

# WOMANKIND

## WOMEN WHO BREAK THE LAWS

### Lenient Methods Give Them Opportunities for Reform—The Workhouse Receives Only Hardened Offenders and Those for Whom No Other Disposition Can Be Found.

Except among those especially interested, there is general ignorance as to local methods of dealing with women criminals and the provisions for their care. The indifference is almost impervious and is chiefly responsible for the ignorance in a general way the public knows that there are many women arrested, chiefly for drunkenness, vagrancy or crimes against morals, occasionally varied by crimes of violence.

The central police station, to which all women prisoners are taken as soon as possible, is in an obscure place and its message could not be less known to the women of the community if elaborate efforts had been made to conceal its whereabouts and machinery. There is no such intention, however, and, while morbid curiosity always receives well deserved condemnation, it would be a good thing if thoughtful persons paid more attention to the disposition of those who come under the jurisdiction of the police department. If those of humanitarian sympathies knew more about the execution of justice it would be easier to find those ready and willing to help those who have made mistakes, when they show a desire to reform. A well informed public sentiment would be a rock of support for all efforts for the improvement of methods of dealing with criminals, especially those who are not yet hardened offenders.

#### Laws Administered Leniently.

The surprising discovery made in an inquiry into the ways of administering justice is not the severity in the application of the law of the land, but the leniency. The figures of a recent police department report showed that but 15 per cent of those arrested were women. While it is undoubtedly true that, either through circumstances or innate moral superiority or both, fewer women become violators of the law, there is no such actual disparity as this percentage shows would indicate. As a matter of fact women are shielded, especially before they become known to the police as notorious offenders. It is asserted by those familiar with court proceedings, that it requires much stronger evidence to make out a case against a woman than a man. Knowing this to be the case, patrolmen are influenced by it, and hesitate to arrest a young girl, when a boy would be promptly taken in charge under similar circumstances. The officers themselves sympathize with warning the young girls standing in dangerous places, or perhaps take them home and administering the scolding to the parents or friends if any are found.

#### The Woman Under Arrest.

However, for the purposes of this article, suppose the patrolman has concluded that forbearance has ceased to be a virtue or has caught a young woman in some situation unmistakably warranting her arrest. Now what becomes of her? She is taken to the central station and a charge entered upon the "blotter." She is then turned over to Matron Schaefer and taken upstairs to the women's cell room. Before being locked up, she is searched, and anything with which she might injure herself, including hat pins, is taken from her.

The lockup, located on an alley in the center of a downtown block, is completely surrounded by high buildings, and gets little light under the most favorable circumstances, and the volumes of smoke that roll around the building make the continual struggle against dirt an unusually hopeless one. In spite of this fact, the station is scrupulously well kept throughout. The cell room for women has about twenty cells, in each of which two prisoners can be placed, although it is rarely necessary to do this. The beds are moss mattresses, placed up upon narrow shelves, one above the other. The mattresses are covered with denim ticks which are taken off and washed every time the cells are used, and a contrivance is vacated it is given a thorough scrubbing with soap and lye, and the entire room, including the walls, receive the same treatment once a week, whether the cells have been used or not. A warm blanket is provided as a cover, and, although the bed is not luxurious, it is clean and comfortable. Several stationary bowls, soap, clean towels, and a mirror provide the means for making a proper toilet before appearing in court.

Breakfast is provided for all the prisoners in the morning, and they are taken into court. This consists of bread and cold-boiled ham, which is now prepared at the station under the direction of the matron. This method has been found more satisfactory and more economical than the former one of having the meals brought in.

#### Fines or the Workhouse.

The proceedings of the municipal court are better known than the other chapters in the criminal grind and the only important matter of inquiry is the disposition made of the cases, although their trial is a drama of never-falling interest to the student of human nature. A considerable number of the cases are dismissed, often with a warning. In most of the remaining cases, sentence is suspended, when these are paid, the offenders go free. If it appears, however, in the case of a first offender that she or her friends are unable to pay a fine or there seems to be extenuating circumstances, sentence is suspended, if the girl has a home to go to or has friends who will agree to take care of her. Only on a showing that she has really vicious tendencies or that there seems to be no place for her, is a young girl, in ordinary cases, sent to the workhouse for her first offense. As a matter of fact, few women with any friends or any apparent prospects of reform are sent there.

