

**SURVEY OF  
OCCUPATIONS OPEN TO  
THE GIRL OF FOURTEEN TO  
SIXTEEN YEARS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649228379

Survey of Occupations Open to the Girl of Fourteen to Sixteen Years by Harriet Hazen Dodge

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**HARRIET HAZEN DODGE**

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By  
**MARRIET HAZEN DODGE**

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## PREFACE

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This Survey is designed especially to meet the numerous inquiries of teachers, vocational counselors, and social workers as to what the girl can do who seeks wage-earning in the earliest years in which the law allows her to engage in it. It gives, briefly, therefore, such information as it has been possible for the Girls Trade Education League to secure thus far concerning the occupational field in Greater Boston for the girl of fourteen to sixteen years.

It makes no claim to intensive or exhaustive research, and it is to be expected that modifications will result through further and more scientific studies. It is based, however, upon extensive inquiry made of employers of woman and girl labor in Boston, and upon visits to the workrooms of industrial establishments; upon inquiries made of girls in wage-earning, and of others who, in special ways, are acquainted with occupational opportunities and conditions for young girl workers.

In its effort to discover the entire field of work in Boston open to these girls, the League received assistance, through the courtesy of the Chief of the District Police, in being given access to the complete list of industries in Boston in which the girl of fourteen to sixteen years is employed and the number of girls in each industry, as returned by the factory inspectors from time to time during a two-year period. It received assistance also, through the courtesy of the Superintendent of Schools, in being permitted to make use of the records of employment tickets required by law to be signed by intending employers of such girls, with a statement of the capacity in which they are to be employed.

Percentages given for numbers of girls in different occupations are based upon these returns. Obviously, they can make claim only to approximate accuracy. In careful comparison of the data afforded by the two sources, however, with consideration also of figures gathered directly from employers, it is believed that these percentages do not seriously err in giving an idea of the proportion engaged in the various kinds of work. Occupations in Boston for these young girl workers in which the greatest number are found and in which there are several establishments are given in outline form.

Outlook in respect to wages has been stated with reference to a living wage for women workers, estimated at \$9-\$11.<sup>1</sup> The facts as given have been critically reviewed by numbers of employers and others who are acquainted in various ways with one or more occupations which the fourteen to sixteen year old girl enters. To all these, as well as to those who were of assistance in assembling information, both the Girls Trade Education League and the writer make grateful acknowledgment.

<sup>1</sup>See Bosworth, "The Living Wage of Women Workers." Longmans, Green & Co., 1911.





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