

"No, they earn their keep."

"This imposed labour must mean a large profit to ^{the} Magdalen^e ~~lent~~ ^{Home} ~~House~~."

"No, these girls do not work like other girls. If a girl gets tired of working in the laundry we do not force her to work. The Home is self-supporting. At present we are overdrawn at the bank and shall be so for two years. The new chapel and the recreation hall cost a lot. Also this year we hope to give the girls a more attractive uniform. On Sundays they're allowed to use cosmetics and to make up."

"Are the girls free?"

"Yes."

"Can a girl leave whenever she chooses?"

Mother Superior. No, we're not as lenient as all that. The girl must have a suitable place to go.

"Do they try to escape?"

Delete "Last year a girl climbed a twenty foot drain pipe. At the top she lost her nerve and fell. She was fortunate. She only broke her pelvis. She won't try it again. Last week one girl made such a row that we let her go. That night she was ringing the bell and ^{begging} ~~howling~~ to be re-admitted."

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"If a girl ran away,

^{guards}
"I suppose the ~~grounds~~ could easily ~~feed~~ ^{find} them?" her?"

^{guards}
"The ~~grounds~~ are not very helpful because the girls are free."

"What about discipline?"

"We give them a good scolding when they need it."

"And more serious offences?"

"We stop their food."

"For how long?"

"Only one meal and we know that the other girls feed them."

"And more serious offences?"

"These are rare. One girl threw her shoe into a washing machine and broke it. We had the expense of a man coming from London and his stay at the hotel.] For that kind of thing the girl gets six strokes of the ~~rod~~ ^{cane}, three on each hand."

A Nun. Sometimes on the legs.

"I suppose only the Sister-in-charge may inflict corporal punishment."

"Yes, and the only time I gave it I felt positively ill."]

Delete.

A Nun. It's wonderful how they respond to kindness. They take offence about things the ordinary person would think of as nothing. But they're grateful for any little kindness.

"How long do they stay?"

"Some stay for life. Most of them are Consecrated Penitents. Every year there is a service when they may be consecrated. They are much respected by the others. When they die they are buried with the nuns. The others are buried in the common burial ground."

I was then shown over most of the ~~House~~^{Home}. There was a beautiful Chapel and a splendid Recreation Hall. The latter had a polished floor on which the girls could dance, a stage with cinema screen and a projector. The last film shown had been The Song of Bernardette. A nun told me the girls preferred religious to secular films. In a room upstairs I saw many of the girls. A small elderly woman had a small black cape round her shoulders and from the front of the cape hung a large crucifix. She was a Consecrated Penitent. I asked her how long she had been here.

"Twenty-five years."

"Are you happy?"

"Yes, very happy", and she smiled.

Next I spoke to a young girl. She had been here for

three months. She did not look like an unmarried mother. So I risked the question: - "What brought you here?"

"I didn't get on well at home. I lived with my brother. Then he married."

"And you didn't hit it off with your sister-in-law?"

"Oh, she's all right."

A nun told me that later the girl said to her - "I couldn't tell him I'd been in an asylum."

The next girl to whom I spoke wore what looked like a ~~funny~~ ^{fancy} waistcoat with brass buttons over her uniform.

"How long have you been here?"

"Six months."

"Do you like it?"

"Yes." But this girl never looked me in the face, and a nun later said to me - "She is a bold girl."

Before I left ^{the} Magdalene ^{Home,} the nuns offered me an excellent tea.

I shall now try to answer the question put to me by the Most Reverend Michael John Browne, Bishop of Galway. In plain English the question is - How many unmarried Catholic girls from Eire have babies in England? Here are figures from the Crusade of Rescue in the Diocese of Westminster, which includes the County of London North of the Thames, Middlesex and Hertfordshire. The figures show the number of unmarried Catholic girls who sought help for themselves and for their unborn children.

