# THE DEAN OF WOMEN

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The dean of women by Lois Kimball Mathews

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### LOIS KIMBALL MATHEWS

# THE DEAN OF WOMEN



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#### BY

#### LOIS KIMBALL MATHEWS, PH.D.

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# TO THE MEMORY OF MISS AGNES IRWIN DEAN OF RADCLIFFE COLLEGE 1894-1909

THIS LITTLE BOOK IS DEDICATED IN LOVE AND GRATITUDE

#### FOREWORD

This book upon the position of the dean of women is, I believe, the first to appear upon this phase of educational work. With the multitude of books upon almost every aspect of education, this fact in itself is significant. The position of dean of women is a new one; the duties relating to the post have not been defined; they are in rapid flux; they are not the same in one institution as they are in another. Dean Lois Kimball Mathews clearly analyzes the qualifications for the position, the opportunities offered by it, and what may be accomplished through it.

The book is written primarily from the coeducational point of view. The report of the United States Commissioner of Education for 1913 shows that the number of women in coeducational universities and colleges was somewhat more than 73,000, and in women's colleges was in excess of 24,000. In addition to the above there were about 1300 women in the graduate schools and in special courses in the colleges which are regarded as exclusively for men. Therefore the treatment covers the problem of the dean of women for three fourths of the women in higher institutions of learning.

The judicial student of education cannot but appreciate the superior advantages of the coeducational institutions in certain respects, and of the women's colleges in other respects. However, it is clear that the duties of the dean of women in a coeducational institution are of a more difficult character than in the women's colleges; for, in addition to considering the strictly collegiate aspects of work, curricular and extra-curricular, the vastly complex social problem enters.

That there are benefits in wholesome association of men and women in the classroom can scarcely be doubted. That there are mutual benefits in reasonable social intercourse cannot be questioned; but, as with other good things, there is a tendency to excess on the part of many. This tendency results in regulation and restraint; and these always present difficult problems.

The vivid description by Dean Mathews of the existing situation for women in higher educational institutions and her clear discussion of the problems arising in connection with this situation cannot but be of great assistance to the deans of women who are struggling to clarify their ideas, define their authority, and secure definite results.

CHARLES R. VAN HISE,

President of the University of Wisconsin.

Madison, Wisconsin, April, 1915.



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