A few of the cases pass on to the consideration of the grand jury. The last annual report of the sentences showed that 113 were to the workhouse, ten to the county jail and nine to the state training school. Of those sent to the workhouse, a number are released before the expiration of their terms by the payment of their fines by friends or by suspension of sentence in case better provision can be made for them.

In imposing punishment the judges have to choose between those three institutions, according to the facts and the circumstances. The training school alone is reformatory in character, but as the sentence usually means a long stay, it is seldom resorted to except with the full consent of parents or guardians. There are certain reformatory institutions that are willing and ready to take charge of

parents carried out fully and well, for the prisoners, men and women, are well cared for and kept employed at useful labor during their terms. The buildings and grounds are attractive and well kept, even in winter. A farm gives opportunity for employing a number of prisoners in the open air, and it brings in a considerable revenue. The care of both prisoners and farm rests on Superintendent John Hagman, who willingly extends every courtesy to visitors. One of the interesting spots about the place is the greenhouse, in which the plants for decorating the grounds and raising early vegetables are being started. The matron is Mrs. Laura Stubergh, whose capability is evident in the well-ordered affairs of her department, and who takes a real interest in the welfare of her charges.

#### Women Show Workhouse.

It will be seen that by some method the female population of the workhouse is usually kept down to hardened offenders who show no willingness to reform. The number of women prisoners is never large at any time.

It is a matter of comment that, while men often seek to be sentenced to the workhouse, and some of them live there pretty steadily, women offenders have a marked aversion for workhouse sentences. A visit to that institution reveals no obvious reason for such a feeling, the only one suggested being laziness. The women are obliged to work, but the hours are not long and the appliances make the work moderate. The principal occupation of the women prisoners is laundering and sewing. All of this work for the institution is done by the prisoners. As the sentences are usually short, there is little time in which to teach the women anything, but the few who have long sentences and then who come back frequently, help to keep up the efficiency of the work. A ninety-day sentence enables a woman to learn laundry work quite satisfactorily, if she has any disposition to learn or use her knowledge after she has learned.

On the occasion of a recent visit, there was among the inmates one expert laundress whose many terms at the workhouse had given her excellent training, industrially but had not conquered the appetite for drink which was responsible for her nearly continuous residence at the institution. Another young girl was an excellent shirt maker and she was engaged in replenishing the stock of those garments needed for the institution. All of the new garments are cut by the matron as there is seldom any one in the workroom capable of doing that work.

The sewing and laundry work is all done in one room, which is the living room of the inmates. Adjoining this is the store room where the sewing materials and finished garments are kept and the renovated clothing which the prisoners wear on arrival. As soon as this clothing has been removed, the prisoner is given a bath and clean clothing, which consists of cotton flannel underwear, ticking pincettes and cap dresses. Her own clothes are thoroughly steamed to disinfect them and washed or cleaned and put in order, ready for use when she is discharged. Occasionally a prisoner arrives in such a frightful condition that her clothing has to be burned. Sometimes, too, in cleaning her person, heroic measure have to be taken. The hair of one woman seen there had been clipped close to the scalp by the doctor's direction, in order to banish vermin so that she should not be a danger to the other prisoners.

#### Comfortable, Busy, Quiet Life.

The women are kept apart as much as possible, being forbidden to communicate with each other and being under the matron's eye almost continually, except when in their rooms. Especial pains are taken to make this isolation complete, if by chance a young girl is an inmate. The quarters of the women are kept spotlessly clean and are very comfortable, even cheerful in winter, although doubtless they are too warm in summer. Unless the institution is crowded, each prisoner has a small room to herself, the cleanliness of which makes it really quite attractive. The women never leave their quarters except for religious services and are closely secured, although their quarters have not much of the prison aspect. The matron has a room on the hall with the prisoners and there is no talking even at night. Reading matter is provided and reading is permitted during unoccupied hours.

