

**YOUNG WORKING GIRLS:  
A SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE  
FROM TWO THOUSAND  
SOCIAL WORKERS**

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Young working girls: a summary of evidence from two thousand social workers by Robert A. Woods & Albert J. Kennedy

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**ROBERT A. WOODS & ALBERT J. KENNEDY**

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# YOUNG WORKING GIRLS

A SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE FROM  
TWO THOUSAND SOCIAL WORKERS

EDITED FOR

The National Federation of Settlements

BY

ROBERT A. WOODS AND ALBERT J. KENNEDY  
Its Secretaries

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

JANE ADDAMS

Its First President



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## PREFACE

THE inquiry of which this volume is the outcome was undertaken immediately upon the formation of the National Federation of Settlements in 1911, in pursuance of one of the chief objects of the Federation — “to bring together systematically the results of settlement experience in specific directions, and to make such results available to all who may profit by them.”

The vital and baffling nature of the problem of the adolescent girl of the tenement-house family and the city factory or department store has come to be so keenly felt among settlement workers that there was no uncertainty as to the topic which should be the first for coöperative study throughout the country.

The earliest of two schedules which will be found in the appendix was prepared

as the result of many conferences with settlement residents from different cities, and was widely circulated not only among the settlements of the country, but among many persons of experience in other forms of work among girls. The appeal of the subject and the broad sense of responsibility with regard to it were shown by the earnest, thorough, and widespread response which was made to the questions. Aside from individual replies, the entire staff of many settlements arranged series of conferences at which there was careful and detailed consultation about matters of fact and judgment covered by the schedule. In cities where the settlements are federated, the house conferences led up to general conferences for the city as a whole, different branches of the inquiry being considered in sectional meetings and the sectional conclusions reported upon in the general gatherings. The New York Association of Neighborhood Workers secured the valu-



able services of Miss Harriet McD. Daniels as director of the study among its constituent members, and she gave it a large proportion of her time during a period of eighteen months. The editors have had the use of the results obtained in New York City, which are also to be published separately in full local detail.

The replies to the questions in the first schedule, coming in from all these sources, supplied the material of a preliminary report at the annual meeting of the Federation in June, 1912; and this report was made the basis upon which further suggestions as to certain phases of the inquiry were sought. The second or supplementary schedule was then prepared, embodying a number of interesting and important clues not developed in the first series of questions, and with increased emphasis upon hopeful lines of action as indicated by specific conditions. The response was again thorough, cordial, and general.

It is the universal testimony of those who have participated that the personal and group study of the schedules has been of marked value in arousing workers among girls to the many-sidedness of their problem, and in leading to new and more effectual forms of service. It is hoped that the completed presentment may open the way for further analysis, for fresh experiment, and, above all, for illuminated and comprehensive action.

The editors wish to express their hearty appreciation of the cumulative team work of the settlement residents of the country in connection with this study; and desire particularly to thank numerous friends outside the settlements for their helpful and often precious contributions.

SOUTH END HOUSE, BOSTON.

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