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## OBSERVATIONS.

The discredited Post has been revived, but, to judge from its four pages of typographical errors, its lack of readable matter and the predominating presence of plates its reappearance is only temporary. The advertisers who supplied the pianos and bicycles for the contes's and who agreed to take their pay in advertising, the compositors and reporters to whom the old company owes wages, will make the establishment of credit by a company under that name more than usually difficult. When Mr. Schwind went to war he turned over the assets and the debts to Mr. Edmonds, but before leaving town he ordered enough merchandise from the largest advertisers to balance their account with the Post. The new publisher has refused to pay the union scale to several compositors, which explains the very slovenly appearance of the sheet. Each of the important political parties, for the sake of balance, should be journalistically represented in every community, but it is questionable if a paper with the history and cheap characteristics of the Post, can do anything but injure the political party it represents.

To kill seems in many cases to be a consequence of loving. The psychologists pretend to understand love. They have named the various stages and ascribed the varied forms of manifestation to the classified temperaments. But the explanations fail to explain why a lover who invests his mistress with attributes not commonly possessed by mortals and who professes to prefer her happiness to his,

should on receiving an intimation that she loves another man decide to shoot her. The number of innocent and lovely girls shot every year by gorilla young men is pitifully large. Girls of good judgment invariably reject crackbrained lovers of the kind who shoot when they are disappointed. No means of defense has been suggested. Men of equal strength dealing with such selfish cowards save their own lives by shooting first, but a young lady cannot go armed so soon as she acquire two beaux. The young lady who was shot in Omaha recently was the support of an invalid mother and her death will entail suffering upon the helpless.

After the shooting the police and reporters were called in. One of the latter discovered the address of the murdered girl's mother and hurried off to interview her. Before informing the mother that her daughter was dying he relates in his report that after persistent questioning he induced her to acknowledge Melchert's attentions to her daughter and the existence of another beau. Meanwhile the daughter was breathing her last at the hospital, but the reporter got his copy at the cost of the chance of the last words and look from the daughter to her mother and the tawdry reporter, unconscious of his crime, boasts of his acuteness in outwitting the dying.

Club women are becoming more and more interested in economic and industrial questions. The first clubs were undoubtedly a concerted protest by a select few against the monotony of afternoon teas and other functions which lead nowhere in particular and are better than nothing only because all expressions of the social instinct are, to a certain extent, civilizing. When a woman prepares to meet others she washes her face, puts on one of her best frocks, or the only one, as the case may be, puts out of her mind fretful thoughts and considers how she can aid the hostess of the approaching occasion to make it successful by diffusing happiness. This preparation of the face, the body and the spirit is altruistic. No thoroughly selfish egotist was ever a successful society woman. In order to be a welcome guest she must spend time thinking of the best way and words to put others at ease and far more time conquering momentary impulses to say things which may set the skeletons in many closets to rattling. Therefore and for many other reasons it is not intended to underestimate the institutional value of society.

But one season of afternoon and evening functions is enough to teach a quick witted woman where lie the rocks upon which many a pleasure party has gone to pieces. With the compass of intuition carefully insulated a leader of society finds the point of least resistance in the most stolid company and sets it to talking glee-

fully, quite unconscious of the hand on the wheel and the rudder which really swerved it into the right current. The perfection of such leadership is rare but it is as necessary to society as a pilot to a ship entering a harbor full of reefs. By "society" no particular group large or small in any place is referred to, but the gathering together of rich and poor, black and white, in groups whose composition is determined or has been by neighborhood, sympathy, or some other agent of selection. If life were longer we might develop the salon in this country, that peculiarly French institution of which Madame Recamier was the most perfect flower, but we have never cultivated conversation and the science of society here. The hostess who invites a company of friends invariably provides some mechanical means of amusement as cards, or dancing, or puzzle work of some kind. All of which are very well, only it is a commentary on our lack of interest in each other that we do not dare allege the desire to meet and sharpen our wits and try our fascinations upon each other as the cause of meeting.

The earliest women's clubs were, then, a protest against the waste of time, first of the hostess who must still perplex her mind to think of something new for her entertainments, and secondly, from the guests who inoculated with the spirit of the nineteenth century renaissance, wish to spend what time is left in the culture of the mind. The club satisfies the gregarious longings and stimulates the mind and emotions simultaneously. With a program and a constitution and officers a club relieves the hostess of responsibility and gives an intellectual aspect and name to social gatherings. For the conscientious club member it does more than this, in reviving a love for learning and investigation, which, if circumstances permit, will surely lead her back into college life. Where circumstances are not favorable university extension lectures and courses offer a valuable substitute. For the community, clubs raise the standard of intelligence and seriousness and should quicken the sense of citizenship in its broadest meaning, especially since the original aristocratic movement has expanded until the club is open to every woman who wishes to join it.

Kipling's story of how the new steamship found herself is an allegory. When the ship reached the open waters every rivet, bolt and beam, each separate part of the machinery, protested that it was bearing more than its share of weight and doing more than its share of work, but steam kept them all moving or resisting the pressure, just as the builder had planned, and soon each did its part without any complaining squeaks. The social organism is a vast piece of machinery planned to accomplish

what does not end with life. But the parts do protest too much and we do not perform our humble but essential functions smoothly.

Woman has been too much in the habit, as Saint Jane Addams says, of considering herself separately as a mother, wife or sister, and not racially as a rivet or bit of enginery that cannot refuse to bear its proper relation to the whole without retarding the progress of the noble ship of life.

The club, especially the unlimited club, inevitably leads a woman to see that she is a part of something. Thus, she is a member of a club which is a unit in the state federation and also one in the general federation. So a thoughtful club woman cannot be insular or provincial. She moves about with a larger sense of the wholeness of life and a wider vision. When the development of clubs had proceeded far enough the stage was marked by the organization of village and city improvement associations—the first formal recognition by women of the duties of citizenship.

At every biennial meeting of the general federation of women's clubs, the number of addresses and papers on municipal and industrial topics has perceptibly increased. Women have begun to take notice. The period of infancy is past. I recall only one purely literary session at the Denver biennial and that was the evening occupied by Miss Agnes Repplier and Mrs. Ruth McEnery Stuart in reading an essay and some stories. The meaning of it is that we have not time to study literature or history exclusively. We shall not pass this way again and women must work together and with a will to straighten and smooth the path for those who come after us that they may more effectually help the weak of their time.

The City Improvement association of Lincoln would be more effective if all women belonged to it. Any popular organization with an unlimited membership clause is a constant object lesson of the strength of unity and of the individual's need to realize all sorts and conditions of men. Just as a man and woman can keep house together better than apart, the city needs the minute oversight of women as well as the business judgment and direction of men. Although the former have not been invited to help them, like the Red Cross nurses they should insist, and in the end their work will be recognized.

At the last meeting of the city council the street commissioner was, on the motion of Mr. Mockett, a republican member of the council from the Sixth ward, instructed to grade W street from Twenty third street to Twenty seventh street, and Twenty sixth street from W street to the Missouri Pacific right of way. For the grading of these streets there is absolutely no necessity but that fact appears to have no influence with the