

The Anna Louise Inn

By Elsie Aets Loebman

One of the first steps one must take in determining the real status of a city is an investigation of the advantages it offers its people. The general movement of improving the conditions of cities is manifest everywhere, and such matters as model tenements, social settlements and municipal lodging-houses are attracting the attention of all who would improve the cities in which they live. This tendency is due perhaps less to the fact that men are gradually developing more of the feeling of responsibility toward their fellows than

The need for such an institution had long been felt by those who knew anything whatever about the situation. The Young Women's Christian Association, the Glenn Home and the Lawrence Home, the three boarding-houses for girls which were in operation, although admirable insofar as they went, were by no means adequate to meet the demand.

The undertaking of building a hotel to alter these conditions was fathered by Mr. James O. White, Superintendent of the Union Bethel settlement, and



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it is due to the recognition that the progress of an age is measured by the opportunities and comforts it offers its people.

Cincinnati has many undertakings of which its citizens may well be proud, and not insignificant among them is a new project, not yet six months old. The Anna Louise Inn was opened for use May 29, 1909, and since then it has been watched with interest, not only by Cincinnatians, but by citizens of other cities as well. The inn, more generally known as "the business women's hotel," was built for the purpose of providing a home at a moderate cost for some of the many girls who come to Cincinnati to earn a living.

it is almost entirely due to his efforts that Cincinnati is one of the few cities in the United States with such an achievement. The money with which the ground was bought and the building erected was furnished by the big-hearted business men of the city. Charles P. Taft donated half the necessary funds and the rest was raised by thirty-four prominent citizens who gave one thousand dollars each.

The site selected for the hotel was the corner of Third and Lytle streets, a location not only central for the girls who would live there but also near enough to the Union Bethel to be under Mr. White's direct supervision. Here a handsome five-story brick build-

ing was erected with comfortable accommodations for one hundred and twenty-five girls. All modern devices in the ways of sanitation and general convenience were used and when the hotel was completed it was christened the "Anna Louise Inn," in honor of Mr. Taft's daughter.

A hotel which is home-like and cosy without being luxuriant is a difficult proposition, yet such is the Anna Louise Inn. The large parlor on the first floor with its piano, its mission furniture and its tasteful pictures reminds one of a cheerful living room in a suburban home and cosy little sitting rooms invite one to a pleasant tete-a-tete at the head of each flight of stairs. On the top floor is a light, airy sewing room, fitted up with machines and all necessary furnishings, and just outside of it the roof garden with its splendid view of the entire city and the Ohio River beyond. Each corridor is provided with a thoroughly equipped bath room, made entirely of white marble and fitted with showers and all up-to-date improvements. The bedrooms are bright and cheerful, furnished simply but tastefully and accommodate one girl each.

In short, the Anna Louise Inn, built to furnish a home with healthful and pleasant surroundings for the girls who are alone in the city, has more than accomplished its end, and its splendid success can best be measured by considering the fact that, although only five months in operation, it is full to overflowing with a waiting list of sixty-three. The girls who live there are enthusiastically happy about it and one of them told me that it was "just as nearly perfect as anything could be."

Although the charge made for board at the inn is very modest the house is self-supporting. The rooms are graded from \$2.75 to \$4.25 a week and are allotted with reference to the salaries earned by the respective occupants. For example, a girl receiving more than \$5.00 per week may not live in a \$2.75 room, whereas none receiving more than \$12.50 are admitted at all. This rate includes breakfast, lunch and dinner, many of the girls working near

enough to be able to attend all three meals.

The rules governing the conduct of the girls who live at the Anna Louise Inn are simple but sufficient and are made by the occupants themselves. The self-government plan which is used in so many of the schools and colleges of the country has been inaugurated here and has worked admirably. The girls realize that an institution can not be successfully managed without definite rules and restrictions and they are glad to obey what the majority deem best. They may receive their friends whenever they see fit and are just as free to ask guests to meals as they would in their own homes. One point which differentiates the Anna Louise Inn from almost any other institution of the kind is that the girls may welcome not only their women friends but those of the opposite sex as well. In fact dinner parties given for the gentlemen are quite a feature and on such occasions the hostesses decorate the tables and dining-room with the same pride and pleasure they would have if decorating the dining rooms of their homes. Indeed the entire scheme of self-government has proved that the girls are thoroughly capable of taking advantage of privileges without abusing them.

