

Girls and Khaki

Some Practical Measures of Protection for Young Women in Time of War

This article is based upon an institute conducted at the New York School of Philanthropy by Maude E. Miner, chairman of the War Department's Committee on the Protection of Girls. The institute aimed specifically to train experienced women to be protective officers in cities and towns near military cantonments and camps. Following it, the article written by Winthrop D. Lane, of the SURVEY staff, aims to outline a definite program for both communities and workers.¹

A FEW weeks ago a neighborhood association in New York city gave a dance for members of the National Guard and men drafted to serve in the new army. Care was taken to invite enough girls to equal the attendance of men. To the dismay of those who gave the party, the men of the draft army spent the evening in corners and along the walls, while the guardsmen received all the smiles, dances and promises of knitted sweaters. The guardsmen were, of course, clad in their trim suits of khaki, while the men of the draft army wore only civilian clothes. Such is the glamour of the uniform.

This glamour today is felt everywhere. It is causing flutters of emotion in thousands of feminine hearts ordinarily calm and impassive. Doubtless there are strong minds, like that of Madame Necker, who can gaze all evening at generals in their spangles without even a quickening of the pulse, but these seem to be the exceptions. A soldier's uniform has an appeal far stronger than that of a policeman's, elevator boy's and that of the pompous official who will not let you see your mayor until you have taken several oaths and sworn to an affidavit. It suggests fighting, and the defense of one's home and country. Each wearer is a possible hero. He is going to see strange lands and may do brave things. The newspapers tell glowing stories about him, and the public reveals an attitude of praise and respect that is contagious. What he wants is acknowledged to be more important than what other men want, so that kindness to him becomes a sort of patriotism. Withal, he is a bright, mesmeric figure in the dull texture of our lives and quickly touches the romantic sentiments and thoughts of girls.

To counteract the effect of this glamour is one of the most pressing tasks thrust upon us by the war. To see how pressing this task is, it is only necessary to visit the cities and towns near the places where soldiers are assembled in camps and cantonments today. It is to these cities that the soldiers go for amusement in their hours off duty. When you visit such a town, walk along the streets and count the couples of khaki-clad escorts and their companions; enter the movies, and see how many you find there; stand on a busy corner and watch the meetings between soldiers and girls who have never seen each other before; go to the dance halls and ask the proprietors how many men from the encampment patronize their places and what results from it; visit the localities where secret

meetings can most easily occur, and see what you find there.

But do not stop at this. Take a trolley to the town's amusement park, if it has one. Skip the well-lighted parts and visit the outskirts, where darkness or semi-darkness is a shield to conduct. You will find these regions alive with men in uniform accompanied by girls.

Now go back to the town and ask a taxi-driver how business is. If he is loquacious, he will tell you that it is thriving. He will tell you of trips to lonely places with girls and soldiers, and how remunerative such trips are. This is one of the forms of clandestine love-making that has become most popular since the war. The soldier cannot pay a high taxi charge, but he does not have to. The driver makes the price low in the hope of getting one or two rich "fares" in the course of an evening; a slightly intoxicated man is often good for a neat sum. The banishment of all "houses" from the camp zones partly accounts for the increase in this traffic.

Now go out to the camp itself. Spend a day in its vicinity. If it has a stockade, walk or ride around the outside of the stockade at dusk and in the early evening. You may see nothing. Much will depend upon the openness of the surrounding territory and the strictness of camp discipline. If the camp is surrounded by woods, you will be very likely to see soldiers accompanied by girls approaching or going away from the camp in large numbers.

These things will give you material for thought. The social hygiene problem created by this war is not a problem of commercialized prostitution. Segregated districts, disorderly houses and professional women have been very largely removed from the cities and towns near our training camps. It is a problem of the individual soldier and the individual girl—the man cut away from his ordinary amusements and social life, the girl responding to the unusual and romantic glamour of the uniform.

