

girl, therefore, does not distinguish the university student from a large percentage of our school children.

But if the epithet college be renounced, it is complained our "boy" and "girl" must go too. It is true. Even the most generous protractors of juvenility will not attempt the combination university boy. But, they object, it is absurd to call lads and lassies of sixteen men and women. The assertion makes us pause, for the title of undergraduates must not be allowed to have anything ridiculous about it. The regulations for junior matriculation state that candidates shall have "completed their sixteenth year." Sixteen then is the minimum not the average age of entrance to the university; and the "absurdity" of the name man or woman decreases in a very rapid ratio according as it is applied to the ages of sixteen, seventeen, eighteen or above. Moreover, a four years' course lies between matriculation and B.A., so that few of our men will graduate before the responsibilities of full citizenship have devolved upon them. It is lowering to our national dignity to style those whose voices direct the destiny of our country, boys. Possibly, then, the absurdity may be found to lie less on the side of the mature denomination, than on that of the low age limit of admission to our universities.

There is, however, another and a weightier view of these appellations than that of age. It is that of the connotation of the words boy and girl, man and woman. The former of course imply first youth, which the mass of undergraduates undoubtedly possess in abundance, with its light-heartedness, hopefulness and a host of other delightful characteristics. But the terms boy and girl connote more than these. They connote a state in which the most important concerns and relations of the individual are the care of others, in which the individual, being protected from many external dangers and subject to a discipline which regulates many of the details of his daily life and duty, is himself careless, irresponsible and often ignorant in regard to these matters. The special significance of the terms man and woman, the significance, that is, which makes us shrink particularly from applying them to young people, is their assumption of these sober, heavy responsibilities.

Now, what is the undergraduate's position in regard to these matters? At the private or high school a girl has her course of work mapped out for her, certain lessons set to be learned from day to day, a certain discipline to observe during school hours, which other people are at hand to enforce if she neglect it, and afterwards her home guardians, or, at boarding school her governesses, to supervise the general disposition of her leisure. She matriculates, and all these conditions are changed. During the coming academic years she has certain ground to cover in her studies, but no one prescribes for her the amount she must do each day