

Preparing for Work - Sources for Girls at Work worksheet

Five girls ironing in the industrial laundry at Fareham Industrial Home for Girls.
1893



Girls doing laundry work at St Mary's Home for Girls, Eastnor, Herefordshire. They are using a hand-turned mangle to squeeze water out of the washing. 1920



Preparing for Work - Sources for Girls Work worksheet

The laundry of Standon Farm Home, Staffordshire, with various metal washing pans and buckets, and barrel clothes spinners. c. 1900



FAREHAM.

Although we have received aprons from several kind friends, the cry is still for more; our laundry work occupies so much of our time, that we find it difficult to get much needlework done beyond the necessary mending for the household. Plain afternoon frocks for the school and house girls are, also, much needed.

We want to find a place as under-nurse for a very nice, intelligent little girl of fifteen; she is fond of children, and is well-mannered and quiet. Also, we want a situation as kitchen or scullery maid for a strong, hard-working girl of nearly seventeen.

Extract from *Our Waifs and Strays* magazine 1889

“Islington.

“DEAR SIR,—I was reading the paper the other day, and I saw your name, and it came across my mind how kind you are to little children and that I had been one of your girls. I was at F—— Home 3 years and 10 months, and have been left there 3 years now. I was there with our dear old Matron Miss L——, but I am sorry to say that she is dead now. I am now thanking you for the kindness and the good trade I learnt which was Laundry work, thanks to which Laundry work I shall be able to get on in the world, and it is a trade which cannot easily be forgotten. I am married now. I have got a very good husband and I love him very dearly, he is a tectolar, and we live together very happily. Well Dear Sir, do you remember coming to the opening of the New Home, and also the Bishop of Southampton who Confirmed me. It was a happy day and you played with us tug of war, when the Rev. J. T—— fell in the sink in the playground how we did laugh. Please Sir could you send me a photograph of the New Home in remembrance of it. Well dear Sir, I must draw this letter to a close thanking you for all your past kindness to me, which I think is every girl's duty to write and thank you.—I remain, yours respectfully,
E. B., now Mrs. H.”

“I should like a letter from you.”

A letter from *Our Waifs and Strays* magazine 1911