January 24, 192 /

Miss Irma Siede,
Route #1,
Downers Grove, Ill.

My dear Miss Siede:

I am embarrassed to be confronted with a misdeed so far back as three years. I wish I knew why I did not keep the appointment with you, but there is no way of my telling now. I can only apologize. I take it, however, from you letter that you have forgiven me.

And now as to your idea that it might be possible to break down social barriers that you find between different classes and make contact easier between the different types and grades of women. I take it that that is one of the hopes of all democratically inclined persons; but the real trouble, my dear Miss Siede, is that so much of our democracy is in our theories and not in our hearts. When we come to the scratch we don't relish the association with people who differ in interests and with a manner of life different from ours.

You can arrange all sorts of machinery for the mingling of people of different classes; but, unless those people find one another companionable, the machinery will do little. The thing has to go deeper.

However, you are quite right in thinking that there will be some results from enlarging opportunities for free circulation. I should doubt whether the Business and Professional Women's clubs are quite firmly enough on their feet as yet to undertake what you are proposing, that is, to provide meeting grounds regularly for other organizations.

It seems to me that the Business and Professional women might very well arrange to invite in other organizations for occasional meetings. It would have to depend upon the strength and spirit of the local organization.

Are you not overlooking, however, the fact that the Business and Professional Women's clubs are really leveling organizations? Business and professional women in this country now come from all classes. Wherever I have had contact with these clubs I have found in the membership women of family and breeding,

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sometimes of wealth, who have preferred to go into active life; and I have found side by side with them women who have come to t country as immigrants and by force of brain and effort have made for themselves positions.

It seems to me that the clubs themselves are accomplish what you have in mind, in a very practical way; and for the time being, my judgment would be that it would be better for them to concentrate their efforts on bringing into their organizations an and all women in a community that are worthily carrying on a busi- ness or a profession. Let them do this, and the spirit of demo- cracy which comes from such an organization will spread more natur ally and more rapidly through a community than it could through any machinery devised especially for the purpose.

Thanking you for your letter, and apologizing again for my failure to keep that engagement, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

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