

Help Save the Babies With Good Food and Care



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Better Babies in the United States

Clearing House for Women in War Work is Established in New York

"What can I do to help win the war?" This has been the question of the great army of unoccupied women, eager to give their services in some patriotic work. There are women of wealth who have never busied themselves with club or other up-to-date activities; there are young girls who used to fritter away their time in idleness or useless occupations; there are matrons who have considerable time left over from their household duties. All have been fired with a desire to do something useful.

During the first years of the war the relief committees of belligerent nations had branches here and, with the assistance of sympathetic Americans, were able to accomplish a great deal without much organization. When we entered the war we began assembling workers in the same haphazard fashion. But as the needs began to multiply and our people came to realize more clearly what the war meant, the number of volunteer workers began to increase and the necessity of some system for putting them where they would be of the greatest service became very pressing.

Realizing this need, the committee of women on National Defense of 4 East Thirty-ninth street, New York City, has added the clearing house for war work volunteers to its other activities. With the co-operation of other patriotic committees this organization has been able already to place several hundred workers. Through Miss Judith Bernays, secretary of the clearing house, volunteers have been provided to act as hostesses at dances for soldiers and sailors, clerks on draft boards, workers in community kitchens, and helpers in other activities.

The National League for Women's Service, the committee on women's war work of Columbia university, the council of Jewish women and Hunter college have for some time maintained registration bureaus for volunteer workers, but until the clearing house was organized there was no direct means of placing the registrants. The clearing house now applies to these bureaus for workers when an appeal comes from an organization in need of them. The Women's University club, the American women's hospital, "Life as a Fine Art" club, elementary teachers of home economics, and other women's clubs have also been appealed to when some special work was to be done. All these organizations have responded actively to calls and have done their best to send their members or those registered with them to the places where volunteers were most needed.

Professional Standards.
The establishment of professional standards in volunteer service is one aim of the women's committee, for it is contended that, unless standards are established, the clearing house through which organizations may obtain volunteer workers and volunteer workers may find work, cannot be of real value. In order to establish these standards a wartime training course for volunteer social workers was arranged under the supervision of Herbert N. Shelton, instructor of sociology at Columbus university. In addition to lectures it also included weekly tours to various types of social agencies and musical institutions contributing to social relief; assigned readings, original problems, written examinations, and 150 hours of field work at some state, municipal or private institution. Members graduating satisfactorily from this course are placed in active volunteer service by Miss Virginia Newcomb, executive secretary of the Columbia committee of women's war work.

Welfare Work.
A field in which a minimum of training is needed is social welfare. Volunteers are required to act as hostesses at the dances for soldiers which are constantly given under the auspices of

the standing committee on social welfare. This standing committee also employs women protective officers for the purpose of maintaining a high moral standard among girls. There is constant need for volunteers to visit the homes of girls who have been interviewed by the protective officers and report on conditions. An interesting field of work for which the clearing house has been called upon to furnish volunteers is the Americanization of the foreign population in New York City. An attempt is being made to reach these men and women in the places where they work and to enlist, at the same time, the full co-operation of their employers in the campaign. Boys and girls are taught especially the meaning of liberty and democracy and the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

These are but a few of the activities that the clearing house is helping to make possible; in fact, more than 150 organizations have signed their willingness to co-operate with the committee. For the next few weeks the clearing house will center its interest on the Liberty loan drive, the number of volunteers needed for the drive being unlimited. They are to provide speakers in many languages, social workers for public meetings, club meetings and rest hours in trades; girls to canvass for the sale of bonds from house to house, and workers in booths at hotels, shops, stations, parks and theaters. The booths will be handled in three shifts. Several thousand workers will be required for the four weeks' drive.

Standards for Women In War Industry

The woman's committee of the National Council of Defense has recently adopted as its standards for women in industry those issued by the ordinance department of the army. The "ordinance standards," as given in a summary of recommendations to arsenal commanders and other employers, provide:

1. Hours of labor.—Existing legal standards should be rigidly maintained, and even where the law permits a 9 or 10 hour day, efforts should be made to restrict the work of women to 8 hours.
2. Prohibition of night work.—The employment of women on night shifts should be avoided as a necessary protection, morally and physically.
3. Rest periods.—No women should be employed for a longer period than four and a half hours without a break for a meal, and a recess of 10 minutes should be allowed in the middle of each working period.
4. Time for meals.—At least 30 minutes should be allowed for a meal, and this time should be lengthened to 45 minutes or an hour if working day exceeds eight hours.
5. Place for meals.—Meals should not be eaten in the workrooms.
6. Saturdays half holidays.—The Saturday half holiday should be considered an absolute essential for women under all conditions.
7. Seats.—For women who sit at their work, seats with backs should be provided, unless the occupation renders this impossible. For women who stand at work, seats should be



available and their use permitted at regular intervals.