The feeling of desolation and loneliness which is so apt to dominate the girl who is alone in a city is reduced to a minimum here for, above all, the spirit of good fellowship prevails, and a girl need never lack friendship or company if she wishes it. The Hallowe'en party, which was given by the young women at the inn, was a splendid demonstration of the way in which they co-operate and do their best to enjoy their home together. The entertainment was decidedly novel and, considering how extensive the preparations were, it was really quite remarkable that these busy girls, who work all day long, should have found the time and energy to execute them.

Although anyone who visits the Anna Louise Inn can not help being impressed by its value, still the real consequences of such a hotel are too far reaching to be evident on the sur-

face. By improving the conditions of the girls who come here to work, Cincinnati has improved its own condition perhaps as much if not more than theirs. The moral status of the city is raised through such a hotel; it is able to induce the very best type of workers to come to Cincinnati. The Inn is undenominational and one girl has the same chance of being admitted as any other. The industrial status is likewise raised because by means of such a hotel employers are furnished with girls capable of faithfully fulfilling their duties in the most thorough fashion because of their cheerful and pleasant home advantages.

Cincinnati has, therefore, many reasons to congratulate itself upon the Anna Louise Inn and not insignificant among them are the following: First, that it is far ahead of most of the cities of the country in this line, and second, that it has citizens big-hearted enough to finance such a worthy object.

To Teach Swimming.

Instruction in swimming is to be given as part of the public school course of Cincinnati. The old Third street reservoir, abandoned since the new water-works system was put in operation, may be used as the principal place of instruction, while the two new High School buildings will have plunges where large classes can also be taught. The idea originated with Dr. Carl Ziegler, Supervisor of Physical Training, who has this to say about it:

"We propose as soon as the new high schools are in full swing, to start swimming classes for those who care to join. A regular course will be arranged and expert teachers will be employed to teach the art of swimming. Those taking the course will receive credit for their work, just as they do in any other special course. Had we the facilities I would most heartily favor making such a course compulsory—in the high schools at least—for both boys and girls. Our special course in swimming will be part of our regular physical training work in high schools."

Nine interurban traction lines have their terminals in Cincinnati.

The Magazine Abroad.

The Cincinnati Magazine is appreciated wherever it goes. Witness these two letters recently received.

American Consulate,
Rheims, France, Nov. 15, 1909.
The Industrial Bureau,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Gentlemen:

I wish to thank you sincerely for your courtesy in supplying this Consulate regularly with your very interesting "Cincinnati Magazine." I have placed the same on file in the reading room of this Consulate, and I hope, by doing so, to be able to contribute toward the welfare of your world-renowned city.

Yours, very respectfully,
W. Bardel,
American Consul.

American Consulate
Edinburg, Nov. 23, 1909.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of copies of the September and October numbers of the "Cincinnati Magazine," which I shall take pleasure in keeping on file in this Consulate.

I am, dear sir,
Very truly yours,
Rufus Fleming,
Consul.

To Boost Cincinnati.

Members of Syrian Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, of Cincinnati, have adopted a novel plan for advertising their home city when they visit New Orleans next April to attend the national gathering of Shriners. They will take with them 1,000 20-sheet posters, which will be put on the blank walls of the Crescent City, advertising the fact that anything worth while is manufactured in the Queen City of the West, and that this city is not only the natural commercial gateway to the South and Southwest, but that the citizens of this community entertain the most cordial feelings for the citizens of the more southern clime. It is proposed to adopt some slogan, such as, "Do you need anything? Cincinnati makes it, and makes it best."