

Agnes Barnes

1887



RESCUE & NOTES.

By Mrs. BRAMWELL BOOTH.

*The Salvation Army,
101, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.,*

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101, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I wish to say a few words about our present position, our immediate prospects and our present needs in the Rescue Work. But, first of all, I feel I ought to ask everybody to praise God with us for what He has done and is doing daily in our midst. Every day we see some poor lost one brought into the fold or restored to friends and home, or led back to God. Miracles of redeeming power and marvels of mercy are before our eyes continually, so that the weakest and feeblest of us are encouraged and cheered, even when overwhelmed by a woman's shame and pain on account of the sin and sorrow, the anguish and despair by which we are surrounded.

Well, now as to

OUR PRESENT POSITION.

How little we have done! How tiny is our drop of love and pity by the side of the great sea of sin and woe! But thank God for the drop.

We have now five Homes in London; one each in Plymouth, Glasgow, Cardiff, Jersey, Belfast, and a small house in Wisbech. These Homes contain accommodation for over 200 girls, are nearly always full. Up to the present we have received and passed on about 900 cases. The greater portion are now earning an honest living in situations as domestic servants, or at a trade; some are happily married, others gone back to "home" and "mother," some are doing well in America, and some are still—though we do not look upon them as lost—in sin. We have provided life-homes for twelve children, whose mothers were quite unable to support them (is not *that* a rescue also?), and we have now three more little ones waiting volunteer parents, who will train them as their own for Christ.

OUR METHODS,

A permanent "*night post*" has been established at Charing Cross. Two of my faithful, godly helpers are to be found there by any girl in distress after 11 o'clock every night. *This effort is a wonderful success.* The poor girls are friendly, and there are many talks with them of God and Christ. New girls, just beginning the life of sin are pointed out by the old ones, and by the police. Several have been rescued; let me tell you of one:—

About twelve o'clock, one bitter cold wet night, in the winter, a friendly policeman, at Charing Cross, who knows our business, mentioned to Mrs. F. that there was a young creature in a brown dress, who had only been on the streets a few days, somewhere about. Mrs. F. and her comrade immediately started to seek her, and soon recognising the "brown dress," found a poor young shivering creature in a brown linsay frock, trembling with cold and misery, and yet hesitating

to come away till dear mother F—— took off her own warm ulster and wrapped it round the poor child. That settled it, and the next day we had to listen to another history of fraud and shame.

The daughter of a respectable tradesman, living at home, she had come up to London to see the sights, with a “gentleman” she knew, who dined her, and then ruined and left her alone on the streets. You must imagine the rest—the lodgings without money; the hesitation; the blank despair, and then the plunge! Thank God, we *found* her, and she is now doing good and loyal work as a servant towards recovering the lost place in her father’s home.

OUR PROSPECTS.

We have just taken possession of a new and much larger *Receiving House*, which will enable us not only to deal with more of those we seek, but to make

more satisfactory arrangements for teaching useful occupations to those unsuitable for domestic service.

For a long time I have greatly desired to establish a *Preventive Home*; an opportunity now offers for doing so, although, of course, at a great increase to our expenditure, both for fitting up and maintenance. Still, I think it ought to be done. How many hundreds of respectable girls get into wrong hands every year for want of proper care when changing situations or passing through London! It cannot be too widely known that this would enable me to provide accommodation for servants and others having need to stay a few days in town.

We have just completed excellent arrangements for increased *work for the girls* while in the Homes. Our knitting machines are a success. Friends will please note that they can greatly help us by ordering any kind of machine-knitted goods, particularly petticoats, socks, stockings, mittens, children's jersey suits, and Tam o'Shanter caps.

OUR PRESENT NEEDS.

First I think I must mention a *Hospital*. In consequence of recent changes in the law, Lock Hospital accommodation in London is practically closed to all who cannot pay for it. This involves a terrible increase in our difficulties. Because a girl is *ill*, there is more need of help and sympathy rather than less, and to refuse to receive those who want to do right, simply for that reason, would be dreadful. We cannot do it. Yet it is equally impossible to have the well and sick occupying the same house. I am driven, therefore, to ask our friends to provide us with a small Hospital. Our doctor informs me that such provision as we require for fifteen beds can be obtained complete, with all necessaries, for £400. The sum seems large, but I am praying our loving God, who sees the need of these suffering ones, to lay it on His servants' hearts to help us in this matter.

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Our expenditure is now nearly £50 a week, and at this time

OUR EXCHEQUER IS ABSOLUTELY EMPTY.

I am sure there must be—I know there are—many who pray for us, and now I ask you to help us as God has blessed you. We are succeeding in the work of reclaiming and saving, by God's grace, hundreds of your fallen and outcast sisters. You cannot be willing that such a work should be stopped or hindered for want of money. I therefore rely upon you, for our dear Master's sake, to help me and my dear comrades to go forward.

Yours, seeking the lost,

June, 1887.

FLORENCE E. BOOTH.

Letters should be addressed to me as follows:—MRS. BRAMWELL BOOTH, 101, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.