

IN COMFORTABLE NEW QUARTERS

Young Women's Christian Association Attractively Housed.
Interesting Review of the Work by the President.

AN IMPORTANT feature of every well-appointed city is a fully equipped and successfully working Young Women's Christian Association, and in this city there is an excellent example of such an institution in the beautiful new home of the Portland association, situated at the corner of Sixth and Oak streets. Here there are well-furnished and comfortable reading and rest-rooms, a dainty luncheon room, a tearoom where afternoon tea can be served, and on the top floor 15 pretty bedrooms, furnished by church societies and by individual Portland women. In connection with the association are conducted classes in bookkeeping and stenography, water-color and pencil, drawing, piano, mandolin and guitar, German, a glee club and note-reading class, and the secretary keeps a boarding-house directory, and is always keenly alert in finding situations for them.

The entrance hall at the Y. W. C. A. is reached by a wide, easy stairway, and is a spacious, airy place, with walls tinted a particularly soft and pretty tone of olive green. At one side stands the piano, liberally scattered with good music, and in one corner is a low, broad seat, built of the same wood as the stairway, and heaped with pillows. A "homey" touch is added by the graceful vase of flowers which is always placed on the hall table.

Opening from this square hall are the offices, the dining-room, the stairway leading to the rooms above, and corridors opening into the library and into the kitchen.

The dining-room is filled with well-appointed and nicely served tables, and is managed by Mrs. W. A. Charles, who has a cheery, motherly way, seeing after the comfort of "her girls," that makes every girl of them love her. As early as half-past 11 the girls commence coming to lunch, and from 12 o'clock until half-past 1 the waitresses are kept busy waiting upon the crowded tables. Here and there among the throng of girls you may see a mother having luncheon with her daughter, and the mothers are always welcome. During the year closing January 1, 1903, over 75,000 lunches were served.

with pale brown walls, a long, low bookcase with room for 600 books, broad, sunny west windows, with cool hangings of olive green, oak and wicker chairs, and a big oak table covered with magazines.

The reading-room and library is the most attractive place on the first floor. The furnishings of the first floor are under the direction of the educational committee, of which Mrs. Helen Ladd Corbett is chairman. Just now the walls are bare of adornment, but a great many handsome pictures and casts have been ordered and are now on their way. Across the corridor from the library are the rest-rooms, each one cozily provided with soft couches and rocking chairs.

Upstairs are a number of as pretty rooms as are to be found in all Portland, a city famous for its beautiful homes. There is not one of these rooms that is not lavishly supplied with light and air, and as one of the girls remarked: "It's just like living out of doors." She had her wide windows open as far as they would go, and the fresh cool Spring air filled the room in the most ideal fashion.

The rooms all show individuality and good taste in the pictures and other dainty fittings which every girl of course wants to supply herself. One of them has her piano in her room, another, the girl who delights so in her fresh air and the morning sky which she says is so lovely from her windows, has a number of clever drawings done by an intimate friend of hers in the East, one of these a study in oils of her own pet cat, a soft, yellow pussy, whose expression quite fascinates one, even from across the room.

Once there was a mean bachelor who said that there were two things always to be found in a girl's room—some candy and a picture of a madonna—and the girls at the Y. W. C. A. have certainly lived up to their reputation of girls as far as the madonnas are concerned; anyway, nearly every room contains a framed Sistine or modern madonna.

Only one room is lacking the individuality of pictures and embroidered pillows, and this one is the transient room. It has pretty blue walls, blue carpet and ruffled curtains at the windows however, and dainty covers for its dressing stand. A big trunk belonging to a temporary boarder usually occupies one corner, as the transient room is well patronized.

It was furnished by the women of Centenary Methodist Church and other rooms were fitted up in an equally attractive way by the women of the First Presbyterian, First Congregational, Calvary Presbyterian, Grace Methodist, Taylor-Street Methodist, First Baptist and of the Episcopal churches. Others were furnished by Mrs. W. H. Beharrell, Mrs. Henry Waldo Coe, Mrs. C. H. Rafferty and Mrs. M. A. Dalton.

