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THE Home League

SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH
:: YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ::



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THE HOME LEAGUE



SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

President : MRS. GENERAL BOOTH

National Secretary : MRS. COMMISSIONER HIGGINS

HAVE you ever heard about the work of the Home League? If not, this booklet has been written especially for your benefit, so please do not put it aside, but read this explanation of the object of the League, and some of the methods by which it is carried on.

What the Home League really is

The Home League, as its name implies, centres around the family life of the nation, and its purpose is to show how the humblest dwelling-place may be changed into the 'home beautiful,' where love and happiness may always abound. It aims, above all else, at helping the mother, because if the home is well ordered by a good mother, she will train her boys and girls to be good and capable citizens, and, better still, to be God-fearing and law-abiding men and women.

The value of such family life to the nation cannot be overestimated, and yet it is sadly true that either through ignorance, or from lack of opportunity, there are thousands of women to-day who start married life utterly unfit and incompetent for the solemn duties pertaining to a wife and mother.

It is to these women the Home League especially appeals, offering practical advice and friendly counsel, as well as to others who have been more fortunate and favoured, and whose experience can be of encouragement and help to all who are willing to be learners in the stern school of life.

How the League came to be started

The suggestion of such a League first originated with Mrs. Booth, President of the League, who conceived the happy idea of bringing together for mutual help and sympathy those able to teach and those willing to learn. Since the work was started seven years ago, it has gradually developed and has so grown that at the present time there are two hundred and sixty Home Leagues scattered up and down the country, with an estimated membership of about ten thousand seven hundred Leaguers.

The Home League in the United Kingdom is under the personal supervision of Mrs. Commissioner Higgins, whose enthusiasm for this work is a constant source of inspiration to the workers at the various centres who come in touch with her as she travels from place to place to start fresh branches wherever there may be an opportunity.

The Membership

The League is officered by women Officers or Local Officers of The Salvation Army, but those who attend are by no means confined to the Soldiers and friends of the Corps. All women are welcome who will conform to the one or two simple Rules and Regulations, and pay a subscription of one penny a week. A neat little badge (price 1d.), the

shape of a heart, on which is inscribed the words 'Home League,' is worn by the members.

What the Meetings are like

Weekly afternoon Meetings are held, and at such an hour as to enable mothers to get home by the time their children return from school. The gatherings commence with singing and prayer, and this is usually followed by a cup of tea and a biscuit. Then the topic of the afternoon is introduced, and it is shown how practical Christianity may be applied to all the details of everyday life, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ made to include everything which pertains to the comfort and happiness of a working-man's home.

Practical Talks

Every phase of home-life is dealt with in simple talks which cannot fail to be understood, and the members are urged to take into active partnership such trusty friends as the needle and thimble, the broom and the dustpan, the scrubbing-brush and the pail, the saucepan and the frying-pan. Health talks are also introduced on such subjects as 'Simple water treatment in sickness,' 'The value of fresh air and sunshine,' 'The noble order of the tub,' 'His majesty the baby and what to do with him.' For a change, useful recipes are given, and conversations held on passing events.

Object Lessons

At other times demonstrations are given of sick nursing and first-aid to the injured, and experiments are shown to demonstrate the uselessness of alcoholic liquors as food. The economical

housekeeper gets a cookery lesson on tasty and nourishing dishes from cheap recipes, and useful children's garments are cut out from old clothes before the audience. Willing workers are also always ready to give lessons in sewing, knitting, mending, and darning.

Papers are occasionally written and read by the members themselves on some such practical subject



His Majesty the Baby

as 'The Ideal Woman,' 'The Training of Children,' 'What Home should be like,' 'A Mother's Influence,' 'Two Pictures—What I was, and what I am,' and these have often brought out fresh ideas and suggested topics for discussion concerning home-life. Personal testimonies from members make another change; in fact, no effort is spared to make the Meetings bright and varied.

Thrift Clubs

Every encouragement is given to members to be thrifty and saving, and there are various Clubs attached, into which they can put their pence. These include Christmas Clubs, Coal Clubs, Boot Clubs, Clothing Clubs, and such like. A small percentage is usually given on all money saved for at least one year, and the members much appreciate this safe means of investment for their scanty savings.

Visitation

Visiting Sergeants are appointed from among the members, and the duty of these Sergeants is to look up absent and sick members. This visiting serves a twofold purpose, as it not only gives the members a share in the responsibility of the work, but it also prevents the absentees from drifting away and being lost sight of, which might otherwise be the case.

Special Events

For those whose subscriptions are fully paid up an Outing is provided at the smallest possible cost to members in the summer, and in winter a special Christmas Tea is given, to which the husbands of the Leaguers are invited. These treats are looked forward to with much pleasure, and it is gratifying to notice at these homely gatherings how many have taken to heart the teaching of the League, and have improved in appearance, becoming a credit to themselves and to the League which they represent.

A Warm Invitation

These are only some of the leading features of the League work, but we ask you to pay us a

personal visit, and you will find 'the half has not been told.' It is the fervent wish of the workers that the Home League may become more and more a power for good in the service of God and humanity. Will you not join us in helping to bring this about? Your home may be very poor, but it can be made beautiful in the highest sense, where order, love, and peace reign supreme. 'Come thou with us and we will do thee good,' and show you how to make the best of the life which now is, and of that which is to come.

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