

Kölnische Zeitung, Oct 2 1917

4  
 In the section Women in Home the City and the State a working-woman writes: complaining that prejudice still pursues the woman who leaves her home for a business career. "Why", she asks, "is it so hard to accord to the business woman the same consideration that the home-keeping woman receives as a matter of course?" She does not ask the gallantry of the strong for the weak, but only the gallantry of comradeship and fair play. It is only fair that the woman whose ~~whose~~ purpose and labor help sustain the community should take over rights with the duties she assumes: and among these, the right of free movement. What a source of anxiety she finds in the one matter of proper housing. The women's clubs, business women's homes, and working-women's hospices do not cover a thousandth part of the ground. How often she hears the curt answer "We do not rent to single women." And what a home such places offer! The horror of the furnished room augmented by the idle feminine chatter so distasteful to a business woman, and the battery of prying eyes intent on finding out with whom the Fraulein "goes", whether she receives men callers, and who escorts her to the door.

There are book-keepers, actresses, teachers, and social workers whose duties make it impossible for them to the habits of the normal well-bred family. I do not mean a "family pension" yet who are equally entitled to such a home by birth and training. Such women are criticised if they attend a large gathering without masculine escort at night. If after the theatre or concert such a woman desires a breath of air and a bit of bread and coffee, which she can not get at home, it is "not proper" for her to have them. Similar stupid conventions confront her in hotel life. When the woman without escort appears at a hotel with her modest luggage, her character is at once under suspicion. The world is used to seeing women lunch alone in cafes. Does dusk throw a shadow over their morals?

A man fights life's battles inside his chosen calling. A woman has to fight hers against the outside world as well

signed

Maria Regina

M.R.