It is a widespread as well as a pressing problem. There are a million and a half men in training or soon to be in training in the United States. Troops for the new army are being trained in sixteen different cantonments. As many concentration camps exist for the National Guard. These thirty-two places are scattered through twenty-three states; they have from a few to fifty thousand men superimposed over night on the community's recreational and amusement resources. In addition, there are fourteen reserve officers' training camps, twelve aero training stations, and sixty-five naval stations and marine barracks. All these are exclusive of the 183 posts and stations of the regular army and of the camps where new increments will be formed for the regular army. Almost every part of every state has, on a larger or smaller scale, its task of protecting girls from the excitement and thoughtlessness produced by the emotions of war playing upon the emotions of sex.²

¹ The lectures were given by the following specialists in the various subjects discussed: Maude E. Miner; Mrs. Henry Moscovitz, chairman of the Committee on Aliens of the Mayor's Committee of Women on National Defense, New York city; Stella A. Miner, chairman of the Committee on Protection of Girls of the Mayor's Committee of Women, New York city; Arthur W. Towne, superintendent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Brooklyn; Orin G. Baker, secretary of the Travelers' Aid Society, New York city; Mrs. James Cushman, chairman, War Work Council of the Y. W. C. A.; Mabelle Blake, secretary Boston Society for the Care of Girls; Rowland Haynes, field secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America; Frederick H. Whitin, secretary of the Committee of Fourteen, New York city; James Smith, assistant district attorney, New York city; William Dean Embree, attorney, New York city; Dr. Anne T. Bingham, physician and mental examiner of the New York Probation and Protective Association, and Katherine B. Davis, chairman of the Parole Commission, New York city.

² A list of the army and national guard camps will be furnished on request by the War Department and a map of the United States showing their location has been published by the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

Rumors exaggerate the evil. Some of these have been run down and found to have a very small basis in fact. Early in the war a story was spread that fifty girls were pregnant in the vicinity of an eastern aviation camp. The tale was traced to a woman who denied ever having made such a statement, and no evidence of its truth could be found. Similar stories of other camps have gained wide circulation. Some of these grew by repetition until they became ludicrous; soldiers were declared to have become fathers in large numbers in spite of the fact that they had been away from home for only a few months.

Every interruption to normal life in a community is the occasion for false rumor. Each earthquake or flood is magnified in the early reports until the death toll is many times greater than the actual number killed. Of course, the danger is real enough to justify elaborate precautions, but the psychology of irresponsible gossip has made it greater than the facts yet warrant.

The task is essentially two-fold. It centers around its two main characters—the soldier and the girl. The one must be supplied with normal, interesting and wholesome amusement and relationships inside and outside the camp, the other must be protected against the unusual stimulus to her emotions, and must be given vivid interests that will occupy her time and at the same time be an expression of her patriotic spirit.

Nearly everyone knows something of what is being done for the men in camp by the War Department's Commission on Training Camp Activities, of which Raymond B. Fosdick is chairman. Joseph Lee described important features of this work in the SURVEY for October 6. Less has been published about the Committee on Protective Work for Girls of which Maude E. Miner, secretary of the New York Probation and Protective Association, is chairman and which consists of Martha P. Falconer, of Philadelphia; Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., of New York; Mrs. James Cushman, chairman of the War Work Council of the Y. W. C. A., New York, and Mrs. William Dummer, of Chicago.

This committee, the office of which is at 130 East 22 street, New York city, aims to secure increased facilities for the protection and care of girls in cities and towns near which camps are located. Its representatives have already visited many of these places and are visiting others. They are investigating local conditions and holding conferences with local agencies that can be of service, with local judges, chiefs of police, sheriffs, probation officers and the military police at the camps. The committee is trying to educate communities to the need of protecting their girls, and to assist them in organizing effective methods for doing so. It aims to work through existing agencies; instead of assuming responsibility itself for the things that ought to be done, it hopes to stimulate local groups to do these things. Only in this way can there be any permanent gain to the consciousness of a community that its social and civic life needs constant scrutiny in the interests of its young men and women.

Policewomen as Prevention Officers

ONE of the greatest needs of the city or town frequented by soldiers in their leisure hours is one or more sympathetic, experienced women with police powers to patrol the streets, discover conditions that need correcting, supervise amusement places, aid in locating runaway girls, follow and warn young girls who are in danger, assist in the enforcement of law and befriend girls whose home life does not give them guidance and protection of the right sort.

Every camp community ought to have a girls' protective bureau for this purpose. There should be a director in charge

of the bureau with two or more women protective officers under her. The bureau should be under the regular police department or under a volunteer committee. All the towns in the vicinity of a camp may well join to create a single bureau, and the number of protective officers will depend upon the number and size of the cities and the size of the camp. In addition to the paid protective officers, there should be volunteer patrols to supplement their work.

