

An Inquiry Relating to Girls Undergoing Training as Seamstresses, Laundry-Maids and Dressmakers.

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An Inquiry Relating to Girls Undergoing Training as Seamstresses, Laundry-Maids and Dressmakers.

Foreign Title : Nachuntersuchungen an Stickerinnen, Wäsche- und Konfektionsnäherinnen.
Lehralter.

Author(s) : [ZIMMERMANN, Ilse](#)

Journal article : [Arch. f. Gewerbepath. u. Gewerbehyg.](#) 1934 Vol.5 pp.265-73 ref.1

Abstract : In 1933, 288 girls undergoing two years training as seamstresses, laundry maids and dressmakers in Vienna were medically examined and questioned. The results are given here. The work in these three groups is the least desired

seek advice as to suitable vocations. Of 164 who had been medically examined commencing work and advised to follow one of these occupations only 26 wished to do so in the first place. The ages varied from 13 1/2 to 17 1/2 years. The work is not as hard as in the large factories a number of undergrown weakly girls are attracted to it. In times of unemployment when the father of a family is out of work a tendency is for girls to enter these occupations to help the family, and this was the case in 39 per cent. and 27 per cent. of them were orphans or had lost their parents. More than three-fifths of the girls came from homes where there was distress. In these occupations the girls were smaller and lighter for all age groups compared with the average of all girl apprentices in Vienna, and there was a marked difference in the physique of the girls who had commenced work in the later age group. The average number of hours worked per week is 48 and the work is mostly done in small factories where girls act as assistants. Of seven girls admitted with distinct evidence of health tuberculosis six remained healthy. Sixty-two per cent. of the girls came from the class of manual workers and were on an average smaller and lighter and in them menstruation began about six months later than in girls who came from the clerical class. Speaking generally it may be said the girls stood the two years' training well and many of them went in for sports as skating, swimming and physical training. Thirty-nine per cent. were found to require medical treatment and it is recommended that there should be a regular medical examination of these workers. *A. J. Collis.*

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