We would much rather you dealt with them, Miss.'"

This brings me to the last subject. I find that one's methods in dealing with these military and naval men must be rather different from the methods adopted with civilians. Most of these men, particularly the last draft, are very rough, untutored backwoodsmen, genuine wild-west types. It would be very easy to speedily cause a disturbance. These men are quite unused to restraint of any kind, are very excitable, and easily heated. The only argument they seem to understand is with their fists or a gun.

No two men can be dealt with alike, and in some cases speaking officially is rather like talking Chinese to a very small child. I apply the method that appears to me the wisest one for each case, and hope you will approve. It is, I know, particularly desirable that we should never create a disturbance, or call upon the policemen. So far I have kept clear of either. But if there is any special system you wish carried out, I will do my best to obey.

Some of the men have been here a long time, and lose no opportunity of bringing their incoming friends up to "Sister," the Australian name for us. I have sometimes allowed a small liberty, such as the purchase of a flag on flag-days. This gives them great pleasure, and I afterwards return the flag or flower to be re-sold. It is only in this way I find that one's influence holds, and it is a general topic of conversation in the Hut, "We don't want any Redcaps" (military police).

I have put this, dear sir, at some length, as I am anxious you should know just how the work is going. They are a very big proposition, these men, especially in drink, but I feel that we are steadily gaining ground.

If the different organisations responsible for the control of the overseas troops would entrust us with the training and supplying of police women, I am confident that a very great change would speedily be noted in the state of the streets and the conditions of the soldiers who frequent them. We do not claim to work miracles, but we do exercise a very large influence and control, and it does not seem to me necessary to wait for official wheels, which turn slowly, to make an official appointment.

I am also sending you a copy of the first report we ever issued of our work. In this report you will see the testimonial which was given us by General Hamersley, then commanding the 11th Division at Grantham in the early days of the war. It is a testimonial we value very much, as we were then earning our spurs amid much scepticism and optimism. I would beg you to show this to your General.—I remain, yours very truly,

(Sgd.) N. DAMER DAWSON,
Commandant, W.P.S.

The ladies went and tried in the streets of London, and their work exceeded expectations. The following tribute was received from General Richardson, and also from Y.M.C.A. Secretaries, who had means of knowing what was done:—

(Copy.)

Headquarters, N.Z.E.F.,

31, Bloomsbury Square, W.C. 1,

March 30th, 1918.

Dear Mrs McHugh,—I am very pleased with the results of your work, which have far exceeded my expectations. If only one man per week can be saved, your efforts would be justified. I would rather spend £1000 on moral methods of dealing

with the V.D. than £1 on preventive methods; but, unfortunately, we have to adopt both methods. However, your efforts are most valuable, and have my entire support, but I think you should work under Mr Hughes, Y.M.C.A., although you may co-operate with any other organisation.

Wishing you continued success.—
Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) GEO. S. RICHARDSON,

Brig.-General.

Eagle Hut, Y.M.C.A.,

Strand, London, W.C. 1.

Miss Ballantyne, 26, Upper Bedford Place, W.C., 1.

Dear Miss Ballantyne,—Some days ago you were talking with me regarding the Women Police Service. They have been rendering service to Eagle Hut during the past six weeks, and have been doing excellent work. They have been instrumental in keeping objectionable women away from the immediate vicinity of the Hut, and many soldiers under the influence of liquor have been brought to us and saved from the hands of those who prey upon them.

The women of the corps are women of refinement and ability, and following our month's trial of the work, have decided unanimously to continue their service. We very heartily commend their work to other Huts.—
Sincerely yours,

W. F. LANGDON (per M.W.),
General Secretary.

(Copy.)

INTERNATIONAL Y.M.C.A. HOSPITALITY LEAGUE.

18, Charing Cross Road,

London, W.C. 2,

March 28th, 1918.

Dear Mrs McHugh,—With reference to our recent conversations on the proposal for you and Miss Ballantine to devote your time to work among New Zealand boys on leave in London, I wish to assure you, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the above League, that we are not only interested in the scheme, but heartily enthusiastic in wishing to support you.

We have agreed with the N.Z.C.A. that should your General so desire it, we are willing for you both to work under our auspices, and we will help you in every way possible. We are proposing to the various Associations which we represent that they also should enlist the services of lady workers like yourselves, and that we should organise a definite department of women street patrols.