

## WOMEN CAN'T BE FRIENDS, SAYS PROFESSOR —MAN IS TO BLAME, SAYS MRS. WILCOX

BY WINONA WILCOX

A great many women would like to reason with Prof. Frank Gray Shaw of the department of philosophy at New York university, all because the other day Prof. Shaw said:

"I have never seen a woman to whom friendship is possible.

"I never hope to see such a phenomenon. A woman is a sweetheart, which is better than a friend—but different. Two men can be friends, but two women cannot."

Some women have been as agitated about this as if the professor had said something quite new. But he hasn't. That women attract men like the opposite poles of a magnet and that women repel women as do the "like" poles is a very ancient theory.

It amuses and delights man as often as it is revived. It assures him, somehow, of his place at the center of things. But perhaps he wouldn't feel quite so secure there were he to analyze the cause of women's antipathies and attractions.

Woman has a small capacity for friendship because man has educated her to care more about love. He is much attached to the idea that "Man's love is of man's life a thing apart, 'tis woman's whole existence."

Man, through his friendships with other men, builds up his honor, reputation and success. But woman acquires these glories only as a mirror acquires a shadow—she reflects her husband's state, and she accepts her husband's friend as impersonally as she would the ghost of Hamlet. Man has educated her that way, also.

There is a fine theory that a woman makes out her own visiting list. In practice it must be passed by her domestic censor. He cuts out a friend, old or new, male or female, according to his own generosity or jealousy.

If he does not fancy his wife's girl chum, the sentiment of a dozen years vanishes over night; but if his own chum happens to marry his wife's worst enemy he ridicules the feud as an example of woman's incapacity for friendship—which the wife immediately disproves by entering into the conventional social relations.

Thus the married woman is robbed of the friends she craves and thrust into company she does not desire.

Unmarried women, as soon as youth and beauty have passed, usually haven't enough men friends to worry about—which reflects somewhat on men's valuations of women.

So matrons and spinsters waste their time in the exchange of social ceremonies, or bore each other with their rival philanthropies. And it's no wonder at all that under such conditions women get very tired of each other and give clever men a chance to say sharp things about them.

He who would have a friend must first be a friend. Man has seldom been that to a woman. He has always preferred and insisted on that "different" relation of sweetheart which Prof. Shaw admits is "better" than that of friend.

The feminists think differently, and their creed is no dying one, although it occasionally misses a college professor. Lately the feminists have been setting up difficult new standards of ideal human relationships.

They preach that a man is valueless as a lover, that he is a failure as a spouse, unless he is a friend before he is a sweetheart and forever after he is a husband.

By this test they imperil man's place at the center of things. From any other point of view he will have to revise his obsolete vocabulary of love and friendship.