Scouting in Advance of Trouble

THE kind of scouting activity which these officers should do is well illustrated by the following incidents taken from the report of a protective officer in an eastern city:

I noticed two young girls with a civilian and two sailors near an armory sitting on a step under the fire-escape at _____ theater, which is closed for the summer. A vacant house is next to the theater. The girls were acting in a manner to draw the attention of passersby. I watched them for some time. Then the civilian left and went up the stairway into the vacant house. He was soon followed by one of the soldiers, who in turn was followed by one of the girls. Then both the other girl and the second soldier went up the stairway. They soon disappeared, and I followed. I found the girls standing close against the wall, clasped tightly in the boys' arms in the darkness.

They all had a stunned look when I called the girls aside, and the boys insisted that I "had nothing on them," but stepped outside. The girls' faces were scarlet, and they willingly and quickly gave me names and addresses which I knew were fictitious. They said the soldier was a cousin, and they had come to tell him goodby. On cross questioning, they became so confused that they denied half they had told me. At this juncture, one of the soldiers came in and begged me to please let it drop, that it wouldn't happen again. I told him the girls had been lying to me and I was going home with them to get the truth, unless they told me. He advised them to tell me; said he was not related to them, had only known them three days ("pick-ups"), but he didn't want any trouble. The girl who had done all the talking then gave me another name, which I knew was also not true. I said, "I will go home with you girls and get the truth. I won't believe you unless these boys step outside, and then verify it." They broke down then, and told me as follows:

The leader, Helen White—17 years old last June—has been an orphan for nine years, and lives with an aunt and an older sister, at — East _____ street. The aunt does work by the day—washing, etc. Helen works at _____ store, and they were on their way home from work. The other girl, Esther McGuinness, — East _____ street, is 17, works at _____'s in the underwear department, and attends the Catholic church on _____ street. Helen is a Protestant, and does not attend church. Both girls begged that they should not be reported at home. The soldiers also pleaded. When I appealed to their chivalry, they said, "We will try—but we are only human." I sent the girls home. They need to be interested in something.

At ten minutes of eleven I saw a small girl walk in front of the armory. She spoke to the guard and then went on. The guard looked at the other soldiers there, said something, then walked rapidly toward the girl, whistled, and she stopped. He walked up and spoke. She turned, walked back to steps at end of armory and sat down in the shadow. I called her and started home with her. She lied at first, but finally said she was Mabel Clark, 15 years old last April, though she registered as 16. She lives at 561 _____ street with her mother, a widow, and her brother, a truck driver. Mabel works at the _____ Glass Company, and is not up to standard in mentality. At first, she insisted she had never been there before, then said it was the third time, and finally, that she had told her mother she was out for a walk and that she knew she had sat there twice before. She says she was confirmed in _____ Episcopal Church last Sunday. I sent her home and told her not to go to the armory again. This child needs attention.

The protective officer does not try to make a record of arrests. She is interested in preventing crime and helping girls and, of course, has no ground for an arrest unless law has been violated. Her personal work with girls should be somewhat of the nature of constructive case work. She should learn what she can of the girl's habits, tastes, work and home life. She should interview the parents and assure their interest in their child's welfare. Close cooperation with a juvenile protective association or other organization dealing with girls should be established. Many girls may be referred to patriotic leagues and other girls' clubs.

Protective officers will be surprised to learn how often they can establish sympathetic relations with the soldier, sailor, or civilian, who has been responsible for the trouble or temptation confronting girls. Often before she has ceased talking to him, he becomes ashamed of the part he has played. "If there were more women like you doing this sort of thing," said a sailor to one protective officer, "it would be better for the girls, and better for us sailors, too." "If the mayor is doing this," another remarked enthusiastically, upon being told that the officer was working for the mayor's committee of women in an eastern city, "I'm going to vote for him."

