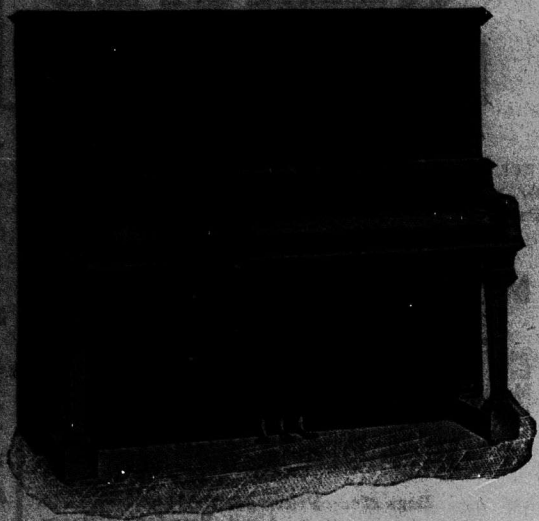


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The Young Woman and Her Problem.

By PEARL RICHMOND HAMILTON.

A stenographer sends me this problem: "I feel that I am simply a machine in the office. Why should I be robbed of individuality as I am? I dislike exceedingly the attitude of employer to employed in our office."

The greatest loss in the world is the loss of self-respect. Young women develop themselves but they are responsible to those about them for the kind of lives they live. It is their duty to themselves and to society that they prize their personality.

The girl who bravely faces the battles of life, creates her own atmosphere and has opportunity to build up fine character if she retains her womanliness, her dignity and her self-respect. A girl who enters the business world must lower her womanly dignity; the manner in which she approaches her employer will largely determine the manner in which she will be approached. There is no good faithful work forgotten. It may seem to the stenographer that her conscientious work is not noticed, but the employer values it more, than he expresses and in the end she will be recognized.

"A distinguished educator and literary man," says The Christian Advocate, "called in an office and uttered a sentiment which will awaken a response in thousands of hearts and heads. The air of the man, as he uttered the statement, was that of a person who had discovered a diamond of the first water. These were his words:

"I have a stenographer who knows when not to talk."

Right here let me quote what Edward I. Post, of the International Harvester Company says, in a confidential chat with his stenographer.

"Did you ever stop to think that a

grouch does much to injure the character and career of many people?"

You came into my department two years ago from a small office in the town in which you were born. You are now earning eleven dollars a week; your pay should be fifteen dollars a week, and it is your own fault that you are not getting it. Your ability mechanically is all right but you carry a perpetual grouch with you. You make your work a cross instead of a pleasure, snip and snap at those about you, and your bad days even disturb my temperament and irritate me.

You are respected for your abilities, but thoroughly disliked for your disregard of the feelings and necessities of those about you. You have lost advancement and are injuring your character through grouchiness." From the president of the corporation down to the stoker in the basement of the building is needed the "human touch"—genuine thoughtfulness one for another. Every helping hand added to other helping hands lightens the burdens of work, strengthens the character. And so I affirm, dear girl stenographer, that a kind heart, a gentle manner, a womanly dignity will create in you a personality so splendid that it will radiate an outflowing that is rare and fine and full of recompense. You are coming in contact with the masses and you will not only win the respect and admiration of all who know you, but you will exert a refining influence on those with whom you mingle and though you are a working girl and your sphere is the "business world" the fact remains that you are still a lady in every sense of the word, and not a machine. If you retain your self-respect no employer can rob you of your individuality, for self-respect

creates individuality. It is a queen among virtues.

Standing by Father.

I am pleased to see some of the women's magazines introducing departments that contain ideas for kind consideration of fathers. I am afraid we neglect the "fathers" too much in our journalistic advice. A daughter should treat her father with respectful regard.

This confession is told by a motherless girl:

"You don't know what it cost me the first time I opened the piano after mother's death. But father loves music, and he needs all the help he can to keep up his heart. Mother used to read aloud to him in the evenings, and, the first time I tried it, I thought every word would choke me. But it didn't. It helps me to think that I'm doing it for father's sake, and for mother's sake, too. It would please her to know that I was trying to fill her place." There are other motherless girls who could profitably take these words to heart. Grief is some times very selfish. The girl who lets her natural sorrow shadow the home life like a dark cloud is making a great mistake. The father of a motherless girl tries, as a rule, to be both father and mother to his child; and she should reciprocate by trying to fill her mother's place, as far as she can, by interesting herself in what interests him, by wearing a bright face, and making the atmosphere of the home cheery and wholesome. What she does for her father's sake is done for her absent mother as well. Sometimes she may rebel because her place is hard to bear, but let her remember that the heavenly father

knows in what soil his human flowers flourish best. But let me say to the girls who have mother and father, things that seem small and insignificant at the time, things that girls console themselves for having done with the thought that "Father did not notice it," will come back with a sting of bitter reproach when they have left "father's" home.

Disrespect for "father" will be their regret when they leave him. Do not fall short of true comradeship with him. You will be safer and he will appreciate it.

A Disturbing Element.

The young woman who works a few months every year for money to buy extra clothes, creates discontent among office girls and clerks that is far reaching in its disturbing influence. There are many girls whose parents are able to support them comfortably, but not extravagantly and consequently they go into offices and stores during certain seasons of the year.

These girls not only usurp the positions needed by poor earnest girls who must work, but they create discontent. They hurl sneering remarks at the girls who work for the bare necessities of life, and utter disapproval of the environments.

This remark came from such a girl: "I would rather be dead than work here all the time."

Another asked a little under fed girl this question.

"How can you dress decently and pay board on your salary?" Then she meanly added:

"But perhaps you don't care for swell clothes."

This type of "girl-traitor" creates further mischief by increasing the supply of help and consequently keeping wages and salaries low.

I have seen these same well dressed young women push the poorer girls aside to gain customers and because of their better personal appearance and