

PROFESSIONAL CLASSES WAR RELIEF COUNCIL

(INCORPORATED)

REPORT

To 31st December, 1917.

13 & 14, Prince's Gate,
London, S.W.7.

Professional Classes War Relief Council.

Report to 31st December, 1917.

In presenting their Report the Council desires to express a deep sense of gratitude to all those who have co-operated with them in their efforts to assist those members of the Professional Classes who have been adversely affected by the war. These thanks cannot be more appropriately expressed than in the terms of the innumerable letters of gratitude received from those who have benefited. While acknowledging the untiring help given by the members of the various committees, the Council realises that these expressions of thanks must above all be transferred to those generous donors of money, gifts in kind and personal service, without which the entire work of the Council would have been impossible. The desire is, therefore, through the medium of these pages to convey to all who have helped in any way the heartfelt gratitude of those whose burden of suffering has been lightened, and who are thus being tided over these sorrowful times.

The public will appreciate the desire of the Executive Committee to curtail unnecessary expenditure in printing, stationery and postage. With this object the list of donations has been omitted from the Report, and also the full statement of accounts as audited by the Hon. Auditors, Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co. Both these documents can be inspected at 13, Prince's Gate, S.W.7, and any enquiries will gladly be answered by the Secretaries.

The Council exists to deal with the difficulties of those whose distress is the most acute and least advertised of any in this country. Before the war they derived from their professional work incomes which they had every reason to regard as secure. Their homes were chosen to suit their means and their children sent to appropriate schools. To-day many an architect, painter, sculptor, musician or author finds that his professional income has not merely been reduced but has ceased entirely. Theirs are only some of the callings which have been affected, and the consequent distress is by no means limited to one sex.

The Council supplies these men and women in periods of difficulty with assistance, without which they cannot hope to resume their previous positions after the war. It does not clash with any other Fund. It co-operates closely with the professional organisations.

Generous aid for certain purposes is received from the National Relief Fund, but is given on condition that a sum equivalent to the donation has been disbursed out of public subscriptions. Each subscription, therefore, serves a double purpose. It directly alleviates distress and at the same time helps to fulfil the conditions upon which grants from the National Relief Fund are made.

Up to the 31st December, 1917, over 10,000 applications were received by the Committee; from these it would appear that musicians, artists, architects and journalists are those who have been most hardly hit by the war, other professions having suffered in varying degrees. Since the beginning of the work in October, 1914, about 25,000 cheques have been drawn for the benefit of those who have applied for help.

Education.

The Council endeavours to enable children to be kept at suitable schools, so that their education may not be interrupted. Incidentally, this work helps to maintain the schools and those dependent on them. This is affected by:—

- (a) Sending children to boarding schools.
- (b) Paying fees at day schools.
- (c) Giving help where necessary towards maintenance.

£18,000 has been expended on Education since October, 1914, in (a) fees at boarding schools or at day schools; (b) maintenance grants when the children live at home and it is felt that the family's income is insufficient to provide adequate food for the children; (c) travelling expenses, school books and necessities; (d) school outfits and other incidental expenses.

In this way 750 children have been assisted during that period, and 322 boys and girls are still being assisted, of whom 134 are at boarding schools.

Training.

The aim is to train adult daughters of professional men for one of the many careers now open to women; also to enable men students (ineligible for, or discharged from, military service) to continue their professional training.

£2,000 has been expended in the payment of fees or in the provision of maintenance during training, travelling and other incidental expenses. The total number of applicants who have been assisted is about 175, and of these a number are at work self-supporting. The following careers, among others, are represented: medicine, teaching, engineering, gardening, secretarial, nursery, nursing, midwifery.

Maternity Home.

No side of the Council's work has a greater claim to sympathy than this.

About 400 children have been born in the Home, the majority being boys. The patients were in many cases the wives of men now serving with His Majesty's Forces; their occupations before the war being of various kinds. In addition to those patients received in the Home, assistance has been given in 50 cases to patients whose circumstances made it more suitable that they should be confined in their own houses, and in 17 cases fees have been paid at other Maternity Homes.

Her Majesty the Queen has been graciously pleased to show a continued interest in the Home by gifts of flowers, and also by presents of clothes for the babies—gifts which have given the greatest possible pleasure to the fortunate recipients.

The Council desires to place on record its deep appreciation of the services so generously rendered by the Hon. Medical Staff and by the Nurses and Ward Maids, and others who have given voluntary help in connection with the Maternity Home.

Music.

