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A TALK TO THE STUDENTS  
AT BRYN MAWR  
AT LUNCHEON APRIL 6TH, 1920

As a representative of a Western co-educational University, from a state and an Alma-Mater which recognize no (theoretical) differences between the opportunities granted their sons and daughters, I have been very glad when I could during the past few weeks say a few words in behalf of the Women's Colleges of the East.

We know also, from bitter personal experience, your need for increased living expenses. The high costs of living and education seem to have gone up together from the time before when the miners of Cornwall and the Forest of Dean were leading in the social unrest threatening civilization as they demanded a wage increase of from 25% to 50%,- to a penny for two days work, instead of the penny for three, or even four, which was what they had cheerfully accepted since the memory of their grandfathers. But the increase in these modern luxury-demands of the times could no longer be met with the old figures, and so, - - - - !

And at the same time the son of the king - and very occasionally his sister - lay at the feet of the wise man, on the palace floor, chin tucked in hand, elbow buried in the rushes thick-strown on the stones, heels waving in the air above him, while he learned the key of the old missal and perhaps of some early romans.

Yea, - as one views with pride the comfortable homes in a satisfactory mining community today, with their strong, windproof walls, movable glass windows, present heating, cooking, lighting, and water systems, and manifold comforts of furniture, utensils, implements and clothing, - and observe the menus of steaks and roasts, eggs and milk, and breads, vegetables and fruits unknown to the palace of that time, - and then as one turns to the walls of Bryn Mawr and all

of the state we will discover that those of the nation are almost automatically attended to.

I can't refrain from digressing, in this spot where I learn with great interest is to be established the Anna Howard Shaw chair for Political Research, to exclaim that getting a proper adjustment of teacher's salaries to other living conditions, as exactly like getting any other desirable reform put through politically, - or through politics. Our having the vote is a futility in itself. That we have the vote means nothing. That we use it in the right way means everything. Our political work has only begun when we have the ballot. And that work should be carried out exactly as our college work is, - as any good work which we undertake is, - it must be thoughtful, idealistic, clean, effective.

Are you going back to your home remembering that?

The power of an institution like Bryn Mawr is so awe-inspiring. If you, each one of you, and the thousands before you and to follow, were each a bright spot to herself, of intellectual and artistic understanding, enjoyment, appreciation, how great would be the influence of Bryn Mawr! But of course it is infinitely greater. Because, we sincerely trust, you are not taking your precious little light away to let it burn under a bushel, - not even the old-fashioned wicker bushel basket, with chinks in it, - but you will put it behind great magnifying lenses instead, that it may shine for all about you, and be reflected and magnified in varying degrees by the myriads of different lenses they carry.

You will hold out the hand of comradeship to those who could not journey with you to a place like this, - and while you will be surprised perhaps to find that you are acquiring from them much of the best of the world