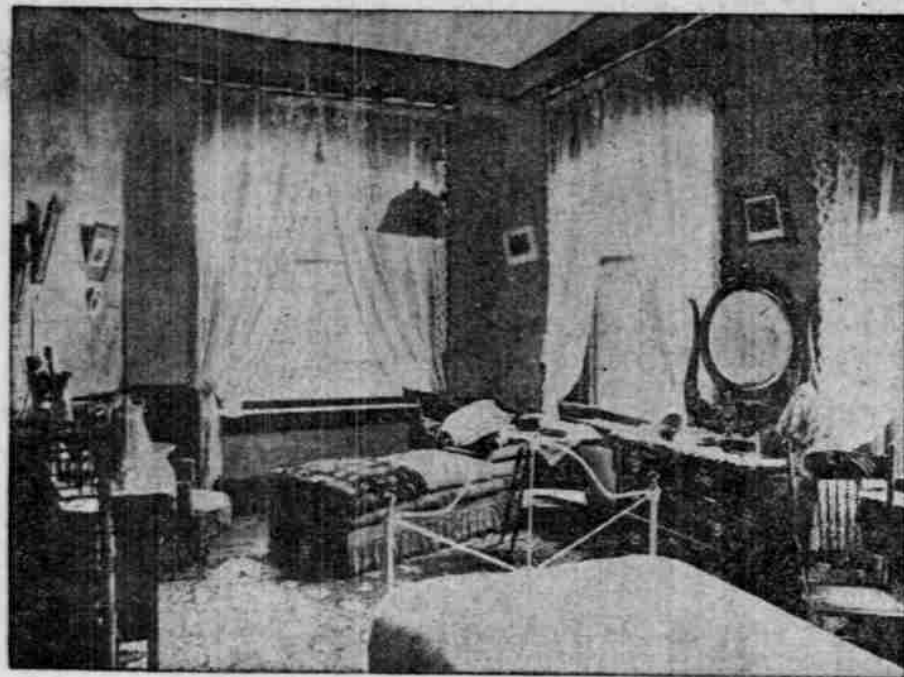
A dainty pale green room with furniture of white maple and with pots of begonias growing on the window sill was furnished by Mrs. Rafferty.

Mrs. M. A. Dalton furnished one of the pretty blue and white rooms, this one having a blue carpet, a white and brass bed and maple bureau.

Mrs. Beharrell furnished one in pale yellow and green, with maple furniture,



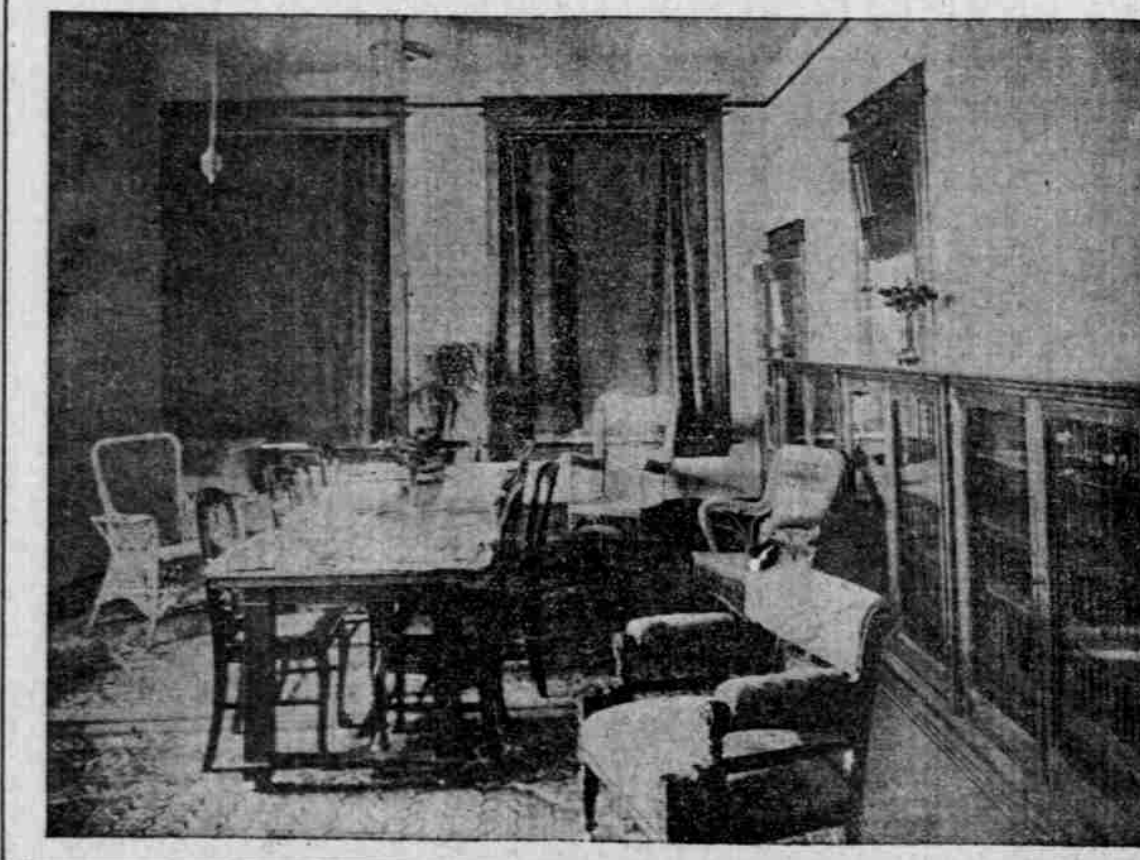
THE ENTRANCE HALL AND STAIRWAY.