The Music in War Time Committee was formed with the double object of providing engagements for professional musicians who have been adversely affected by the war, and of supplying musical performances in camps, hospitals and other centres.

From January 1st, 1915, to December 31st, 1917, the Committee have given 2,777 concerts, securing over 10,000 engagements for performers (whose fees have been paid by the Committee), involving an outlay of £15,000. This represents an average of three concerts for every working day during this period.

In November 1916 the Committee was asked by the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, to arrange concerts in Military and Red Cross Hospitals in England and Wales, £2,200 being contributed by them for this

purpose. This work is being undertaken in a series of country towns. Concerts to the number of 514 have already been given in nearly all the English counties and in North and South Wales, and 280 in London. Parties of artists have everywhere been received with the kindest hospitality and welcomed with the utmost enthusiasm.

Many luncheon-hour concerts are also being given to Munition workers in the large factories near London, where 4,000 people are entertained weekly. For two successive years summer luncheon-hour concerts have been given at the Bishopsgate Institution. The second series was inaugurated by the Lord Mayor on Thursday May 3rd, 1917, when over 800 persons attended.

Arts in War Time.

Owing to the exigencies of the times, the Exhibitions of Arts and Crafts formerly held at 13, Prince's Gate, were discontinued at the end of 1916. Artists continue to receive assistance in the various departments of the Council's work, and a number of painters have been commissioned to undertake decorative work in schools under the auspices of the Education Committee of the London County Council. It is hoped during the year to extend this work to one or more of the great provincial cities.

Future Needs.

The Council again appeal for a continuance of generous help; the need is still urgent, for the distress among members of the professional classes exercises a serious claim on the nation.

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Royal Institute of British Architects.
Chairman, Incorporated Society of Authors, Playwrights and Composers.
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Offices: 13 & 14, PRINCE'S GATE, S.W. 7. (By kind permission of Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan.)
Telephone: KENSINGTON 6394 and 6395.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

Selected from those received from day to day
as showing the scope of the work.

EDUCATION, Etc.

"Thank you very much for your letter with its glorious news. I cannot tell you half I want to say of our thankfulness, for now our boy can stay on for another term at least, and we felt . . . must leave school. Thank you a thousand times! The next term's fees are not asked for till the beginning of the term. I will send the account on to you directly. I had taken the Head into our confidence as to applying to you, so he will quite understand. Thank you very much indeed for the delicacy and sympathy you have shown us."

"Please convey to your Council my warm thanks for the grant of my children's education fees for the summer term at the County Schools. You have lifted a burden off my heart, for the education of my children is one of the supreme objects of my life."

". . . returned on Monday from his visit to —. He was there for a month and four days. He looks—and is extremely well, and has had the most enjoyable holiday he has ever spent. I cannot say how grateful I am for this introduction. . . . not only has Mr. — most generously undertaken all expenses and given the boy every care, but he has taken a great deal of trouble over the boy in the matter of personality, and endeavoured to help just where it was so badly needed through lack of male control. It has been the greatest help to me in every way, and I am truly thankful to you."

"I shall be very pleased to let you know from time to time how I am faring, as you suggest, as I feel I have found real friends."

"Such a beautiful parcel of clothing has just arrived, and I cannot tell you how thankful I am to receive it. My husband has neuritis, and it would indeed be a disaster if his health gave way. How delighted I am that he should have some woollens and a pair of strong boots to wear! Please be quite sure that all that Prince's Gate is doing for us is deeply appreciated, and I cannot think *what* we should have done without the assistance we have received, *especially* referring to —'s and —'s education."

MATERNITY HOME.

"I should like to tell you how happy my three weeks here have been. My little son and I have received nothing but kindness and every possible care, and the whole place breathes an atmosphere of cheerfulness and brightness."

"A letter is all too inadequate to express my warm appreciation of what the Committee has done for me. Only those who have had difficulty to manage, as I have during the War, to make ends meet, can realise what a haven from worries that has been. I feel that my dear little baby has been given a splendid start, and I know that her mother has found new courage as a result. With my grateful thanks to you all."

"I think it is a wonderful institution, and I spent one of the happiest months of my life there. Also thank you so much for the very kind wishes extended by letter for myself and my baby. We are both doing splendidly, and will always look back lovingly on Prince's Gate and the dear people who have been so sweet to us."

MUSIC IN WAR TIME.

"I hope that nothing will stop your concert parties coming here while the War is on. The good done to patients by getting away from the atmosphere of the ward is of actual value in the saving of patients. These entertainments reduce the period of illness by an average of at least five days. It is a great comfort to be able to count on your concert week by week. I hope you will be able to continue for the duration of the War."

