

# The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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## POLICE WOMEN.

"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."

So the poet sang, and generations of bishops, teachers, preachers, statesmen, husbands and fathers have echoed the strain. But during all the time these same gentlemen have taken the greatest of care, that the one right the "hand that rocks the cradle" should not have, was the right to rule the world or any part of it. Nay more; when earnest women claimed the right to legislate for their children's safety; the right to exercise their talents as doctors, lawyers, etc., to earn a living for these children the right to a share in the guardianship of their own children; the right to follow them out into the world, and as City Councillors, members of School Boards, Jurors, Magistrates M.P's, to still guard them, no one opposed these rights more than the aforesaid gentlemen.

Recognition of these rights is being won, but very slowly won, especially in some departments, notably the Department of Police, Prisons and Justice. Very insistent has been the demand for women police, jurors and magistrates in this Dominion; yet, even in progressive New Zealand, the Act establishing children's courts provides for a male magistrate to preside. Even the children cannot be left to be dealt with by women.

Women police have been appointed in U.S.A., Great Britain and other parts, and everywhere their work has been well and favourably reported upon.

During the war period in England, in September 1914, women police volun-

teers were organised by Miss Nina Boyle, with Miss Damer Dawson as chief officer. The first woman patrol organiser began work in October 1914, and in November two uniformed police volunteers started work, authorised by the Provost Marshall and Chief Constable. In 1915 Miss Damer Dawson started the women police service, and Hull appointed two policewomen.



Two Members of Women Police Force.

In 1916 a provision in the Police, Factories Act enabled the pay of a whole time policewoman in England to be chargeable to police funds. In the two

years which followed, the women police service supplied 985 trained women to police factory areas. These women were paid by the Minister of Munitions, but trained by the Women Police Service, who also provided their uniforms.

In December, 1918, the Metropolitan policewomen patrols were inaugurated. In 1920 the Home Office appointed a Committee to report upon the employment of women police. The report stated that "in thickly populated areas . . . there is not only scope but urgent need for the employment of women police."

During Zeppelin raids women police were on duty, and remained at their posts when all others were seeking cover.

The work of the official police-woman is largely preventive. Miss Damer Dawson says: "It is in addition. It is work that a male constable has never done. It is not done unless a woman does it." The Metropolitan Policewomen had their cycle corps, who went about over their area. Often would they stop to pick up a lost child and take it to safety.

## DUTIES OF WOMEN POLICE.

1. Attempted suicide of women or girls.
2. Taking depositions from women and children in cases of indecent or criminal assault.
3. Charges of loitering, soliciting, etc., brought against prostitutes.
4. Conveying women offenders to and from prison.
5. Cases where women are apprehended by the police and have to take