ONE OF THE BEDROOMS.



GETTING READY FOR LUNCHEON.



LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM.

white bed and white and yellow net covers on the dressing table.

Mrs. Coe's room is handsomely furnished in green, tones of this color appearing in walls, carpet, couch and easy chair. This room has wide windows opening to the north and east and is one of the pleasantest of all rooms.

The young women belonging to the association feel an intense interest and pride in all its affairs, and have recently begun a membership contest for the purpose of doubling the membership. They are divided into teams of ten, each team including a captain, and are determined to have a considerable addition to their list at the end of two weeks.

WHAT THE Y. W. C. A. HAS DONE.
Its President Reviews the Work of Two Years in Portland.

Asked by The Oregonian for her opinion of the new rooms and for a review of the work of the Young Women's Christian Association in Portland, Mrs. W. J. Honeman, the president of the organization, courteously made the following contribution:

"Truth to tell, we were very much averse to going into any quarters north of Washington street. But in the end it was Hobson's choice, and we were very thankful to get a roof to cover our heads. Our former rooms were not only too small for our requirements, but on account of the crowding of the elevator at the luncheon hour, we had received notice to vacate, and for the last three months were only there on sufferance. There are, however, many advantages in the new rooms to counterbalance the splendid location of the old.

"We are only two blocks from Washington street, yet we are really quiet, our busy city location considered. We have two whole floors, so that there is less confusion, and order reigns supreme. The one wide, easy flight of stairs is much more useful than the crowded elevator. The dignified, attractive entrance is all our own, and while that means taking care of our light, heat and water, it means also a consciousness of ownership felt by every member as she enters the front door and shuts out the outer world. "The stairs lead into a delightful, well-lighted hall, furnished simply but in exquisite taste. From this hall open both the general and the private office, and the large dining-room. The warm Pompeian red walls of this room contrast in-

vingly with the soft dark green of the hall, while the long row of large windows, shaded by dark curtains, give splendid, subdued light. Across a narrow hall is a carefully planned serving-room opening by sliding windows into a kitchen, upon which quite as much care has been bestowed. How the comforts of the pantry, storeroom and serving-room are enjoyed, only those who are experiencing the supplying of a long-felt want can realize. Much more economical work can be done now than ever before. Towards

the west a narrow hall passes two small, quiet restrooms, where on comfortable couches the weary in mind and body may snatch a brief season of repose.

"Just beyond opens the door of our most delightful room, large and pleasant, with the Western sun shining in, but with windows also facing the north. This library and parlor combined contains the greatest luxury of all, a long reading table, flanked by chairs. Comfortable lounging chairs are all around, and a bookcase quite conceals the eastern wall. Besides

these, classrooms and a young girls' club-room are also among our accommodations downstairs.

"The educational committee, with Mrs. H. L. Corbett as chairman, most kindly undertook to secure the money for and plan the furnishing of the lower floor. With Mr. Whitson's generous and untiring assistance she has given our rooms an air of elegance and refinement which must elevate all who enter. When the Braun photos, which have been studied for their educational as well as artistic effect,

are hung, and some fine casts and palms are added, we feel that we have a home which will inspire. Ascending another flight of easy stairs, another attractive hall is found, from which open 15 bedrooms, simply but beautifully furnished.

"For the enlightenment of those who may wonder at the purpose of so wide and extensive a preparation for a continuance of work already started, I would recall that a year ago, facing about 90 workers, I said: 'We are just beginning to work; we are only plowing the surface.' One night this week I will face 125 workers, and will say: 'Our roots have struck down and are taking hold; and next year God grant we may be able to say, 'The tender shoot is springing up, that it may bring forth good fruit to all eternity.'