"I should like to convey to you and to your Committee, as well as to the artistes engaged for our concert on Sunday last, our sincere thanks for the most successful afternoon to which they have contributed. You will have heard from them of their enthusiastic audience; in fact, you might almost have heard it at Prince's Gate. I should be glad to know whether we may call upon you again with impunity when we wish to have a special afternoon? It is a great lightening of our task."

"I must write and thank you for sending me such an excellent concert party. Now that one is so cut off from concerts, it was an immense treat. The staff and men most thoroughly enjoyed it. All the hospitals they go to owe you a great debt of gratitude."

ARTISTES' LETTERS.

"With the close of the year I should like to offer you grateful thanks for the work you have given us during the last twelve months. It means a great deal to me, being unable to do other work."

"It is extremely good of you to send me these concerts. It has helped me over a big stile. I don't know how to thank you, but please believe me I am grateful."

"I have indeed been most grateful for the engagements I have had from you during the past year, and I do not know what I should have done without your help."

"I desire to express to the Committee my grateful thanks for the help given me. I can assure you it is more than appreciated."

"I want to thank you again for all the work you have given us. What we should have done without it I dread to think."

PROFESSIONAL CLASSES WAR RELIEF COUNCIL (INCORPORATED).

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December, 1917.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Sundry Creditors and Accrued Charges ...	788	3 8	Office Furniture at Cost ...	338	13 4
Loans Fund Suspense for Loans outstanding (as per Contra) ...	819	7 5	Sundry Debtors and Suspense Accounts ...	847	7 10
Income and Expenditure Account:—			Loans outstanding on Loan Fund (see Contra) ...	819	7 5
Balances transferred:—			Investments at Cost:—		
General Fund ...	£13,851	6 6	£4,105 5s. 5 Per Cent. War Loan ...	3,972	5 0
Music Fund ...	649	4 9	£12,000 Treasury Bills ...	11,782	17 6
Education Fund ...	1,604	18 7	£200 Exchequer Bonds 5 Per Ct. ...	196	5 0
Arts Fund ...	988	19 8		15,951	7 6
Maternity Fund ...	743	7 11	Cash at Bank and in Hand:—		
Special Cases and Purpose Fund ...	389	12 2	Deposit Account ...	4,697	8 2
Training Fund ...	112	5 6½	Current Account ...	1,029	8 10
Loans Fund ...	3	7 7	In Hand ...	25	8 7½
American Lawyers' Fund ...	3,758	7 11		5,752	5 7½
	22,101	10 7½			
	£23,709	1 8½		£23,709	1 8½

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We have examined the attached Accounts and Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1917, with the Books and Vouchers of the Council relating thereto. We have accepted the analysis of the payments as shown by the Books. Subject to the foregoing the Accounts are in our opinion correctly drawn up, so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Council's affairs.

11, Ironmonger Lane,
London, E.C. 2.
1st July, 1918.

(Signed) W. B. PEAT & CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
Honorary Auditors.

MUSIC IN WAR TIME AND RED CROSS FUNDS.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT from 1st January, 1917, to 31st December, 1917.

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Transfer to Red Cross Fund ...	502	12 6	By Balance in hand at 1st January, 1917 ...	655	7 9
„ Fees for Artists paid through P.C.W.R.C. ...	1,414	2 10	„ Subscriptions and Donations ...	1,882	6 9
„ Fees for Artists accrued to 31st Dec., 1917 ...	137	15 0			
„ Salaries to Teachers in Girls' Clubs (Competitions) ...	286	5 0			
„ Special Grants ...	4	4 0			
„ Wages ...	61	0 0			
„ Expenses ...	21	2 4			
„ Balance ...	110	12 10			
	£2,537	14 6		£2,537	14 6

RED CROSS FUND.

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Fees—Expenditure in connection with tours, &c. ...	2,411	14 4	Grants from Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society and St. John of Jerusalem ...	2,200	0 0
Clerical Assistance ...	18	10 0	Subscription and Donations ...	10	5 0
Bank Charges, Postages ...	5	0 8	Balance, being excess of Expenditure over Income ...	225	0 0
	£2,435	5 0		£2,435	5 0

AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE.

We have examined the above Income and Expenditure Accounts with the Books and Vouchers of the Fund relating thereto. We have accepted the analysis of the payments as shown by the Books. Subject to the foregoing the Account is in our opinion correctly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Fund.

11, Ironmonger Lane,
London, E.C. 2.
1st July, 1918.

(Signed) W. B. PEAT & CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
Honorary Auditors.

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