PREFACE

A few of the people interviewed were met on the street, or suggested by neighbors, but most of the names of those called upon were given by organizations. Appeals for lists of names were made in person to the churches of all denominations in the district (twelve churches were asked to co-operate), to the settlements, to the A. I. C. P. and to the C. O. S., to a day nursery, to a milk station, to one of the district visiting nurses, to a hospital and to a dispensary, to three men's hotels, to St. Andrew's coffee-stand, to the Salvation A wy, etc. The majority responded helpfully, though some were able to give only two to five names, while others contributed ten to twenty names. Many names were unavailable because out of the district limits, or under the age desired, or because the people themselves were unwilling to give information, or were out working when called upon, or had changed addresses.

At first I did not reveal the real purpose of the investigation, but made a "friendly visit." But afterward I was advised to do so, because, as an experienced church visitor said, "The old people are asking what you are 'after'; they guess you are 'up to something.'" When I did state my purpose, nearly all were willing to help by answering questions, sometimes with a desire to help the cause, sometimes (not understanding the matter at all clearly) with the hope of immediate personal gain.

Unfortunately a number of women, in upper and lower Greenwich Village, had been interviewed some time before by someone "who asked some of the same questions as you, but she was from Washington." And, it was explained further, "she had big sealed papers and she was going to send all the answers back to Washington, and she asked for twenty-five cents from me and from Mrs. — and Mrs. — for postage, and we never heard anything from her again." This person, evidently a "fake," must have made quite a little sum for herself, and it needed patient explanations to show the difference of the investigation I was conducting.

Some people, with no faith whatever in any definite results, gave information as a personal kindness. A plan to start a "grandmothers' club" had to be given up, as

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