"We are just two years old, but we have 750 members, and these represent the best women of our city in every walk of life. We are banded together for the physical, moral and spiritual uplifting of young women, and I can say in all truthfulness that we women, young and old, who are members here, are developing each other, and so becoming more meet for our Master's use.

"The Sunday afternoon service is much more popular since our removal, there being no long flights of stairs to descend after 5 P. M., no hurry-scurry for the elevator. Miss McElroy teaches a delightful drop-in Bible class just after; then those going to evening service can have a quiet cup of tea before silence reigns for Sunday evening. The various weekday Bible classes are doing excellent, enthusiastic student work. Every night the hum of busy life resounds as eager students go to and from the various classrooms. Saturday is reserved for a social time, when fun and frolic chase dull care away.

The luncheon hour is the busiest time, when nearly 300 women come and go, and it means so much to every young woman to have a quiet place to eat a comfortable lunch. It is a meeting place, moreover, for friends who wish to shop or call together afterwards, and many a busy housekeeper is glad to take luncheon here she needs her weary way home after a long morning in town.

"It would interest any one to take a birdseye peep at Miss McElroy's office. All day long, but especially at the noon hour, the eager girls flock out and in to ask some question, to seek information, or arrange a time for a quiet talk. She knows how the last attempt at photography turned out, and pretty nearly everything else. But how can I speak of her, our much-loved secretary, she who is the

mainstay of all our success. She it is to whom we whisper our joys and our sorrows, whom we consult about all the things big and little, that make up our lives. The Young Women's Christian Association of Portland is reaching into the lives of our young women, it is building up and strengthening the character of many who are far from home. By its very refinement it is unconsciously wielding a refining influence over all.

"Above all do we seek to emphasize that most important fact that home is woman's kingdom, that God has placed her there. Thirty-five years ago the Glasgow Herald published the following lines:

The rights of woman! What are they?
The right to labor and to pray,
The right to watch while others sleep,
The right to comfort in distress,
The right when others curse to bless;
The right to lead the soul to God
And tread the path our Savior trod.
If these thy rights, why ask for more?
Thou hast enough to answer for.

"To the thoughtful mind this complete overturning of the conditions of human life manifested by the rush of women into the public walks of life seems one of the most serious problems of the age. But, God's in his heaven, all's right with the world." The Y. W. C. A. is therefore working out—would we could say, a solution of this problem—but we can only say a means, by which we can make every girl feel that if she has a good home she should stay in it to make it brighter and more beautiful by her presence. That if her father's means permit her a life of leisure, God has works for her to do in brightening the life of the other girl who does not have it.

"But the world can never go back to the old days of the spinning wheel, nor would we wish it. The huge factories will continue to employ thousands of girls, so well also the large stores. Homes must be provided for them. Our few bedrooms upstairs are all filled, and while it is necessary to rent them as a source of revenue, we are glad to be the means by which a few girls are assured a friend. We mothers who can take care of our girls, who never let them go out alone, can hardly realize how terrible it must be for a lonely girl in a large city, who can only spare a small sum for her room and board.

"We have one room for transients, and women from far and near are all glad to have such a place when spending a night or two in a strange city, and our transient room committee will soon be kept busy answering letters about girls coming here to live or passing through the city. We are ready to meet them at steamboat or train, and take care of them till they leave. Our employment bureau is slowly but surely developing into a good business agency, and before long we hope to have careful records of good employers, and faithful, capable employees.

"This is but a small part of what we are trying to do, and those of us who have the work nearest our hearts are most sensible of the weak points, and in how many ways we have failed. We can only ask a little further patience till we can get things into thorough order under the new conditions.

"That we hope will be true in the luncheon room, where we are planning for a more varied menu and better service. Then won't mouths water when they hear of old-fashioned recipes such as hot gingerbread, poor man's cake, or other hot bread at noon, to say nothing of other dainty, simple dishes, which are being devised by our energetic lunch committee. Other parts of the work are not all they should be, but 'He higher shoots who aims the sky than he who aims a tree,' and our standards are the highest to which frail humanity can attain.

"We are now organizing a new branch to which we have been unable to reach on account of lack of room. Under Mrs. Corbett's direction a lovely little room is being fitted out, which girls between the ages of 10 and 15 can call their own. It contains games of all sorts, and many things of interest to the young. The teachers of the city are taking great interest in helping to plan classwork, which will employ the hands, and clubs for amusement and meeting the needs of young girls.



NEW QUARTERS OF THE Y. W. C. A., SIXTH AND OAK.



WHERE THE MANDOLIN CLUB MEETS.