

MY CURE FOR THE HEARTACHE-WORK

MISS MARION HONEYMAN WOOD, one of the most beautiful girls in Philadelphia, a leader in the younger society set and member of one of the wealthiest old Quaker families in that city, determined that she would earn her own living. She answered advertisements for nurse girls and waitresses, was in turn a telephone operator, a seamstress, a hospital nurse and companion, and now has gone on the stage.

Miss Wood is the daughter of Edward Randolph Wood, of the Philadelphia Board of Trade; niece of George Wood, director of the Pennsylvania Railroad; niece of the wealthy Wood Brothers, of the Wood foundries; sister of Miss Juliana Wood, a Philadelphia belle; cousin of Mr. Jesse Tyson, of Baltimore, and of Edmund Randolph, of New York; cousin of the illustrator, M. Louise Wood, who was a favorite pupil of the late Whistler, and cousin of Eleanor Wood, superintendent of the Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Why Miss Wood chose to be a wage-earner instead of a society girl, and what her experiences as a working girl have been, she tells in a characteristic way on this page.

Miss Wood is living plainly at a boarding house No. 113 East Seventeenth street, New York, and secretly misses the butler and other luxuries of her home at Philadelphia.

times they would talk about families I shore. Once my charge turned on me when I was in the surf with her. She clutched me and pushed me under the water, and although I am a good swimmer, I was helpless with her big thumbs against my windpipe. A man swam out and saved me. Then it was that I concluded to do what I had always wanted to do, since they would not have me at any of the hospitals, because I had been expelled from the Pennsylvania Hospital. I went to Philadelphia and entered a School of Acting. Last Spring I appeared as Constance in the school performance of "Young Mrs. Winthrop" in the Garrick Theatre, of Philadelphia.

The next week I came to New York and was snubbed and turned down as an unknown by the managers and agents, but I got a stock engagement at Sherbrook, Canton, long distance calls, I was offended because I had been expelled from the Pennsylvania Hospital. I might have signed with a Broadway company if I had been willing to

"I was willing to work for \$3 a week, \$2 less than the other housemaid's wages."

"I went to Philadelphia and entered a school of acting."



ACTRESS.

How a Rich Young Society Girl, Disappointed in Love, Sought Forgetfulness as a Hospital Nurse, Then as Telephone Girl, Seamstress, Companion, Housemaid, and Actress--

By Marion Honeyman Wood.

ANY girl who did not need to work them to give her another chance, and say has been a wage earner because she had that I had slumped a patient myself. thought it was every one's duty to help the girl I was expelled. I had no such high and noble idea I got confessed in writing that I had purpose. I had done what I could to help a patient? I used the hospital, because I had been disappointed in love, only I hurt me a little more than most of them. I could not laugh and forget him when I found the man I had worshipped was a cad. Six months of nervous prostration was the price I paid for my disillusionment. When I again I looked about to see what life held for me, and there seemed to be nothing there but a great emptiness, and I decided that to endure life at all I must take up some kind of work in which I could lose my own heartache in helping others. That was the reason I entered the Pennsylvania Hospital as a pupil nurse. That it was no mere whim of mine, but a settled purpose, is proved by the fact that I kept my post there for two years.

Expelled for Slapping a Patient.

I was expelled at last because I slapped a patient. Don't judge me until you hear the story. The Pennsylvania Hospital is in the Second Ward, and most of the patients sent there are the refuse of the city. The woman I tried to discipline was a negro nearly twice as large as myself. I wanted her to lie down and go to sleep, and she refused point blank and called me a "dirty dog" besides.

I argued gently with her; but with every word she got angrier and angrier, and threatened about so that she nearly displaced a bandage. I tried holding down her knees, but she lunged about in bed as a ship tossed about in a stormy sea. When she had wasted nearly a half hour of the time I should have given to other patients in the ward, and I had tried everything, from moral suasion to force, I gave her a sound slap on the cheek, and she quieted down, meek as a meek old lamb, and turned over and went to sleep. When the doctor made his rounds, I told him about it, and he scolded me for making trouble. And there the incident would have closed if I hadn't months afterward turned champion for another nurse who got into trouble with the directors for slapping a refractory patient.

Because She Helped a Girl.

She came to me and begged me to intercede with the directors for her.

"You know, Miss Wood, that you have friends on the Board, and your family is influential. You have a 'pull' and I haven't."

Prefecture whispered "No," and I shook my head; but the nurse persisted and I knew and asked him for a character.

"A character," he said. "Are you crazy, my dear?"

"I answered several 'ads' for maid of all work, or housemaid, but no one would engage me because I could not give references. At last I went to a doctor whom I knew and asked him for a character."

"A character," he said. "Are you crazy, my dear?"

and is Still "Under Treatment."

Miss Wood?

"No, but I need work," I said. "Please give me a reference."

"What kind of a reference?"

"Say that you know I am honest and sober and industrious."

"Industrious?" he grunted, but I insisted. He wrote some thing and I handed him. When I got to the corner I read it. What do you suppose he had written?

"Miss Marion Wood is a charming young woman whom I have known socially for years."

