

therefore; honestly and contentedly the best individual you can. Don't trouble about getting into society as an obvious achievement. It is no matter whether you make it obvious or not. If you are a genuine anybody, you are in society already, and nothing can keep you out, even though you may be outside some cobweb line of a 'four hundred.' . . . Society as a pursuit, an end, is a thing without a soul. The home spirit, from the sharing of which between home and home it grew, has departed out of it. It is dead. It is a corruption. A professional society woman is a parasite upon the world's heart growth, helping as a microbe of disease to eat out its vitality."

**FRIENDLY LETTERS TO GIRL FRIENDS.** By Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.

As the author modestly says in the preface, these letters are not full disquisitions, but rather mere suggestions. They are, however, considerably enlarged from the serial form in which they first appeared, and they are perhaps as definite as any abstract advice can be made. Of the graceful manner of the work it seems scarcely necessary to speak, since it is equal to the writer's best. Nor need the wholesome sweetness of its spirit be dwelt upon, since that is the soul of the body of Mrs. Whitney's books. About half of the new volume is taken up with the discussion of literature, and in nothing does the author do better service to the young than in discouraging those cut-and-dried "courses of reading" which have wasted so much time and led so many into error. In books other than fiction one's tastes and the desire for some special branch of knowledge are the only really reliable guides. In fiction the only safe way—the way of the right, pure instinct—

"is to enter no scenes, linger in no companionship which you would not seek in real life."

The latter half of the work treats of social topics from a point of view so very old-fashioned that it is delightfully new.

"The individual comes first; we cannot make society out of anything else than individuals. Be individual,