How to Get Clean Amusement

THE protective officer can be of great assistance in keeping the commercial amusements of a town clean and wholesome, though this task ought not to be left entirely to her. The path of the soldier on his furlough leads straight to amusement resorts. He seeks out the dance-hall, the cabaret, the burlesque show and all the other forms of profitable entertainment waiting to welcome him. The proprietors of such places are out for business. They are perfectly willing to run clean places if they can make as much money that way. To them the soldier is an opportunity for profit, and they will do all they can to make their places attractive to him. Moral results must contend with business advantage in their philosophy. If obscene burlesque shows, suggestive cabarets and loose dances pay better, that is what will be provided unless the community takes a hand and prevents.

The job of securing wholesome amusement in a town is not a new one. It is intensified today by the concentration of a great many young men in one neighborhood. One way of improving existing places is by law enforcement; another by the effect of public opinion. If good laws are not now in effect they ought to be passed. The community should see to it that each of its public amusement places is required to obtain a license, and that an officer is stationed at the door to keep order. The mayor should be the licensing authority, and the license should be revoked when the place is not properly run.

In Cleveland, whose dance halls are models for the country to copy, young police recruits are stationed at the doors of the halls; the record of order which they succeed in making determines in part whether they are given commissions. Liquor, of course, should be eliminated from the dancing room. This is a difficult undertaking, for the sale of liquor is the dance-hall's greatest asset. Here again Cleveland has set a good example which some other cities have followed; although she has not been able to prohibit altogether, she has forced the bar to be moved to another floor of the building in which the hall is located. The regulation proscribing the selling of liquor to a man in uniform is, of course, of great assistance in this matter.

A coarse burlesque show may have a tremendous effect upon the standards of a young recruit, especially one fresh from the country. The women in the show seem to him full of flash and snap. He wants the girl that he goes out with to be as snappy. If the men attend such a show one night and then are thrown with strange girls the next day there is likely to be trouble. The girls are anxious to please the men and shape their conduct accordingly.

Volunteer supervision can be made an effective way of influencing proprietors, especially in communities where law enforcement habitually lags. A proprietor instinctively straightens up when he knows that he is being watched. The best procedure is to organize a committee of respected citizens whose members will visit places of amusement every

night. Let them give the managers to understand that they will use their influence to boycott undesirable places. They can do this by spreading word among mothers in churches and clubs and among girls in young people's societies. Often they can express their approval or disapproval through the local newspapers, and this is a powerful weapon. They ought to encourage the good managers, and get business for them, not merely take the negative attitude of censuring the bad. A smart manager welcomes this sort of help because he can use it in his advertising.

The girl herself can be appealed to also. She it is who often sets the tone of the amusement resort, especially the dance-hall. An appeal to her vanity will sometimes persuade her that decent dressing and dancing make her more attractive to her partner. Exhibitions of good dancing are effective ways of setting the standards for dance halls. Young girls of fifteen to eighteen years of age should be kept out of public dance halls. They should be guided to some other form of amusement. Prevention is often a matter of not giving the opportunity.

The moving picture may be almost as demoralizing as the coarse burlesque show. This is not likely to be true in cities where only pictures passed by the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures are shown, but a good many cities get other pictures. The Affiliated Committees for Better Films, with headquarters at 70 Fifth avenue, New York city, will cooperate with communities in securing better pictures. In Beloit, Wis., a city ordinance gives the mayor power to have any picture exhibited to him before it is publicly shown, and he may prohibit it if he sees fit. A committee of women have secured from him the privilege of viewing any advertised film that they are suspicious of, and recommending whether it shall be suppressed. Wilkes Barre, Pa., depends very largely on appeals to the managers of the motion picture theaters. A committee of women make it a practice to drop in at the theaters two or three times a week, and let the managers know that they are ready to help them get business if only good pictures are shown.

Girls Organized to Help Girls

IN NEARLY every community it is possible to organize girls into groups with the two-fold purpose of keeping their minds and time occupied and of enabling them to be of service to others. The Y. W. C. A. is organizing patriotic leagues in many cities near camps, and these leagues give dances, hold club meetings, enroll girls in Red Cross classes and home economics clubs, and aim in many ways to appeal to the normal wholesome desires of young girls. There is no limitation of race or creed upon the girls who may join. In some communities this work is being done by other organizations; in Massachusetts the Women's Patriotic League Committee is doing it.

