

I took tea with the Committee of the Seven Colleges, Tuesday, the 22nd. Find that they have been considering for some months asking me to undertake a study of women's colleges over a period of fifty years.

What they desire, as near as we could settled in an informal talk, is a study of the college 50 years ago in comparison with the college of today, an effort to get at its real achievements.

They have already approached Lorimer, through Miss Welsh, ^{tip} who is eager for the thing (a Bryn Mawr woman, I think)

Their special representative, Mrs. Stewart, has already collected certain documentary material. The members of the Committee will make it possible for me immediately to be the guest of the colleges as long as it is necessary. In all probability, extraordinary human material will turn up. *Such as: -*

Story of Caroline Hazard's gift to Catherine Lee Bates.

The way girls put themselves through college. ~~Mrs~~ Potter thinks 50% do so at Wellesly - probably an exaggeration. Story of one girl who takes care of lots in the cemetery.

On the 24th lunched with Reynolds, who is going to see Lorimer. Thinks probably it would be a two-part story and that Lorimer would not object to 8 or 10,000 words. This would make it easier. He is going to quote prices of Ladies' Home Journal.

Make no provision about time. I will get the materials and begin to think it over at once if it is decided upon.

Reynolds tell me see is it right hand man

Seven Colleges

Saw Greek dances at Columbia. Impressed with the relation of the training these young women get to the attempt that so many towns and cities have been making to visualize for the community their own past, stir their imagination to the beginning and progress of the town. This experience in trying to reproduce Greek life must arouse the imagination of the college girl back home to the dramatic possibilities in the beginnings of her own home, show her how to go to work to get the materials, how to enlist the town as a whole, give her some idea of the kind of training, the possible bunkers, etc.

Think it might be well to write Mrs. Ranck about their experience with the Grand Rapids pageant. What part did the college girl play in that? Was there anything that you could put your finger on? Think that this is an idea that might get material for in looking over the games, pageants, etc., of the rest of the country.

Spoke to Miss Gildersleeve about my notion that the experience in self-government that the girls are getting in college must contribute to their usefulness in all the organized efforts of their communities and must be of use in political organization. They have a fundamental experience in working with people, in learning the difficulties in handling the various temperaments, seeing something of their energies, of the part that ambition, vanity, over-zeal, over-confidence play, as well as the part that the inferiority complex, self-consciousness, excessive modesty, dislike of

publicity, excessive individualism play. That is, they must learn in these self-governing bodies a great deal about other people as they come together in groups to work out social and political matters.

The stimulus to expression, both written and spoken, is considerable. Am not sure but think that most of the girls that do much in college journals, etc., have been well started in their high schools or preparatory schools or have a natural bent toward writing.