I Wonder What College Is Like?

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I Wonder What College Is Like?

By FLORENCE E. BUSSE, Professor of Household Science

COLLEGES? Only four months more until you, high school senior, will be starting off to college. During every one of these sixteen coming weeks you will be wondering, wondering what college is like. Perhaps one of last year's seniors in your home town has been in college this year and she has told you all about it. But somehow your imagination can't keep pace with her description and you find yourself wondering about registration, about the new life in the dormitory, about your new friends you are to make, whether you will be lucky enough to have an attractive roommate, and if you must study very hard at college.

Sometimes when that wonder grows larger and larger you may just lose your courage and decide that after all you will just stay at home. Then your mother will have to renew your courage as mine did. "Why, my dear, of course you are going to college. That has been my family's plan since you were in the cradle. You won't mind it when once you've gotten started." Your interest will return, too, when last year's senior gets home and says "Oh yes, you must go to college. There's nothing like it. I can't tell you just what it is, but it's wonderful."

A senior girl sat studying at a table in my office the other day. She was a girl of many activities, a girl much beloved by the students and much admired by the faculty. I wondered what had made her college life so great a success. "I don't even miss me if I didn't appear at the meeting but I knew if I did this apparently insignificant task well, the girls would realize that I was interested and might choose from athletics, Y. W. C. A., Home Economics Clubs, Woman's Guild, Glee Club, The Student, Homemaker, or perhaps her own church group."

"I was appointed on a very minor committee during the spring quarter of my freshman year. I knew they wouldn't even miss me if I didn't appear at the meeting but I knew if I did this apparently insignificant task well, the girls would realize that I was interested and might choose from athletics, Y. W. C. A., Home Economics Clubs, Woman's Guild, Glee Club, The Student, Homemaker, or perhaps her own church group."

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Her remarks remind me of a song the freshman sang when I was in college:

O Trig, Trig, Trig,
Mr. Trigonometry
You've caused us lots of trouble,
In our freshman history
We find we can not bluff you
And no matter how we try
This only way to get an A
Is to S-T-U-D-Y-

I asked another senior girl about her entrance here. She answered me: "No I didn't know a soul. I was so afraid of registration for it seemed to me that all eyes of that whole line of people were centered on me. I was sure I would do some dreadful thing that would disgrace me before these strangers. But it all seemed to pass away later, it is the line. No one knew anything more about it than I did and the girl behind me asked me questions while we waited our long turn. She was a friendly girl, not dressed very attractively but just so congenial that I sat down again beside her at the dormitory that night at dinner. Do you know that most of my best friends now are the freshmen I met in my classes and lived with in the dormitory that first year. We have kept our friendship all these four years, just grown up here together. Such wonderful girls they are."

I talked today with a brown-eyed freshman. "What things impressed you most when you first came to college?" She was so young, so enthusiastic, so representative of our freshman women. "Must a girl have lovely clothes and be pretty to be successful on the campus," I asked. "O, of course we like good looking girls and girls who are careful about their appearance, but I think the girl we all like best at the dormitory is Helen. She seems to know all of the girls, stops to talk with them all and is never snobbish. She doesn't have lovely clothes nor have dates every open night but she is just so natural, so kind and thoughtful of everyone that we can't help loving her. She is the representa­tive from our floor to the hall council. There is another freshman who has lots of money, I know she talks about the Packard and the 'butch' they have at home. But the girls aren't at all impressed and she has very few friends."

"I think every new girl should make up her mind to like her roommate. When I came this fall I was so disappointed when I saw Dorothy. She was so shy and didn't dress attractively. I just thought I couldn't room with her and I decided I would talk to the chaperone that my room would have to be changed. I told one of the senior girls who was my big sister and she said, 'My dear, that is one of the big lessons nearly everyone of us has to learn in college. When we come here we like to have every girl fit one pattern but we must learn to like many kinds of girls the one who is full of fun, the one who is quiet and thoughtful, the one who is impetuous, and the unattractive girl. The great important thing is that her ideals are right. I know Dorothy hasn't had many opportunities, but she is full of ideals, and so unsouflsh. I think you will feel better if you try to help her before you make any change. My big sister was right. Dorothy went home with me last week and I certainly should have been sorry to have missed knowing her."

Last fall one hundred freshmen sat before me in a lecture section. There were tall girls and short girls, very thin ones and some very fat ones; some pretty girls and some homely ones, some with big open eyes full of wonder and a few with apparent attempts at added beauty—but here they were. These one hundred girls, with the others of the freshman class, were here to learn the subject matter of our courses, but most of
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THE IOWA HOMEMAKER

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all they were here to discover the real values of life. Each of them will touch
shoulders with others of her class. She will catch the enthusiasm of good work.
She must gather ambition, she will develop and establish ideals. She will be
taught habits of industry, she will increase her resourcefulness, she will am­
plify her sympathy and broadmindedness. If she is a wide awake girl there will be
many, many new lessons for her to learn from her classmates.

Yes, come to college! There is nothing to fear in the great change. Hundreds of
girls make the adjustment each year. Bring with you the finest ideals you
have already established in your home. You are here to prove your own worth.
You can do this easily if your attitude toward others is unselfish and you are
your own best self.

Come to work, come to play, too. College is not all work. Those who are
wise will be reminded that neither is it all play; but it is a sorry person who
does not learn the joy of real play. I think the successful college girl is the
one who learns at the beginning of her college course this right balance of work
and play.

"O, it's fun to be in college! There is nothing like it. I can't tell you what it
is, but it is just wonderful." Do come and know for yourself!

THETA SIGMA PHIS CONVENE IN
CHICAGO

Omicron chapter of Theta Sigma Phi,
the national journalistic sorority at Iowa
State College was represented at the con­
ference held in Chicago April 14 and 15
by Grace McIlrath, former editor of The
Iowa Homemaker; Vivian Moe, woman's
editor of The Iowa State Student; Clara
Jordan, president of the local chapter,
Eleanor Murray and Helen Paschal.

Some prominent speakers on the pro­
gram were Genevieve Forbes, feature
writer of Chicago Tribune, Mrs. Florence
Shreve Robnett of the Robnett Agency, and
Mr. Frank B. Thayer of the Medill
School of Journalism.

Members of the Chicago Alumnae
Chapter, who acted as hostesses, also ar-
ranged for a vocational conference for
seniors desiring journalistic positions.

The conference was held to acquaint
journalism enthusiasts with The Woman's National Journalistic Register.
This register acts somewhat as an em­
ployment agency, placing girls in jour­
nalistic positions only. It is sponsored by
the Chicago Alumnae chapter of Theta
Sigma Phi, under the direction of Miss
Mary M. Kinnavy, 53 East Superior
Street.

Application blanks were sent to all
girls interested in the work, whether or
not they were members of the organiza­
tion. By this means the Register hopes
to more consistently open the field of
journalism for interested girls.

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