The kitchen at the workhouse is a large and interesting place where the work is done by men. The diet is abundant and nutritious, but, as there is little variety, it doubtless becomes rather monotonous. The menu for supper and breakfast is about the same, always, and includes mashed potatoes, bread and syrup and coffee; for dinner there are always mashed potatoes and tea, while pork and beans and corned beef are served on alternate days. Raw onions are on the tables at every meal. The dishes used are tin and nearly all are manufactured at the institution.

The purposes of the workhouse are ap-

parently carried out fully and well, for the prisoners, men and women, are well cared for and kept employed at useful labor during their terms. The buildings and grounds are attractive and well kept, even in winter. A farm gives opportunity for employing a number of prisoners in the open air, and it brings in a considerable revenue. The care of both prisoners and farm rests on Superintendent John Hagman, who willingly extends every courtesy to visitors. One of the interesting spots about the place is the greenhouse, in which the plants for decorating the grounds and raising early vegetables are being started. The matron is Mrs. Laura Stubergh, whose capability is evident in the well-ordered affairs of her department, and who takes a real interest in the welfare of her charges.

The prisoners are not without religious ministrations, and it is interesting to note that, although attendance at services is voluntary, about two-thirds attend the weekly meetings held on Sunday afternoon under the auspices of the Christian Workers' Mission, led by W. A. Petran, and Thursday evening by the Christian Scientists of whom a large company usually goes out. The latter services have the largest attendance and create the most interest as a rule. Other organizations hold occasional meetings or send representatives out to see prisoners in whom they have become interested, and the arrangements for the release of prisoners or to provide for them at the expiration of their terms are frequently made by some of these Christian agencies. —Martha Scott Anderson.

## LAUDABLE AMBITIONS OF A WATERVILLE CLUB

### Organized For Town Improvement, It Will Promote Everything That Will Conduce to Health and Beauty in the Town.

A town improvement club has been organized in Waterville, Minn., officers elected and constitution and by-laws adopted. The club is what its name purports—a club for the improvement of the town in every way.

The officers are as follows: Albert J. Kanne, president; Mrs. F. C. Gibbs, vice-president; Mrs. F. C. Gibbs, secretary; T. Leon Everett, treasurer.

The club starts in with a membership of one hundred. A constitution and by-laws were formally adopted and an execu-

the annual meeting of the gallant old First Minnesota regiment, to be held here in June. The club will ever extend a welcome hand to the stranger coming there in quest of a home, looking for a place to invest or establish an industry. Its efforts, however, will be directed principally towards improving the appearance of the town, keeping the lake shores clean, having the weeds mown on vacant lots, by-streets and alleys, etc.

Many of the members of the club are home owners, and special efforts will be



A. J. KANNE, President Waterville Town Improvement Club.



MRS. F. C. GIBBS, Secretary Waterville Town Improvement Club.

made to beautify and adorn their own home surroundings and others will be urged to do likewise. The matter of sidewalks and street frontage will come in for special attention. The council will be asked to keep the walks in good repair and establish drinking fountains for man and beast in several places in the city. In fact it is the purpose of the club to promote and encourage everything that will add to the healthfulness, comfort and beauty of the town. In the noble and unselfish efforts the club has the encouragement and good will of all, and hopes by well-directed efforts to accomplish much in these and other lines not yet fully prepared for. Strangers wishing to obtain information relative to the town will find the worthy secretary willing to enlighten them.

#### DIVORCE LAW AMENDMENT

W. C. T. U. of North Dakota Exercised over the Leech Bill.

Fargo, N. D., Feb. 23.—Miss Elizabeth Preston, president of the state W. C. T. U., is much exercised over the efforts of the advocates of the divorce law to secure the passage of the bill which, she claims, will flood the state with applicants for divorces and give attorneys power to instigate proceedings on the day of the arrival of their clients, instead of having to wait a year, as at present, or even three months, as under the old law. She insists that North Dakota would, indeed, be a Mecca for divorcees, and the state would again be stigmatized by the "industry."

ninety-day law in permitting suits to be commenced immediately. It provides, however, that the decree cannot be granted until after ninety days have elapsed.

