

# *A Typical Day in the Ladies' Lounge*

OR

## "WHY COMMON ROOMS GO GRAY"

Here I am — hidden away down in the basement with only a small sign to make me known to the outside world — it says: "Ladies' Lounge." That is what I'm called, but there always seems to be too much noise for anyone to lounge. For you poor unfortunates who have never crossed my threshold, let me give you an example of what I have to put up with. Let's take a look at a typical day in the girls' common room.

About 7:50 the alarm goes off and it is time to get ready for a long, hard day of trying to keep my four walls and assorted pieces of furniture from falling apart. At 7:55 the first arrival makes her appearance as Doreen wanders in, more asleep than awake, and throws herself on the couch for twenty minutes more of shut-eye. For awhile the only noise is that of snoring. By 8:20 the rest of the girls start arriving and by 8:28 all those who have that horrible early class have appeared. Oops — pardon me — rushing in the back door comes Syl, whose first words are inevitably, "Who's got some orange lipstick?" After piling six deep around a mirror the girls finally hustle off to class, leaving Diane still combing her hair and Karen taking her bangs out of pin-curls. Quiet prevails until about 8:42 when Flo dashes in trying to decide whether she's late for this class or early for the next. At 9:10 Edith staggers in, loaded with books and complaining about the cold. Soon the room is filled with girls and I can hardly hear myself think above the shrill chatter of "les femmes." By 9:24 Mitch has managed to get her Economics done, accompanied by Lil's cheerful whistle, and all are ready for the next exciting lecture. Soon it is time for coffee and Gladie, who always seems to arrive at the same time. After coffee there is an expectant hush as everyone waits for the big moment to arrive. On the dot of 12:00 cards mysteriously appear and the girls settle down to a strenuous game of whist. This goes on till about 12:45 when the table is cleared for the "Floor Show." Even Lorna has arrived by this time and Aletha and Margaret in the front everything is ready. Out come the "dancing girls" — Derb, Feef and Dottie, up on the table they go and the show is on. I feel quite safe in saying that R.C. is the only College in Canada with a chorus line like this. And for twenty minutes or so "the girls" sing and dance to the accompaniment of creaking table legs. This usually brings Marjie and Kay in to investigate and sometimes Betty even takes her nose out of her book to see what is going on. Then the dancing girls bring everyone in, including Norine and Gail, and a congo line is formed, that upon the sight of Miss Belcher is just as quickly un-formed. By 1:15 things are somewhat back to normal with one and all clustered in front of that popular piece of furniture — the mirror. Sue rushes in, closely followed by Peggy, with glasses frosted over and wondering what she's missed. The afternoons are comparatively quiet with a few daring souls still playing whist — using paper bags and books to hide the cards in. By 4:30 even Pauline and Sherry have gone home and I settle down for a well deserved rest. So, you see, it is more like a mad-house than a lounge, in that "cool crazy common room."

—DOROTHY NEFF.