In organizing such groups too much cannot be done to get girls to help girls. A young girl was found selling pinks on a street corner in an eastern city. She was fifteen years old and very attractive. A worker of the Patriotic League Committee asked her why she was selling pinks, and she said she belonged to a "rosebud club" that was trying to help an institution for the blind. The institution declared it had never heard of the rosebud club. Nevertheless, the girl and two friends had actually given themselves that name and were eager to be of service in some way. They were making a great deal of money, having taken in over \$100 on July 4.

The worker gained the confidence of the girl and discovered that she and her companions had been accosted many times by men, some of them soldiers, who had offered the girls money

if they would go with them. The girls were distressed over this and wanted to know if there wasn't some way in which they could help to prevent such occurrences. The worker suggested that they and their friends form a club. So fifteen of them formed a protective league, which has since grown and now investigates conditions in the city and reports on those that are a source of danger to other girls.

Another girl, in the same city, went for a stroll one evening in a public park. A policeman, thinking she was there for an immoral purpose, took her name and address and then insisted upon taking her home. Her parents believed that she had done wrong and punished her by shutting her up in a room by herself. The girl had gone out only for amusement. Her experience, however, gave her something to think about, and when a worker suggested that she form a club among her friends as a protection to girls, she readily accepted the idea and is now the leader of a group of girls in that town who have already done a great deal to improve conditions.

In enforcing the law the protective officer can again be of assistance, though hers is only part of the responsibility. A community should see to it, first, that its laws for the protection of girls are adequate. Those respecting the licensing and control of amusement places are important. There should be an ordinance providing for the lighting of parks and streets, and for sufficient police protection in outlying districts. The method of dealing with girls and women in the courts should be improved, if necessary; probation officers should be attached to the court and a matron placed in charge of girls at the jail.

It is also extremely important to have a house of detention separate from the jail for the confinement of girls below sixteen or eighteen years of age. The age of consent, which is ten years in some states, should be raised to eighteen, and laws regarding abduction and criminal assault made adequate.

When girls are found violating the law they should be taken into custody by either a protective or a police officer. Effort should be made to win the confidence of the girl, and if a man has committed criminal assault, or any other crime against her she should be induced, if possible, to tell the truth about him. The man should be forthwith reported to the proper authorities. Whether these will be the civil authorities or the military authorities at the camp will depend upon local conditions, and upon which is more likely to take effective action; there is no law taking offenses of this sort by soldiers out of the hands of the civil authorities.

Some Points of Law to Remember

PROTECTIVE officers should not be content, however, merely to report the man. They should follow the case up and see that justice is administered. For this reason all who are concerned in shielding girls from the dangers incident to the proximity of training camps should early establish cordial relations with the law-enforcing authorities. Cooperation with them is essential to an aggressive policy of protection. It is also wise to get in touch with the central authorities, the attorney-general of the state, the United States district attorneys, and the Department of Justice at Washington. A good effect is often produced on officials who know that they are being watched. A panic has sometimes been created in the office of a local official by the mere knowledge that a letter from Washington has been received by some one who is watching him.

There are certain things about the machinery of justice, the laws and the elementary rules of evidence that ought to be known by those who expect to have a part in law enforcement. A talk with a competent lawyer is the best way to

learn these. A few general principles and facts, however, may be set down.

One of these is the meaning of the white slave traffic law, called the Mann act. This is a federal law, and prosecution under it is, of course, in the hands of United States district attorneys. The law provides that whoever transports in interstate commerce a woman or girl for the purpose of prostitution, or for any other immoral purpose, is guilty of a felony. Transportation within the meaning of this statute may be by railway, by steamship or by any other conveyance. The United States Supreme Court has held (*Caminetti vs. The People*, 242 U. S. 470-Jan. 15, 1917) that there need be no commercial element involved in the immoral purpose for which the girl was transported. Not all prosecuting officials accept this decision in practice, but anyone who wants to bring a prosecution under this act in such a case has the distinguished authority of the United States Supreme Court back of him.

Another legal fact of importance is that a man may be guilty of rape in the second degree without using force to accomplish his end. This offense is called "carnal knowledge" in some states. The provision concerning it is the most liberal of all provisions to protect young girls; it protects them even against themselves. The girl may invite the act, she may even falsely tell her male companion that she is over eighteen (the age varies in different states) and may substantiate her statement with a false birth certificate; all this makes no difference. The man acts at his peril, and if the girl turns out to be actually under eighteen he is guilty of rape within the meaning of the law. Rape in the first degree is, of course, an act against the woman's will or an act where the woman, by reason of mental or physical weakness, cannot offer resistance, or where she is under the influence of a drug.