#### Toilet Luxuries of a Modern Train.

The woman traveler will find all the little toilet comforts of her own boudoir in the luxurious private compartment and palace sleeping cars of the North-Western Limited. This famous electric lighted train runs every night via the North-Western Line between Minneapolis, St. Paul and Chicago. Ticket offices 418 Nicollet avenue, phone 240, Minneapolis; 332 Robert street, phone 480, St. Paul.

Get the laugh on the other fellow by starting later and reaching Omaha earlier over the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad.

## SALVATION ARMY WOMEN

### They Enjoy Absolute Equality of Opportunity, Service and Recognition in This Popular Church of the Masses—Minneapolis Feminine Officers.



COMMISSIONER EVA BOOTH.

A winsome Salvation Army lassie, in her plain blue gown and quaint bonnet, tripped over the stage at the Metropolitan in the "Belle of New York" last week. Any day one may see the sweet-faced, blue-gowned woman on Nicollet avenue, as they move swiftly about on errands of mercy. The uniform is a familiar one and though fashion changes and the mode may prescribe a thimble of a hat for women, the poke bonnet of the Salvation Army woman seems the most appropriate head covering she can wear. It is very becoming to a pretty woman whose earnest eyes look out from the blue frame with a glance that is an appeal.

There are perhaps a hundred women in Minneapolis regularly enrolled on the army list. Four of them are commissioned officers and the rest belong to the rank and file whose voices are heard in the matches and in the meetings.

Mrs. William Halpin, with her husband,

well as the Salvation Army work for the province.

Mrs. Soderholm is an adjutant and with her husband has charge of the Scandinavian work in Minneapolis. They live at the Swedish barracks on Sixth street S and in spite of two little toddlers, devote their minds and strength to the army. Mr. Soderholm has worn the uniform for fourteen years and for nine years has been an officer. She was converted in Sweden and came to Minneapolis three months ago from Brooklyn. Both Adjutant and Mrs. Soderholm have been in Minneapolis before and have also had charge of the work in Willmar and Duluth, as well as other cities. They conduct a Norwegian corps on Washington avenue S in addition to looking after the work at the Swedish barracks where everything is as systematic as army regulations can make it.

Monday morning in the Salvation Army is devoted to making out reports and the



BRIGADIER AND MRS. WILLIAM HALPIN.

Brigadier Halpin, has charge of this province and her duties take her on numberless journeys through Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas. Mrs. Halpin is an Englishwoman who was converted twenty-three years ago in the north of England. She has been an officer for eighteen years and has charge of corps and divisions in many parts of the United States. In accordance with the policy of the army she takes rank with her husband and is a brigadier just as he is. Mrs. Halpin has two children to look after as

officers all over the country are so occupied. These reports are very complete and include information in regard to the attendance, the collection, the conversions and other data about every meeting. Monday and Tuesday evenings Mrs. Soderholm and Captain Emma Carlson, with a few of the soldiers, practice on their string instruments. Every other night in the week there are services in the barracks and on Sunday there are any number of services. In between these meetings Mr. Soderholm finds time to visit the sick,

make social visits and to further the work of the army.

Adjutant and Mrs. Soderholm have an able assistant in Captain Emma Carlson, who has recently come from West Superior. She has been with the army six years.

Ensign and Mrs. Henry Stedman have charge of corps No. 1. Mrs. Stedman donned the army blue in California nine years ago. This was before her marriage, and both Mr. and Mrs. Stedman were officers before they decided to unite their fortunes. Their work is much the same as that of Adjutant and Mrs. Soderholm. They do more work among the poor, however, and have given away over 500 garments this winter. People will remember the mammoth Christmas dinner they served to the poor children when over 1,000 hungry little ones were fed with turkey. They have been in Minneapolis only about three months, coming from Braintree, Minn.

