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WOMEN PATROLS.

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**MOVEMENT TO PROTECT YOUNG GIRLS AT
CHICHESTER.**

All who cherish the good name of our Cathedral City will welcome the movement for women patrols, which has just been started here on account of the presence of so many young girls in the neighbourhood now that the city is full of soldiers.

The reports that have reached the National Union of Women Workers from various quarters—not Chichester in particular—shew that the present conditions are leading to much that is undesirable in the conduct of girls, many of them quite young, who are excited by the unaccustomed presence of many soldiers and recruits. The Union has been permitted by the authorities to organize, where desired, bodies of women patrols, who will have the support and assistance of the police in doing what they can to maintain order.

Miss Sterling is organizing the movement in Chichester. She is staying with Miss Whalley, at the Chantry, and she has the support of many influential ladies, including the Mayoress (Mrs. Garland) and Mrs. Ridgeway (the wife of the Bishop of Chichester).

According to a recent report of the Committee, the organizer of a district studies the local conditions, gets into touch with the social and religious workers of all kinds, with the military and police authorities, and enlists their sympathy and co-operation, trains the voluntary patrols, and starts them on their work. When she leaves, one of the voluntary patrols is appointed as patrol leader to take her place in superintending the work.

The organizers have been successful in keeping their work quite distinct from rescue work, and it should be noted that there is no connexion between the organizers and the body of women who have taken the name of Voluntary Women Police.

The duties of the women patrols are:—

- To patrol on the "beat" assigned to them by the organizer.
- To make friends with the girls and gain their confidence.
- To warn girls who have been seen speaking to men on duty or behaving unsuitably.
- To put the girls in touch with local societies, clubs or classes.
- To observe and note anything bearing on the welfare of the girls and the good conduct of the camp.
- To report anything serious to their organizer or patrol leader.
- To write a brief daily report.

The patrols work in couples, and each patrol, after a short training by the organizer, is furnished with a guide book, an armband, and a card signed by the Chief Constable for the district, instructing the police to give her assistance when desired.

As an example of what may be done, one woman patrol on the first night that she was on duty was successful in persuading an innocent girl, who was in a position of serious danger, to return home with her.