

tice and the profanity of such a creed. So it has come to pass that "woman's work," because done by a woman, is generally held in contempt.

The evil tradition of Jewish Rabbins that the creation of Woman was the result of a stupid blunder or a rash after-thought on the part of the Creator, seized upon the imagination of primitive man and still has power to appeal to the "old Adam" in civilised man, so that even now, after eighteen centuries of Christianity, civilisation has not succeeded in freeing womanhood from the malign influence of Jewish tradition, and we find in this nineteenth century the plea of being "only a woman" advanced in explanation of our sex's ignorances and shortcomings. So that "women's work," done by women, does not rank equally in public estimation with "man's work" done by man in any department, except, curiously enough, in literature and the stage.

And Technical Education Committees are not concerned with literature and the stage.

In the classes that are arranged for men and women together, such as horticulture, bee-keeping, poultry-farming, &c., skilled and efficient teachers have been obtained, and in butter-making and dairy-produce only qualified teachers are engaged.

The trade-value attaching to these branches of industry, necessitates some standard of efficiency and capability, on the part of those undertaking to instruct on these subjects.

But in "women's work" that has not this trade-value attaching, but which, nevertheless, may have more vital interests connected with it, there is no such standard of competency insisted on. So that such teaching as Nursing the Sick, rendering First Aid to the Injured, and also Hygiene and Sanitation, is often given to persons who have had no training to fit them to teach these subjects.

It is, indeed, quite common to find that the County Council Lecturers, on Nursing subjects are themselves only pupils who have passed an Examination in Ambulance, have been granted a certificate, and, on the strength of this examination and certificate, have thereafter posed as expert teachers in the art of Medical and Surgical Nursing.

The reason is, perhaps, not far to seek why the untrained woman should obtain work as a Lecturer on these subjects rather than on others. If a Teacher profess to teach Cookery, she is obliged to prepare and cook dishes before the audience. If she professes to do Dairy-work, she must make butter and cheese. If she undertake Dressmaking or Laundry-work, she must show evidence of some knowledge and skill. And it is a safeguard that each one of

her class, no matter how unskilled herself, can be a fairly good judge of the ability of the teacher in all these branches of work.

But with Sick-Nursing it is not so. There is, perhaps, no popular subject that the ordinary well-educated woman, as well as women of the working-classes, know so little about as Sick-Nursing, unless it be that of Hygiene. Therefore, the Lecturer on these subjects can have things very much her own way.

In stating that they are ignorant of the art of Sick-Nursing, I do not wish to impute any shadow of blame to women. It is an innovation for women to be properly taught anything, and until recent times there were no opportunities for women to acquire an amateur knowledge of Nursing. Of course, it would happen that in most audiences of women there would be one or two whose wisdom and care had taught them how to nurse their sick. But these experienced few would hardly be prepared to stand up and refute the misleading statements given out from the platform by a young lady dressed *cap-à-pied* in smart nursing uniform. They would not feel called upon to express their dissent, and would simply absent themselves from succeeding classes, and the ignorant would remain to be misled.

So it is easy to see why the profession of County Council Lecturer is so exceedingly overcrowded. The qualified are comparatively few, but there is not nearly work enough in Scotland and England to supply these few, together with the largely-increasing number of recruits whose nominal training has cost them little time and less trouble, and who on that account are in a position to ask very small fees. Fees so small, indeed, that they are barely more than "pocket-money."

Now professional women naturally object to the "pocket-money" rate of stipend. Amateur work, done fitfully and imperfectly can only ask for "pocket-money" wages, but work in which a woman has conscientiously and thoroughly trained, and to which she steadily brings the best energies of her nature, deserves adequate remuneration. The difficulty in the way is the apparent inability of Educational Committees to distinguish between the amateur teacher and the professional.

Just as it is still difficult for the public to understand the difference between the untrained Nurse and the professional.

It is the rule rather than the exception, if one enquires into the credentials of these public teachers of Sick-Nursing, to find that they are not Certificated Nurses, that they are merely pupils who have attended classes similar to those they purpose themselves to give. Occasionally, in addition they have spent some six

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