

THE COMMONWEALTH
Afternoon Daily

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Tuesday, Sept. 21, 1920

CENSORING OUR CITY MAIDS

The salvation of the city is in
the purity of its outskirts. None
but the most hardened cynic
would deny that. Even in Eliza-
bethian days the numerous first
class poets who flourished then
constantly sang the praises of the
shepherdesses and dairy-maids,
and placed them high above the
sophisticated ladies of the court.
Austin Dobson, who, though in
his eighties, still twangs a tuneful
lyre, has to his credit many a
pretty lyric celebrating Araminta
and Phyllis above the painted
"ladies of St. James."

So Philadelphia is blessed to
have within call modest maids
brought up in the purer rural
atmosphere, to play censor to its
misguided young women. In a re-
cent issue of The Daily Local
News, of West Chester, we read:

One of West Chester's well-bred
young women, who was early
taught by her mother to distin-
guish a properly-dressed person
at a glance, has been for some
time in charge of the costumes
of scores of girls who are employ-
ed by a large corporation in of-
fices in Philadelphia. She sits
at her desk quietly working as
the girls pass it on their way in
and out of the building, and when
it is necessary she calls attention
to any lack of propriety she may
observe. In these days the scan-
riment of young women is under
much comment, and the heads
of this corporation have handed
down word that they do not wish

their employees a subject of crit-
icism from the outside world.
Hence the duty of looking them
over every day. Recently it be-
came necessary to send some
girls home to add more fabric to
her attire.

Why should this splendid ser-
vice not be extended to cover not
only all the offices of large cor-
porations, but even residential
neighborhoods? Our own imme-
diate suburbs seem to be as badly
tainted as the city's heart. Many
a commuter who goes down to
his station to take the 7.47 of a
morning could point out dozens
or scores of girls, young and oth-
erwise, who are clearly in need
of supervision. If we could only
import a company of West Ches-
ter maids to engage in this laud-
able work how much good might
be accomplished! The Y. W. C.
A.—by which, of course, is meant
the "Young West Chester Arbi-
tratrix"—might seat herself, with
limbs sedately uncrossed, in an
inconspicuous corner of the plat-
form, and give her hurrying sis-
ters the once-over without seem-
ing to do so. Later, with the
assistance of the obliging station
agent, who might be expected to
be able and willing to furnish
names and addresses, a neat lit-
tle note of sisterly disapproval
could be slipped to the offender.

Masculine judgement upon such
matters, of course, is fallible, but
it does seem to us that here is an
opportunity of which we should
take full advantage.—Washing-
ton Post.

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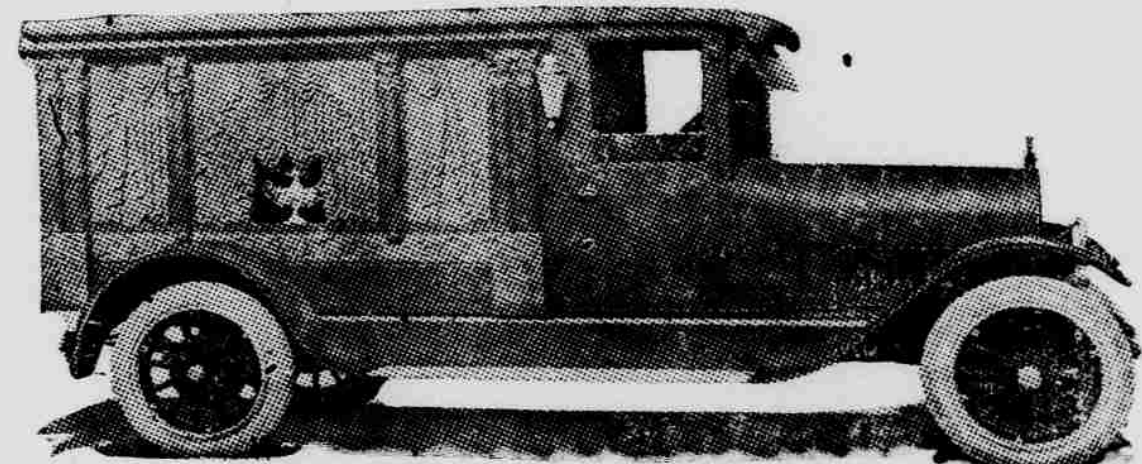
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