Seduction is prevailing upon a woman to commit sexual intercourse under promise of marriage. Prosecuting officials put up the red flag of caution when this law is invoked, because there are so many elements that have to be proved and because under it so many women bring false charges seeking revenge. There must be a definite and unconditional promise of marriage, the woman must be unmarried and of previous chaste character, and she must have relied upon the promise at the time of the seduction. If the promise is made after the act it has no value.

Abduction is committed by anyone who "takes, harbors or uses a female under eighteen years of age for the purpose of prostitution, or, not being her husband, for the purpose of sexual intercourse, or, without the consent of her parents, for the purpose of marriage." This crime can often be detected and punished before the girl has actually been injured and protective officers may well be on the lookout for it.

A law that has been used in many states in recent years is the abatement and injunction act. This declares that any place in which prostitution is conducted is a nuisance and that the district attorney of a county or any taxpayer in the neighborhood may bring an action perpetually to enjoin such nuisance. It has been made a very effective weapon in some states and could be made a still more effective one.

There are certain rules of evidence that have almost the force of law. One of these relates to corroboration and amounts to this: that no conviction in sexual crimes can be had upon the testimony of a woman unless this is supported by other evidence. In New York this is a legal requirement; it is a practical necessity everywhere when you appear before a magistrate or jury to ask for a conviction. There must be something besides the testimony of the girl to set against the denial of the man. This need not always be another witness; anything that will commend itself to a reasonable person as substantial corroborating testimony is usually sufficient. If the man and woman are found in a rooming house, for example, and the landlady testifies that they came as man and wife, that is usually enough. Another kind of corroboration is an admission from the accused person of the fact in issue. This need not be a conscious admission of guilt, but may be a fragmentary statement thrown into a conversation about another matter, a sentence in a letter, or a remark to a third person.

In obtaining confessions of guilt it is important to remember that the confession must not be secured by putting the accused in fear or by means of threats. In such case it will not be received in evidence. A confession obtained by an agreement with the prosecuting officer that the individual will not be prosecuted cannot be used against him. Confessions are often easier to obtain than one imagines. They need not be obtained in any formal way, may be either oral or written and may be made to any intelligent person.

A rule of very practical importance for persons in investigative work is that which permits one to "refresh" his memory on the witness stand. If you take the stand some months after a thing happened and your memory of details is not clear, the court will allow you to refer to your memoranda or notes jotted down at the time and to use these in giving your testimony. It is important, therefore, to make your notes with care. They should be dated and there should be some indication how long after your actual observation you wrote them.

Nearly everyone understands that hearsay evidence is not admissible. You cannot go on the stand and say that you heard John Smith say that he saw the defendant act so and so. Perhaps John Smith would not make such a statement if he were on the witness stand and under oath. Hearsay evidence lacks responsibility.

A practical suggestion of value to investigators is the disadvantage of acting too quickly. Many cases are lost through over-haste. This must not be interpreted to mean that one should wait until a crime has been committed and a girl ruined before interfering; it is better to lose the chance of prosecuting than to do that. But when the object is the actual detection of a person in the act of violating the law for the purpose of prosecution and punishment you will have to prolong your observation until the overt acts come within the provisions of the law. Another point in procedure is the value of prompt and persistent questioning of the accused. This is a legitimate form of the third degree. Confessions are frequently obtained in the last few minutes of a long, hard interview. You are perfectly justified in staying on the job until your persistence and moral strength overcome the persistence and moral strength of the person suspected of crime.

Many cities and counties fail to comply with a law in many states requiring that children under sixteen or eighteen years of age be held apart from the jail. If the county or city does not make provision for this during the war emergency, some volunteer committee or agency ought to do it. The associations and environment of the typical jail are bad for young girls. A house of detention should be established for them, and this should receive both city and county charges. To rent, equip and support such a house for the first year usually costs about \$5,000. Whenever it is possible to utilize some existing home as a house of detention, this should be done without establishing a new institution. In addition to such a house it is advisable to have also one or more emergency rooms reserved in a boarding house or private home, for girls who have not committed crime and merely need temporary shelter and care.

