

Should a Young Woman Attempt
to Earn Her Way Through College.

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Introductory Statement.

There is no reason why an ordinary girl cannot earn her way through college provided she be encouraged and given instructions in regard to the kinds of labor she could best do and carry on her regular college work; provided, also, that she knows how best to use her vacations and other ~~times~~ ^{times} she has and wishes to devote to labor.

In the age in which we live we find many more persons, especially women, attending college than we did a few decades, or even a few years ago. The great increase in the number of young women attending college is due principally to the everwidening business outlook for women. There are at present very few offices or positions ^{women} may not occupy. In Ancient times it was not thus. But from ancient times on to the present we find woman becoming more and more prominent in public life. Let us turn

back the pages of history to the time when woman was found almost entirely in the home. It was the home for which she was educated.

So wide and varied is woman's vocation today that she like man must be educated for the position she is called to fill at his side.

The following questions were carefully prepared and submitted to twenty one young women who have had or are having experience along the line of paying part or all of their expenses while in college.

State of health.

Amount of self support.

Rate of progress in college

Kinds of work pursued while in college

Kinds of work pursued while out of college.

In what respect has the work been helpful socially, morally, intellectually, and in respect to future work.

In what respect has this experience been a hindrance socially, morally, intellectually and in respect to future work.

Under what circumstances would you advise this independent effort on the part of other girls.

By the use of this outline aided by other questions I was able to get some data from which I shall quote from time to time throughout this theme

Advantages Intellectually and Physically

A girl while attending college is constantly filling her mind with new and varied thoughts. But when she is paying her own expenses, which causes her to do more or less outside work, she is placed where she must learn quickly and remember the essentials. As one girl said, "I have formed the habit of grasping essentials quickly."

A young woman must take her physical welfare very seriously into consideration when contemplating such a course, and plan her work so she may have sufficient rest and exercise. According to the suggestions of those questioned and from personal experience some such work as

sewing or dining room work is preferable to office or closer work, which is more of a menial strain. In the data I have taken there are only four who did office work and quoting from one "Only in case of bare necessity" would she advise such, while those who did less confining work of some form all advised part or entire self support.

Advantages morally and Religiously

During the time which one is spending in completing his college course he is brought in contact with a great many different persons and experiences. There are a great many of these such as will teach him charity for those who are in need or experiencing circumstances similar to his own. It teaches one to be independent to have to depend on himself. He knows better how to meet the world when he has to start out in it for himself. Being brought

in contact with different classes is very broadening" was the thought given by a girl who has almost completed her college work and entirely self supporting. When there are duties and expenses to be met one is in a sense driven to do the thing he might otherwise neglect. The benefit derived therefrom would tend to make him stronger morally if done in the proper spirit and manner. There is a certain charm about college work which drives him on and on. When he once gets started and interested. The surroundings are partly at least of such a character as to be an inspiration not only through associating with strong moral students, but also in many of the class rooms through the influence of the instructor and his strong personality.

Advantages Socially

If the girl could only attend college by means of self support it would

be desirable that she support herself and take advantage of the help she would derive from such surroundings.

I here are many things to be learned which can be learned only in this way and there is furnished an opportunity to meet a class of refined and intelligent persons that she would be unable to meet in any other place in the same manner. I shall give a few quotations from the papers filled out. That will show the thoughts of different students on this question of social advantages," made me more self confident while in company. It has enabled me to attend lectures and so forth, that I could not have afforded," "made it easier for me to meet strangers and taught me to be a good mixer", and "Places one before the public, gives insight into human nature, helps in making friends," The years spent in college are years in life when the individual is making a rapid development in any place where he may be. It is rather difficult to determine

just what help it is as he would not know to what extent he would grow if placed under different surroundings and in different circumstances.

Disadvantages Intellectually and Physically

There are arguments on both sides of any question, so now we shall try to show the disadvantages as compared with the advantages, that this may lead to no disappointment. But there is nothing worth while that does not have to be paid for more or less dearly. There are many new and varied things to be met and there must be some perseverance in order to meet them. There must be a certain amount of time spent in manual labor that one may meet his expenses. This will take some of the time that would want to be spent in study, reading, or research work of some form. This work may be planned so as to take as little time as possible. No student can study all the time and if he does dining room work or some form of work

that may be done at meal time, when his work is completed his mind and body will be rested.

Disadvantages Morally and Religiously.

There is little hindrance either morally or religiously that may be felt except in some slight form as it teaches to become somewhat careless or selfish about the rights and needs of others ~~which is due~~ to overwork. For the most part there is a tendency to an uplift and the hindrances are put in the background.

Disadvantages Socially

For the girl who is earning her way through college there is little time left for really getting acquainted with the girls except in the class room or at society. She is thus likely to grow less amiable and will lose a great portion of the best of her college life: the friendship of girls. There are a few thoughts that may help to make clear what has already been given which I shall take from the papers. "Has often kept

looked to enjoy social pleasures. I feel that I have lost adaptability. "work has limited the number of my acquaintances," "It has been no hindrance except it has kept me from visiting among other girls by having work to do at my room. It has perhaps made me a little more exclusive. The last was quoted from a girl who did light house keeping to lessen her expenses.

Kinds of Employment Available.

I have discussed this topic as I have been discussing the others about as thoroughly as I am capable. As to work to be done while in college, there are many such things as sewing cooking and the like to be done in the home and elsewhere at vacation time or office agency or some such work as that. If a year is to be spent in some form of work I would advise teaching. It makes a person more self confident more independent to judge for herself and improve the powers of reasoning concentration of thought and the ability to

explain her ideas. She must in order to be successful enjoy her work. A girl who has taught two or three years is in turn more capable of being taught that is she can grasp the thought more readily.

There is some information of interest in the June and July numbers of the Delinicator for nineteen hundred and eight on the subject of wage earning on the part of college girls.

In all instances where health will permit, if I were to advise a young woman, I should say earn part at least of the expense and if it is the only chance for a college education take enough time and earn it all. There is much pleasure to be obtained and many things that cannot be learned in any other way.