

What the Co-ed. Is Doing

WE see them everyday in the library, as studious as other students; we pass them each morning on the walks, though there is spoken no greeting; we hear a professor call their names in the class-room, and sometimes only he knows they are present, but—What more do we know of the co-eds? What more do we know in our Senior year than was wisely whispered to us on the first day of the first year, "There goes a co-ed.!" Of course, there is no reflection cast, no resentment in the tone, merely information. For it is in the same voice that the Freshman tells his friend, "There is our Library;" a matter of pride, or perhaps a sense of completeness.

And yet, at the games last fall, for the first time in the history of the University, co-eds. valiantly cheered the team from the student section. They rejoiced in a victory, though from afar; they stood and sang the "Alma Mater," when the stands were gloomy and downcast with defeat. For the moment the co-ed. could forget the wide isolation of her college life, the oft-times thankless existence, and borne on the refrain of the old songs, join in the spirit of Pennsylvania. Then college meant something, other than a dull routine of class work, or a daily street car ride into West Philadelphia.

Of course, the objection at once arises, the University is non-educational, the majority of undergraduate courses are not open to women students, no provisions are made for them, then why should they come? There are women's colleges, and plenty of them, and there are other institutions with co-educational advantages. Suffice it to say that twenty-six women entered as Freshmen last September, and the prospects are for a larger number next year, though practically only two courses in college are open to women undergraduates. One of these, the course for teachers, proves to be the loop hole by which many regular subjects may be entered, and biology is the other in which women students may register. Doubtless the day will come when Pennsylvania will have a separate woman's college, after that of Barnard at Columbia, or Radcliffe at Harvard, but until then the co-ed. must be content to sketch her career in pedagogy or biology, and remain a mere spectator of university activities.

And yet the Pennsylvania co-ed. would be no longer worthy of the name if she did not do something herself to widen the opportunities. It was with this aim and purpose that the Undergraduate Association came into existence. In lieu of class or sectional affiliations, this organization stands to represent the women student body. Matters of general interest are taken up and discussed in the monthly meetings; entertainments are given, and everywhere the attempt is made to get a greater spirit of co-operation, to attain something like a college life even under adverse circumstances. As if to parallel the older organizations of the University, they have established a Glee Club, and even have in contemplation a rival of the Mask and Wig, a Dramatic Society. The annual "show" is in preparation at the present time and will be produced sometime following Easter, although the audience will be restricted to women graduate students and alumni. But the attempt in itself partially indicates the progressive spirit of co-ed. activities.

A new impetus will be given to their affairs now that dormitories and quarters have been provided on Thirty-fourth Street. A social center, or meeting place, such as Houston Hall affords the men, was long needed by the women students. By the generous aid of the administration and members of the faculty, last year a room was fitted up in the Chemical Laboratory, which marked a step in advance, in that it furnished a place of refuge at least. Likewise, a rest room has been planned for the new Zoological building. But a dormitory, even though ensconced in a row of conventional houses, is more adequate in every way, and more congenial. The dining hall service will fill a long felt need, as will the new club rooms, since they may be utilized by the two women's fraternities, Delta Delta Delta and Kappa Kappa Gamma, chapters of which are located at Pennsylvania.

Then when tennis playing weather arrives and the new courts on Woodland Avenue are completed, no longer will the undergraduate be able to maintain a boasted skill unchallenged by feminine prowess, for the co-ed. will appear even there. Mayhaps it will add a new popularity to that subtle sport.

Thus on every side the woman student is finding a wider expression for her college life, an extended range for her activities, and recognition of her existence.