

"A great change has come over the church people in their charitable work. The Dorcas societies, where the women gathered for gossip and tea-drinking and to sew garments to be given to the poor, are fast disappearing. They have resolved themselves into the mothers' missions, in which the poor women were at first gathered in to make clothing, which was afterward presented to them, then paid to sew clothing ordered by the church people, or allowed to purchase the garments they make at cost price. Note the evolution: Kindergartens, working-girls' clubs, reading-rooms and industrial schemes are among the good results in church work of the awakening of the people to the need of systematized and far-seeing charities.

"Of course, in urgent cases of destitution, the first need is to fill the mouths of the hungry, to care for the sick, but this should lead to inquiry into the cause of the misery, and later to its permanent alleviation. Thus it happens that more than money is needed, but if there are some who can or will give only their money, let it be, by all means, given through the established charity associations or some accredited church institution, and not scattered broadcast where the shrewdest and sharpest of the clamorous crowd come in for its greatest benefits, or, as truth will have it, for its greatest curses."

The police station was thronged yesterday

1891 01 08 Mothers mission charity

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