Knowing that this recommendation of Miss Marion Wood would not help Mary Ann Wood, who wanted to be a housemaid, I tore up the note, thinking how foolish the world is.

Couldn't Get a Proper Reference.

A Jewish on Grand avenue, who lived next door to a friend of my family, agreed to take me without previous experience, because I was willing to work for \$2 a week, \$2 less than the other housemaid's wages. I was to clean the silver and brass and keep the halls and parlor clean, and scrub the front doorstep. I thought what fun I'd have whisking at my friend next door over the bucket. She asked for a reference and I gave her the address of a typewriter I knew. I went to her house to ask her if that would be agreeable, but her mother said:

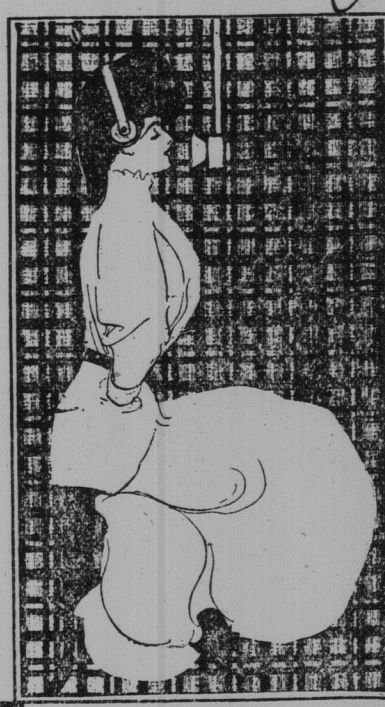
"No, 'siree! The idea of referring any one to a home for a housemaid! Think of such a 'thing'! Why, I wouldn't allow Florence to associate with such people!"

To prevent embarrassment to the typewriter I wrote the woman on Grand avenue that I had a "reference."

"Too bad! For the

housemaid, who thought I wouldn't

say that I had a 'reference'!"



HELLO.



NURSE.

"Through my family or personal pull I got work at the Central Telephone Office."

"I went to several of my friends and asked them to hire me as a child's nurse."

"I was willing to work for \$2 a week, \$2 less than the other housemaid's wages. I was to clean the silver and brass and keep the halls and parlor clean, and scrub the front doorstep. I thought what fun I'd have whisking at my friend next door over the bucket. She asked for a reference and I gave her the address of a typewriter I knew. I went to her house to ask her if that would be agreeable, but her mother said:

"No, 'siree! The idea of referring any one to a home for a housemaid! Think of such a 'thing'! Why, I wouldn't allow Florence to associate with such people!"

To prevent embarrassment to the typewriter I wrote the woman on Grand avenue that I had a "reference."

"Too bad! For the

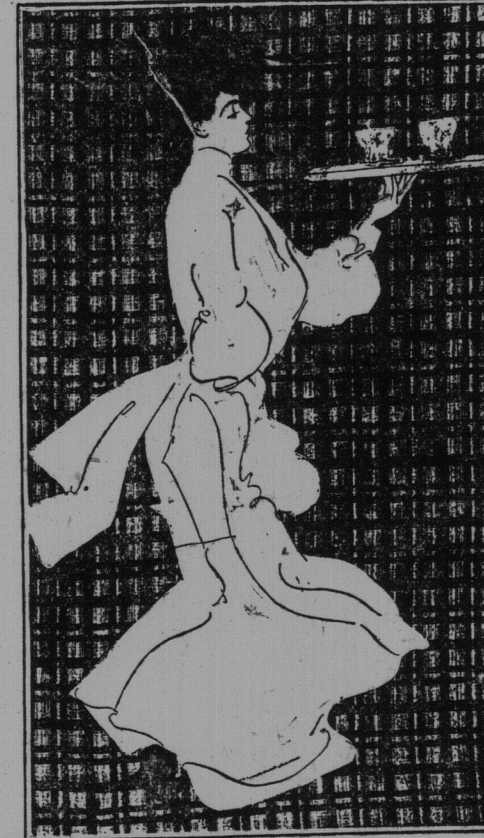
housemaid, who thought I wouldn't

say that I had a 'reference'!"

"Too bad! For the

SEAMSTRESS!

"We made dresses for several of my friends and a trousseau for an old chum of mine."



WAITRESS.

MISS MARION HONEYMAN WOOD
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVIS & SARGENT



same afternoon she called and said she would work for four dollars a week. Then she concluded that I would suit admirably, in fact, that I was exactly the girl she wanted.

Then any girl that has answered the ad: I worked there for four months and the charge against my fastidiousness. So, after being a central girl for four months and two weeks at \$4.00 a week, I resigned.

Through an acquaintance made at the hospital I was engaged as companion at \$20 a month.

"Your hospital experience will serve you in good stead," said my friend. "The case is one of nervous prostration."

Those were six strenuous weeks when I kept my head in Philadelphia. Since then I could tell to work, Marion, do the quilt the stage and come home, and I will get the up in a fine, respectable

wear men's clothes, but my poor family! I dared not do it for their sake. This morning came a letter from my Quaker friends, with the news that Marion, do the quilt the stage and come home, and I will get the up in a fine, respectable

Some country home, the rest in a marsh near the business, a steam laundry."