

The Young Woman and Her Problem

Pearl Richmond Hamilton.

OUR NEW YEAR'S "AT HOME"

The Western Home Monthly is a real home to a large circulation of readers. Young women and bachelors as well as our splendid Canadian homemakers come to us with encouraging appreciation for the practical information and literary instruction contained in our magazine. They say there is a personal tone among the contributors that creates a home-like atmosphere and they realize that sincerity and reliability are the vital elements that make The Western Home Monthly so popular and successful. Since we are so universally recognized as a home magazine, let this issue be a New Year's "at home" to our readers. We know that every member of the family will be interested in this "at home" as the editor has provided entertainment for all ages, and every contributor is a host or hostess inviting you to feel at home in their department as this particular page is devoted to girls and young women the hostess is willing and ready to answer questions concerning their complex problems. This department has found a big response and a real need, for girls write for advice on all matters concerning girlhood and we receive letters from men as well. We try to offer just the suggestion or the information that will infuse faith and courage into the heart of the reader—all letters are regarded confidential, and we have made it possible for many to attain the ambition of their heart. There have been times when we have lifted girls up from the depths to a life of hope and love. During the past year the writer of this page has had the privilege of meeting personally readers of this page who, while in the city, have found their way to her club of girls. It always sends a thrill of pleasure through her when they introduce themselves as readers of The Western Home Monthly. We trust this at home day will make you feel that you are royally entertained. We invite you to visit every department—do not omit the art gallery—and we ask our wide and warm circle of friends to regard our "at home" as continuous, every issue urges you all to be present.

A WOMAN'S BUSINESS

"The real business of a wife and mother is the home." An experienced physician said that in my hearing, the other day and it is true. His profession has made it possible for him to see the tragedies resulting from weak homes. I have carefully reviewed in my mind the girls of my acquaintances whose lives have been wrecked and with but two exceptions the girls were motherless or had mothers who did not give them the strength that comes from confidential motherhood. Many women are trying to mother humanity outside of their home while their own little ones are starving for maternal attention.

I believe that the present economical condition among young wage earning girls will have a tendency to keep more girls in their own parental homes and many other girls will go into home work, who would otherwise be filling aimless positions in offices and stores. Social conditions would be much better if young girls would do home work. When I see a young sixteen-year-old girl in an office position and watch her ambitious effort to appear like the young woman of twenty-five in dress and manner, I ask, where is the girl of sweet sixteen of former days, the girl whose interests were in the home and the home folk, the girl whose childhood clings to her in sweet security? Thousands of these wage earning girls are needed in homes. Too many are subjecting themselves to unnecessary artificial entertainment.

Why do girls not remain more in the home? Many leave home because they say their mothers do not understand them, others because they want to dress better, and then we find scores of girls who say they cannot have a good time at home. These are the chief causes of why young girls go out to work and they all require remedies that only mothers can give. A readjustment of conditions

must begin in the home. Mothers must know their daughters better. A mother who is a good companion seldom has a broken heart. Then in this matter of dress I have talked with many young girls this winter who were out of work and their chief concern seems to be about their dress. One girl who was hungry told me that she wanted a new hat more than anything else. Where is our tidy simply dressed girl? A girl applies for a position. Her hat is decorated with a cheap plume, long black ear rings dangle from her ears, a lace waist with low collar robs her of her modesty, high-heeled shoes weaken her back, and cheap jewelry dazzle in shine-stone brilliancy.

Then she wonders why the employer dismisses her. It is a great thing to dress in harmony with one's environment. Cheap gorgeous finery excite ridicule instead of admiration.

One seldom meets with rudeness, impertinence or lack of attention from a girl who is simply and appropriately dressed. On the other hand the overdressed type of girl is inclined to be rude and selfish. This is a line of work to be taken up by mothers.

The third cause is the "good time" cry. Where in all this wide world should girls look for a good time so much as in the home?

In an institution so full of possible happiness, can we not satisfy the desire that every girl longs for—delight? Make the environment pleasing to the girl's taste. Perhaps she objects to certain pictures. If so take them down and store them away. Satisfy her sense of the artistic. She must be doing something, let her arrange the furniture and plan the decorating. When I was at that impressionable age my sense of the artistic was sorely shamed because my grandmother did not believe in wall paper borders. Every other home had them and I was ashamed to have my friends see my home. The moment they entered I could see nothing but the big pink roses fighting the ceiling, horrible feelings of discontent choked me and my cheeks burned with harried pride. The first money I earned I used fifty cents of it to buy a border. Then I rearranged the pictures and I was happy. A little thing, but a big thing in a young girl's life.

It is true the world needs house-keeping and there are many noble women who are not physical mothers who are needed to bring about reforms that concern home life, but the remark of the physician is still with me, the home is the business of the mother.

If morality is a matter of geography, let civilization point on the map to Canada, the land of motherly women and clean home life.

A STIMULANT

Poverty in early life is not a bad stimulant. Jenny Lind was born to poverty and obscurity; she achieved wealth and world-wide fame. Jenny had a pet cat and she forgot her dismal surroundings when she sang to it. The spirit of song will lift girls out of poverty. Jenny said God gave her a voice, but she certainly left nothing undone to improve the gift. God gives every girl a gift to improve. Jenny Lind spent hours trying to sing one single word properly. Though she studied under masters she said: "I sing after no one's method; only as far as I am able after that of the birds; for their master was the only one who came up to my demands for truth, clearness and expression."

When P. T. Barnum contracted with her for 150 concerts at \$1,000 each, with all expenses paid and a companion, secretary and horses and carriages, the bankers laughed at him. Later he told her that when the receipts exceeded \$5,000, she should have half. Her first two concerts netted her \$10,000, which she gave to the mayor to be divided among the city charities. No woman ever gave away so much of her own earnings and if any great woman ever reaped heaven's reward for goodness,



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