



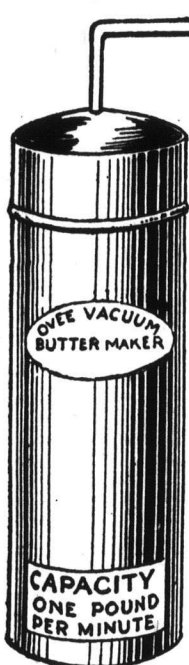
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The Young Woman and Her Problem

By Pearl Richmond Hamilton

A Teacher's Ideal

This month a Manitoba teacher visited my home—a young woman whose heart is in her work. A remark she made impressed me with our indebtedness to an educational leader in our province whose influence lives and grows in thousands of Manitoba homes. Boys and girls catch these great fine visions of life from their teachers, and in turn touch the lives of those in their homes. "Do you know," said this teacher, "when I hear Dr. McIntyre of the Normal, he makes me see great pure ideals full of religious inspiration that I must instil in those impressionable minds of the boys and girls in my school."

If a teacher learns no more than this in her training she has sensed the soul of the true teacher.

The minds of little children carry through their entire life, impressions made by their teachers. It is the most sacred of all professions. We cannot afford to sacrifice those important lives for commercialism. Hannah More, that great English teacher of the eighteenth century, whose work attracted the admiration of the educational profession in Europe and America, emphasized in her life and work the importance of a high moral tone in the schoolroom. She said: "I would not divorce education from religion. Women, especially, owe their entire elevation to Christianity. Hence its influence should be paramount, to exalt the soul as well as enlarge the mind. All sound education should prepare one for the duties of life, rather than for the enjoyment of its pleasures. What good can I do? should be the first inquiry. It is Christianity alone that teaches the ultimate law of morals."

Hannah More would subject every impulse and every pursuit, and every study to these ultimate laws as a foundation for true and desirable knowledge.

And yet the other day I heard a prominent club woman, when asked if she attended church, answer: "No, I do not work in any church, I believe in broader work."

The brave men on yonder battlefields are teaching us religion. United are they in their vision of a great God over all, Who shapes their destinies according to their vision of His greatness, His power and love. The Catholic, the Protestant, the Hebrew, are brothers alike over there and this is the important lesson we too must learn. Worship the great God of all we must, and if our sister worships in a different way it is all right so long as her life is charged with the soul of religion. Religion is not a creed, but a life. It is not a vague dream—it is practical discipline that develops a godly personality charged with love and beauty.

The Power of Gentleness

The gentle are not always decided, but the decided are always gentle. Where gentleness is at the root of the nature may have a tendency to produce a pliancy of will, but on the other hand where the will is already firm, its expression will be marked by gentleness.

If one examines a girl or woman of violent assertions, she will find that for the most part they originate in a mental doubt on the subject felt by the speaker herself.

Where the mind is made up, the voice is calm, and the words usually few. Ill-temper has often its root in the fact that the cause has weak points. In times of great crises in history when the fate of nations has been at stake, a decision made by a quiet woman of firm will has directed diplomats.

In French history we have Madame de Maintenon, one of the great women who exerted a powerful influence on the political destinies of France. She was born in the cell of a prison and was left an orphan without money. But her ambition led her to study, and her keen sense of observation trained her to development, in concentration and will power till she became the vital influence in the court of Louis XIV. By tact, prudence, patience, and good sense, she gained the confidence and respect of the king. She won a selfish man from pleasure by the richness of her conversation and the severity of her own morals.

Some girls think physical attraction and loud manners attract men, others realize that men worth while admire the strength of gentleness and the power of mental and moral influence.

John Lord, in Beacon Lights of History, gives us a wonderfully convincing picture of the two kinds of women and their influence on a man of the world—King Louis XIV. The women were Madame de Maintenon and Madame de Montespan.

He says: "They were women opposite in almost every thing. Maintenon won by the solid attainments of the mind, Montespan by her sensual charms. The one talked on literature, art and religious subjects; the other on fetes, balls, reviews, and the glories of the court and its scandals."

Maintenon reminded the king of his duties; Montespan directed his mind to pleasures. Maintenon was always amiable and sympathetic; Montespan provoked the king by her resentments and her fits of temper. Maintenon always appealed to the higher nature of the king; Montespan to the lower. Maintenon was calm, modest, self-possessed, judicious, wise; Montespan was extravagant and unreasonable.

"The one was a sincere friend, dissuading from folly; the other an exacting lover, demanding perpetually new favors to the injury of the kingdom and the subversion of the king's dignity of character."

"The former ruled through reason; the latter through the passions."

"Maintenon was irreproachable in her morals, preserved her self-respect, and tolerated no improper advances."

"Montespan had little regard for the honor of the king. Maintenon became more attractive every day; Montespan at last wearied and disgusted the king."

Maintenon in the name of virtue, piety and gentleness was the woman who won. "Her ambition was the reform of a wicked court, the interests of education, the extirpation of heresy, the elevation of men of genius, the social and religious improvement of a great nation, as she viewed it, through a man who had absolute sway."

Recreation

Deep down in the heart of every normal girl is the desire for a "good time." There would be little need of rescue work if clean recreation in safe environment were provided for young women and young men.

During the winter one girls' club in Winnipeg, framed a resolution urging for the provision of safe recreation centres.

There are scores of wage earning girls who have no place to entertain their young men friends, so they go to the moving picture theatre, the restaurant or the street. The situation is more serious in Winnipeg than in the cities where the winters are not so long and cold.

Is it any wonder that some girls accept the invitations from certain women to go to their suite of rooms where they take their first drink or their first dose of dope?

The women are inclined to forget our own girlhood. Every girl has a right to recreation in safe environment.

I believe the problem would be solved if recreation centres were provided in public school buildings. These should be managed and chaperoned by men and women who regard the protection of our young people as a sacred patriotic privilege.

We are responsible for our young people, and when a young man or a young woman faces the charge of any crime, some one is to blame for their first offence. Low wages, suggestive plays, pictures, dances or songs, lack of proper parental supervision, lack of care, joy riding, the "hugging" form of dancing, immodest dress, love of display and finery, and the mashing evil, are the principal causes that turn a girl from the safe road in life.

We cannot have too many girls' clubs with good honest women as leaders. These clubs are an important factor in the creation of splendid ideals and they satisfy the girls' longing for social