

# DOES A COLLEGE EDUCATION PAY A GIRL?

The Canadian College Trained Woman Is in Demand All Over the World

By MILLICENT PAYNE



"N O, I don't think I'll send her to the University. She'll probably marry, and then it would be money thrown away; a girl doesn't need that sort of thing as a boy does. I guess she'll just stay home when she's through school."

As these words reached me, my thoughts were brought back to that old problem which has faced so many fathers when a daughter is old enough to leave school: Should she continue her studies or, at seventeen or eighteen, come home having, presumably, "finished" her education?

The solution of this problem is more simple now in these days of war than it was two years ago. What should a girl's education be, and for what should it fit her? A boy's education must be such as to fit him for service in the world, in its broadest sense; and the care expended on a girl's education should have, as its ultimate object, the making of a useful citizen—one who not only realizes difficulties, but can attack them with a determined pertinacity that must win through.

Never before has this truth been so manifest—that a man or woman is the result of the training and care bestowed upon the boy or girl. We have all, at some time, shrugged our shoulders impatiently when told that school and college are a preparation for after-life. But the time is now upon us when we must realize that the future of our Empire, nay, the future of the whole world, lies with the College trained woman no less than the man.

Women must do not only their own work, but that of the men who are giving the devotion of their lives to the cause of liberty. Every woman has an imperative right to the education which will best fit her for a life service, and it is in our advanced schools and universities that this training can best be given. In them a girl learns by actual experience the meaning of life in a community with its obligations and responsibilities, its necessary consideration for and tolerance of others.

But does life in such a community produce these excellent and much desired results? Study the work which is being done by women who have been educated at one or other of our schools and colleges.

## College Girls Who Have Made Good

MISS MARY CLARKE, the Headworker at Central Neighbourhood House, Toronto, was educated at Haverhill College, afterward graduating from Trinity College, Toronto. Her office opens at 8.45 each morning, and from the moment she appears, there is a constant stream of foreigners whose requirements cover a vast range; one man wants work, but as he speaks no English, a note must be written to the Employment Bureau; an Italian woman wants news of her baby at the Sick Children's Hospital, and would the Lady at the House please telephone for her? Men and women come seeking employment in a strange city whose language is unknown, and where they would be stranded were it not for the services of the helpers and interpreters at this haven of refuge. The tide of callers never ebbs, yet through it all clerical work calls for attention and matters of wider interest must be settled both by letter and telephone. Classes are held in the afternoons in Mothercraft, and for girls learning typewriting. In the evening boys come for instruction in cabinet-making, while at different hours of the day clubs meet for sewing, physical drill, and games pure and simple.

Miss Clarke finds settlement work keenly interesting and a source of stimulus, carrying with it its own reward in the friendship of these queer foreigners, who are usually regarded by English-speaking people with a certain suspicion. They soon recognize "The Workers" as friends, and progress through the district becomes a slow business when one is hailed by children who express a frank interest in one's object and

Miss Mary Edgar, as The Piper, in her poetical play, "The Wayside Piper."



Miss Ruth McFarlane, who combines Philosophy and Debts, and her staff.

destination; by mothers, proudly exhibiting dark-eyed Italian babies; and by old people who have some story to pour out, sure of a sympathetic listener. There is quaint philosophy, too, to be garnered, and curious comments are passed at times on the customs of this country. One old Pole expressed his ideas about the marriage question in Canada very quaintly: "I never hear of no person not marrying in Old Country. In Canada—no good—too many old girls. Some day, when the War is over, I will make it like Old Country. Many men will come to Canada. I get a book. I make one book with all the girls' names; in another book I put all the men's names. I take the girls' names to the men; they choose a girl. I fix them all up."

## In Camp and Factory

LAKE JOSEPH! From the hot, crowded city streets to its cool freshness! A far cry; but here again school training is proving itself. Last summer a group of girls acted a play written by Miss Mary Edgar, wherein she embodied, in poetical form, her very practical ideals of a life of service. "The Wayside Piper" is the title, The Piper being the chief character who, in this case, is a woman. Faith, Hope, and Love breathed their messages into her Pipe, so that, going down into the cities amongst girls, she instilled into their hearts her inspired message; and girls, alike from factory and college, all unconscious still of their great opportunities, heard the message, and, after her piping, their faces shone with a new light as they realized at last the beauty of a life of service to others.

Miss Edgar is an old student of Haverhill College and is well known as an active member of the Young Women's Christian Association in work which brings her into personal contact with girls. She has been for many years an officer of the Girls' Camp, Lake Couchiching, living, playing, and studying with the girls, and leading them to realize the rich opportunities for help and service—opportunities which will increase when school is but a memory and the deeper responsibility of womanhood is upon them.

"I love association work," Miss Edgar declares, "because I love girls, and the work simply means associating with them, and helping them to discover their best."

In Montreal Miss Edgar has already done great service amongst those whose hard work keeps them indoors all day amidst the ceaseless clatter of whirling machinery. By starting clubs in different factories, she has brought an interest to many who, otherwise, would never have realized that their lives hold possibilities of active happiness, and who, but for her, would never have understood those possibilities. The girls' clubs for recreation and amusement have made an unbelievable change, and employers welcome them as wholeheartedly as employees. They know from experience that a happy girl is capable of infinitely better work than one who is gradually developing into a dull, unthinking, mechanical drudge.

## Debts and Philosophy

"IT is very difficult to study and attend to business at the same time," said Miss Ruth McFarlane, "but I spent two years working up the business and establishing a connection, and now I am in my Junior year at Victoria College, studying philosophy, and am conducting my business as well."

"But don't you find the telephone a nuisance when it breaks into your study?" I asked.

"Well, I did at first, but now I have regular hours when the girls can report, and the people for whom I work are gradually coming round to my wish and communicating by letter, unless there is something very urgent."

"Girls report to you?" came the question of a somewhat puzzled person.

"Yes," was the smiling answer, "I have four girls working for me now, and they also are finding it a profitable business, though, naturally, it takes a good deal of time. I began by collect- (Continued on page 32.)"



Miss Mary Clarke, Headworker, Central Neighbourhood House, Toronto, is shown on the left. Miss Clarke finds a live use for her University training in Settlement Work.

Miss Norma Smith—on the right—devotes her College education to the development of The Girl Guides, drilling them, coaching them and taking them on hikes into the country.