Sergeant Major Wright has been a faithful worker in Corps No. 1 for fifteen years. She was at one time an officer, but poor health forced her to resign her commission. She is at present in Glencoe on a retail tour with seven other members of the army.

There is no special line of work being carried on in Minneapolis, and the affairs of each corps are conducted after the fashion of a congregation, of which the officer is pastor. He, or very frequently she, visits the people, holds services and is always to be found when people need him.

The army makes no effort toward conversion, but if the officers see that the meeting has had an effect on an attend-



MRS. BOOTH-TUCKER.

ant they speak a few hospitable and friendly words and invite her to come again. Perhaps she has already come forward and asked for prayers. The Salvation Army soldier or officer visits her in her home and establishes pleasant relations before an invitation to join the army is proffered.

Affairs are conducted in a most military fashion and a woman has to serve as a recruit for a month or more before she becomes a soldier. Later, if the soldier wishes to become an officer, she informs the officer of her corps, who forwards her application to New York. If the application is granted she goes to one of the training schools to make her preparation. She spends about six months in the school studying the Bible and the common school branches, the best methods of teaching and helping people. When her time of training is over she receives a commission as lieutenant, or possibly as captain, if there is a lack of officers, and takes her place among those who are working hard to leave the world better than they found it.

The pay of an officer is ridiculously small. A lieutenant is supposed to receive \$5 a week, but her salary is frequently in arrears and she gets along as best she can.

The ninety-six women connected with the army in Minneapolis are employed in various pursuits during the day. Some of them are clerks, others factory girls, but the great majority are busy in household work. They give all their leisure to the



ENSIGN STEDMAN.

army and join in the marches and services, make visits and sell the War Cry. A certain number of copies of the paper are assigned to Minneapolis and they must be sold.

The War Cry furnishes an excuse by which the Salvation Army last obtains entrance into homes, saloons and other places. In the home her request for permission to make a short prayer is seldom refused and her courage and nobleness of purpose win her respect wherever she goes.

All Minneapolis will join with the Salvation Army people in enjoying the visit of Consul Emma Booth-Tucker, which will be made March 24-25. She comes during the week of self-denial practiced by the army and will give her lecture, "Love and Sorrow," in Century hall. This lecture is graphically illustrated with tableaux and has produced a great impression wherever given. Mrs. Booth-Tucker, with her husband, is in charge of the Salvation Army work in this country.

Among the women who have devoted their lives to the army no one is spoken of more lovingly than Eva Booth, field commissioner for Canada. Miss Booth makes her headquarters in Toronto and is famous for her eloquence in speech and her writings.

Mrs. Higgins, the wife of Colonel Higgins, Consul Booth-Tucker's secretary, is one of the prominent women of the army and has devoted her efforts to rescue work. The army has established rescue homes in nearly all the provinces and the one for this district is located in St. Paul. The work of the army is equally divided among the men and women and the rights of the one are the same as the rights of the other, so that the names of the feminine workers are quite as well known as those of the men. They receive recognition for all that they do, not only from the army, but from the public, and many a glance of commendation is sent after the blue bonnet as it passes along the street.

The Woman Florist—Miss Whitted, 409 Nicollet av, fresh cut flowers, cheap.

When going to Omaha don't go 'round Robin Hood's barn. Take the Minneapolis & St. Louis.

## A Trio of Street Suits.

PHOTOGRAPHED FOR THE JOURNAL.



The little street frock photographed here is of claret red cloth with touches of steel in the braid and buttons trimming it so effectively. The waist coat is of white lady's cloth, the collar and cuffs of black and white tulle and the dress is trimmed with claret roses and black velvet.



This smart but severe black cloth walking dress shows a new silhouette, a coat novelty and the way all skirts are cut for out-of-door use.



Simplicity both in cut and finish is the key note of all tailor-made street-suits this spring. The above is a rough surface deep-sea blue serge with folds of black satin edged with pale blue braid trimming both skirt and coat. The silk skirt is of light blue taffeta, and hat of navy blue straw, dressed with one great blue rose and masses of green foliage.

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