An illustration of the need for such rooms is afforded by the experience of two girls, sixteen and nineteen years old, who were arrested in an eastern camp city in July. These girls had run away from a small town in Vermont and had come to the camp city in search of work. They said they had lost their pocketbooks, though they had probably spent their money, and slept two nights on the banks of Lake Champlain. A policeman arrested them on the charge of vagrancy, and they spent four nights in jail. What this meant to the future and outlook of these girls can only be imagined. They were guiltless of any crime and should have been provided for in some friendly and sympathetic way. When a visiting worker found them, she discovered that no one except the police authorities knew they were in jail. She arranged for them to be taken to a club for young women which agreed to keep them until word was received from their homes, or until their mothers came for them.

Organizations That Will Help

CERTAIN aspects of law enforcement are being handled by the Commission on Training Camp Activities. This commission is undertaking the suppression of vice and the sale of alcohol to soldiers, in accordance with sections 12 and 13 of the military draft law. It has a representative in the vicinity of every national army and national guard camp who is expected to carry on continuous investigations. The work of these representatives is checked by supervisors for given districts who also control the work in the smaller specialized camps. The machinery for gathering information includes also the field men of the Department of Justice, the intelligence department of the army, the local provost guards, and the staffs of such organizations as the National American Social

Hygiene Association, the Committee of Fourteen of New York, the Committee of Fifteen of Chicago, the Watch and Ward Society of New England, and the Bureau of Social Hygiene of New York.

The commission declares in a report just issued that "red light districts" have been closed in the following cities: Deming, N. M.; El Paso, Waco, San Antonio, Fort Worth and Houston, Texas; Hattiesburg, Miss.; Spartanburg, S. C.; Norfolk and Petersburg, Va.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Alexandria, La.; Savannah, Ga.; Charleston, Columbia and Greenville, S. C.; Douglas, Ariz.; Louisville, Ky.; and Montgomery, Ala. New Orleans passed an ordinance which was expected to wipe out its district November 15. A number of cities in which no districts were formally tolerated have, at the instance of the commission, abolished their open houses of prostitution.

In addition, the laws against vice have been strengthened in many cities at the suggestion of the commission's representatives, and the machinery for the enforcement of those laws has been geared up to a higher notch of efficiency. In California and Arkansas, State Military Welfare Commissions have been appointed by the governors, and executive secretaries have been appointed to carry on the work of vice repression.

Five Points for a Community Program

THE program for each community may be recapitulated thus:

1. The creation of a girls' protective bureau with a director and women protective officers with police power under her. The salary of the director should be from \$1,500 to \$1,800, of the officers \$1,200. If the city will not pay these salaries some volunteer organization should. Volunteer patrols should be appointed in addition to the officers. The bureau should do the following kinds of work:

- a. Scouting and patrol work.
- b. Supervision of amusement places.
- c. Personal work with girls.
- d. Aid in law enforcement.

2. The securing of a house of detention for girls separate from the jail, and, in some places, of another place where girls not suspected of crime can be sheltered temporarily.

3. The appointment of a woman probation officer to learn the truth about and befriend girls arrested and brought to the courts.

4. The securing of improved laws, ordinances and regulations for the protection of girls.

5. Promoting educational work through lectures in churches, public schools, parents' associations, etc., and the stimulating of group and club work for girls.

In most cities it is recommended also that a sub-committee on protection of girls be appointed by the local committee on camp activities; in some cities it will be found advisable for a committee or board to be appointed by the mayor to help in creating the protective bureau, in establishing a house of detention and in securing the appointment of a probation officer. This committee could seek also to carry on the above program and to secure additional facilities.

In addition to aiding in working out this program, the Committee on Protection of Girls is planning to carry on a wide educational propaganda by means of printed leaflets, lectures to mothers, conferences with camp officials, collection of data regarding character and extent of delinquency among girls in camp cities, and lectures to men whose cooperation is sought. The committee is training women to be protective officers and has sent a number of experienced workers to camp cities to fill positions; it expects to send more. Its aim is not alone to fill an emergency need, but to promote the intelligent handling of girls by every agency coming into contact with them, in the hope that this policy may be incorporated into the thinking and permanent practice of every community.