

girls; the Love that is no less essential is not only not directed, but it is made of far less importance than the amateur photography or the bazaar work with which they are allowed to fill hungry hours. They are not asked what they think about all this; by word and laughter and altitude of mind in their elders they are discouraged from discussing it—the girl thrown inwards upon her brooding, the boy flung outwards upon companionship that disillusion, hardens, sickens.

Is this right?

No, since it cannot be that people are unkind enough to wish all this to continue, it must be only want of thought that causes it.

If each family were made a centre where "the boys could get 'the odd drink' at home" in the way of girl-companionship, and where every girl who came would be sure of finding sympathy on this subject of the Love-Interest (instead of merely small-talk about the weather, the theatre, and how her mother was) it would soon begin to make a difference, not only to those particular boys and girls who went to that house, not only to those individual hosts and hostesses.

Individuals, when there are enough of them, influence Thought. Cannot each thinking individual set himself "dead against" taking as a matter-of-course the really hideous possibility of Youth never meeting a suitable sweetheart? Let each in his thought give this matter the importance that it deserves. Those who fervently "think" a conviction come to "living" that conviction. Thought spreads; it spreads!