

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES AND CHARITY.

Patriotic and fraternal societies do a great deal of charitable work among their fellow-countrymen and less fortunate brethren, and this is laudable and proper so long as it is confined within their own immediate circle and all the facts of the case are fully known. But when relief is given promiscuously and the needy poor are publicly invited to come and share the society's bounty positive harm is sure to result. Unfortunately the evil results are not apparent to the generous donor, any more than when a quarter is handed carelessly to a street loafer. It is in the weakening of moral fibre that the harm consists and only the close student of human weakness and social wreckage pauses to trace in the besotted life the contributory cause of downfall. If the benevolent society wishing to have a part in relief work would carry out their good intentions through a central relief bureau or charity organization society the worthy poor might be helped and the unworthy rigorously eliminated, bearing in mind, what cannot too often be emphasized—that the maintenance of self-respect and the cultivation of honest industry and thrift is a sacred duty resting upon every individual or organization that is truly loyal to the state.

KNOWLEDGE THE BASIS OF POWER.

Every social worker, no matter what his or her position, should be fully acquainted with the social machinery of the community. Power for good is limited through lack of knowledge. Many officials and volunteer workers, while fully posted in their own particular line of interests, are quite ignorant of what other organizations are doing, and have never studied the laws and by-laws of their city and country to know just what powers they had in carrying on their work. An influential deputation of philanthropists waited upon the government to ask that a certain measure be enacted. To their surprise they found that for over twenty years there had been a law on the statute books fully covering their request. Many laws dealing with public health and with social work generally have never been put into operation through ignorance of their scope and usefulness. What is needed is not more law, but more careful research and more enthusiasm and determination in carrying out existing legislation. Through frequent conferences also, each worker and society should know what other workers and societies are doing and all should work together so that the best results may be obtained with the least expenditure of money and effort. Nowhere should the friendly spirit of co-operation have a higher exemplification than among social workers. Here there is absolutely no place for rivalry or jealousy.

WOMEN AND POLICE COURTS.

An evil that is almost universal in the administration of police courts is the public trial of female offenders at the same time, and in the same manner as men. This imparts a salacious flavor to the proceedings and accounts in some measure for the motley throng of spectators that gathers day after day in the expectation