

## Young Woman and Her Problem

By Pearl Richmond Hamilton

### Valentine Month

Cupid is celebrating this month gloriously. He is busier than he has been for four years. Our soldier boys are returning and their sweet girl friends have kept their promises. Then, too, others are meeting new friends. And so cupid is busily shooting hearts right and left with ammunition entirely different from that the boys have felt "over there." Cupid's arrows do not hurt. They strike straight into the heart.

Anyway—this department wishes God speed to every noble girl who weds her soldier sweetheart during this month of months—Cupid's season of the valentine.

### Girls' Khaki Clubs

The Girls' Khaki Club at Emerson has been most helpful in scattering blessings among the children of some of our soldiers, and now that changes are being made in war work, I am wondering if girls in other sections of Western Canada would like to organize and adopt the plan of the Emerson club, for what finer work can girls do than help the children of our heroes?

There is a little home in Winnipeg conducted by the Brock Chapter of the I.O.D.E. that has proven the ideal home for children of soldiers. It is the very best home possible for children whose parents cannot be with them. The Brock Centennial Chapter of the I.O.D.E. rented a house and found a motherly woman to take care of twenty children—the children of soldiers. In some cases the father has given his life for us—in other cases the father has returned but the mother has passed into the Great Beyond.

The plan is to keep the little khaki club home free from the atmosphere of an institution. It must be home-like. Have they succeeded? The other day a woman who sewed there emphasized their success by telling what she saw while there. You know sewing women in homes see things and sometimes they tell. This is what she saw: The matron—or mother—as she is known—had to go down town to do some shopping. When she had her hat and coat on everyone of those twenty children kissed her good-bye. Some went back and stole a second kiss. Then after she had gone they eagerly ran to the windows anxious for her return—just like children look for their very own mothers. Prominent men and women who are familiar with this little khaki club home say it is the very best work they have seen. This little home is so successful that soldier fathers who have lost their wives are begging for their little children to be taken in—but the little home can not accommodate more than twenty. You know twenty children is a big enough family for one mother with only one maid.

It is the most earnest wish of the Board to rent other houses to take care of the children of these noble heroes—and if there were girls' khaki clubs in other communities like the one at Emerson this would be possible, for they could make money in different ways, hold showers of linen, groceries, and farm produce, make clothing—oh, there are scores of things resourceful girls' khaki clubs could do for the little boys and girls who have sacrificed their daddy or mother during this awful war. I would like to see one hundred girls' khaki clubs formed in Western Canada to help the little children of the bravest men in Canada.

Mrs. W. H. Macpherson, 75 Balmoral Place, Winnipeg, who is the Regent of the Brock Centennial Chapter, will gladly give any information about the work to girls who plan to form the khaki clubs. Other girls' clubs already organized might assist in the work.

### Gratitude

This past month I have been reading over and over again the beautiful poems by Pauline Johnson in her book—Flint and Feather. I wish every girl or young woman who reads this page would learn some of her poems. She is so truly Canadian and every poem throbs with some bit of Canadian life. The spirit of gratitude is emphasized so beautifully in

her poems and legends, as was in her life. Sometimes I feel our girls are fast losing the sense of gratitude. Theodore Watts-Dunton in his introduction to Flint and Feather, says this of Pauline Johnson's sense of gratitude:

"Gratitude indeed was with her not a sentiment merely, as with most of us, but a veritable passion. And when we consider how rare a human trait true gratitude

is—the one particular characteristic in which the lower animals put us to shame—it can easily be imagined how I was touched to find that this beautiful and grand Canadian girl remained down to the very last moment of her life the impersonation of that most precious of all virtues. I have seen much of my fellow-men and women, and I never knew but two other people who displayed gratitude as a passion. On this account Pauline Johnson will always figure in my memory as one of the noblest minded of the human race."

This reminds me that I have in my

possession a letter of gratitude that she wrote me before her death. All I had done was to urge my readers of this page and in a department of another magazine, to buy her legends as they were so genuinely beautiful. Yet when she was suffering intense pain she wrote me a letter of sincere gratitude and I was a stranger to her.

There are young women who write me a lovely Christmas note every year— young women I have never helped in any way. There are girls for whom I have sacrificed much who never think of writing a letter. Do you know I think there is

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