8. Lifting weights.—No woman should be required to lift repeatedly more than 25 pounds in any single load.

9. Replacement of men by women.—When it is necessary to employ women on work hitherto done by men, care should be taken to make sure that the task is adapted to the strength of women. The standards of wages hitherto prevailing for men in the process should not be lowered where women render equivalent service. The hours for women engaged in such processes should, of course, not be longer than those formerly worked by men.

10. Tenement-house work.—No work shall be given out to be done in rooms used for living purposes or in rooms directly connected with living rooms.

Catholic "War Drive" Goes Over the Top

The recently completed Roman Catholic war drive of the New York archdiocese for a fund of \$2,500,000 to "help the government win the war" finished with total receipts of more than \$4,000,000. His eminence, Cardinal Fairly, was the active head of the campaign, assisted by the clergy and the prominent laymen and women. Each Roman Catholic member of the community felt the success of this drive as a personal responsibility. "Contributions came from hundreds of thousands of Protestants and Jews, who gave generously. Prejudice was broken down, better understanding begotten, and all worked together as fellow citizens."

Varied War Activities of Interior Department Women

Important work connected directly or indirectly with the war is being carried on by the women of the United States Department of the Interior.

In the geological survey Miss Eleanor F. Bliss, who is the daughter of General Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff, is engaged on field investigations of chromite deposits in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Mrs. Katherine M. Cook, in the bureau of education, part author of the "Battle Line of Democracy," issued by the committee on public information, is at present preparing one of a series of war lessons for American schools. Mrs. Henrietta W. Calvin and Miss Carrie Alberta Lyford, in the same bureau, are specialists in home economics and authors of various pamphlets to home economics teachers, directing them in their work for the war. They are also doing their active field work in behalf of food conservation and relief measures.

Miss Almira M. Winchester is special collaborator in kindergarten practice and is engaged in advising kindergarten teachers in their work for war. Miss Ellen C. Lombard, special collaborator in home education in the bureau of education, is engaged in the preparation of reading courses, particularly courses in history and biography, for the purpose of inculcating patriotism.

Miss Helen C. McGown of the bureau of mines is acting chairman of the Red Cross committee of the de-

partment and has organized the work of making layettes for the French and Belgian refugee babies.

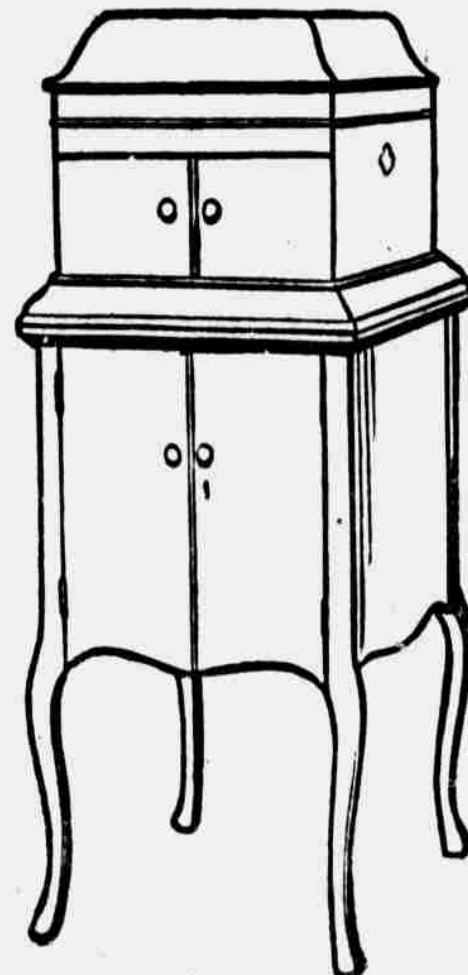
Miss Lillie Chenoweth is supervising and directing the members of the Continental chapter of the Daughters

of the American Revolution in the furnishing of knitted things and clothes for the refugee women and children of France and Belgium.

Dr. Kate B. Karpeles of Washing-

ton, D. C., and Dr. Frances E. Haines of Chicago are the first women physicians to be sent abroad as contract surgeons. They are to be given relative rank of first lieutenants in the army.

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