

CALLS NIGHT CLUBS RENDEZVOUS OF VICE

**Committee of 14 Reports 31%
More Delinquent Women in
1926 Than in 1925.**

WAYWARD MINORS INCREASE

**Survey Also Assails Speakeasies—
Finds Conditions in Harlem
Particularly Serious.**

The Committee of Fourteen's report for 1926, made public yesterday, shows an increase of 31 per cent. in the number of cases of delinquent women in the Woman's Court over 1925, and an increase of 51 per cent. in the cases of wayward minors. The Committee of Fourteen, which was organized in 1905 to bring about suppression of disorderly resorts known as "Raines Law hotels," sounds a warning against night clubs and speakeasies, in many of which, it asserts, commercialized vice and alcohol operate in partnership. The report calls attention particularly to serious conditions in Harlem.

"It is common knowledge that the Volstead law has been responsible for the springing into existence in the City of New York of numerous so-called night clubs and speakeasies," says the report. "Prostitution has been quick to take advantage of these new conditions by using such places as rendezvous, and we again have the old and vicious connection of prostitution and alcohol, in perhaps an even more inviting form than previously.

"Another complicating factor is the growing exploitation in colored areas such as Harlem, which raises problems demanding immediate attention by the committee. For various reasons, including the rapid growth and the nature of its population, the colored areas of Harlem seem to be inadequately policed, and its dance halls, cabarets and other places of amusement practically unsupervised. White people are beginning to discover this section, moved by the witnessing of plays such as 'Miss Lulu Belle,' and the influence of novels such as 'Nigger Heaven.' The interest aroused is not a healthy constructive interest, but more in the nature of a morbid curiosity. This is rapidly being capitalized by exploiters of both races. There are conditions existing in Harlem cabarets, dance halls, night clubs and speakeasies which must be given careful attention. There seems to be exploitation in this area of both white and colored girls. To secure the facts will require an additional staff of investigators drawn from the colored race."

The report contains tributes to the late Frederick H. Whitin, Secretary of the Committee of Fourteen until his death on July 19, 1926.

In the report also is a sketch of George E. Worthington, Mr. Whitin's successor.

The Treasurer's report show that the Committee of Fourteen's receipts during the year totaled \$13,385.09, and its disbursements were \$16,823.71. At the beginning of the year the committee had on hand current and reserve accounts amounting to \$3,728.03, and at the close of the year it had a balance of \$289.41.