

women to occupy superior positions, and to elevate them above the plane of drudgery which they still occupy in many industries. Special interest will be felt in all technical schools in which designing, pattern-making, and applied art are taught, as well as those which look to better and more economical methods in housekeeping, cooking, sanitation, nursing, and all that tends to increase the comfort and attractiveness of even the simplest homes.

In order that the range of exhibits may be as varied, interesting, and significant as desired, it is essential that all women and associations of women should actively co-operate with and assist the Board, and they have been cordially invited to do so. Women engaged in unusual and interesting lines of work should be induced to exhibit, and manufacturers employing large numbers of women should be urged to send a special exhibit which will show, at their best, the women employed by them. The figures as they stand at present, taken from the applications for space that have been made to the various departments, do not show so large a proportion of women's work as is desired, and the especial attention of all committees co-operating with the Board has been called to this fact.

What, then, may be asked, is the use of the Woman's Building, since the Board of Lady Managers has such powers and responsibilities in the main Exposition buildings, in which a complete exhibit of all work done by women is to be placed?

Having been given this beautiful building, the Board resolved that it should be used to emphasize the great and hitherto unacknowledged services rendered by women to the arts, sciences, and industries of the world during past centuries as well as the present.

It is the intention to make in the Woman's Building an exhibit which will clear away existing misconceptions as to the originality and inventiveness of women, and to demonstrate that, while they have been largely occupied as home-makers, and not trained or educated for industrial or artistic pursuits, yet the adaptability and talent of many have been so pronounced as to enable them to surmount the artificial barriers and limitations which have hemmed them in. Their achievements in many departments have been so marked as to influence their own and succeeding eras. The footsteps of women will be traced from pre-historic times to the present, and their intimate connection shown with all that has tended to promote the development of the race, even though they have worked under the most disadvantageous

conditions. It will be shown that women, among all the primitive peoples, were the originators of most of the industrial arts, and that it was not until these became lucrative that they were appropriated by men, and women pushed aside. While man, the protector, was engaged in fighting, or the chase, woman constructed the rude semblance of a home. She dressed and cooked the game, and later, ground the grain between the stones and prepared it for bread. She cured and dressed the skins of animals, and fashioned them awkwardly into garments. Impelled by the necessity for its use, she invented the needle, and twisted the fibres of plants into thread. She invented the shuttle, and used it in weaving textile fabrics, in which were often mingled feathers, wool, and down, which contributed both to the beauty and warmth of the fabric. She was the first potter, and moulded clay into jars and other utensils for domestic purposes, drying them in the sun. She originated basket-making, and invented such an infinite variety of beautiful forms and decorations as put to shame modern products. She learned to ornament these articles of primitive construction by weaving in feathers of birds, by a very skilful embroidery of porcupine quills and vegetable fibres, and by the use of vegetable dyes. Especial attention will be called to these early inventions of women by means of an ethnological display to be made in the Woman's Building, which will supplement the race exhibit to be made in the Department of Ethnology.

The influence, during classic and mediæval times, of the noted poets, philosophers, artists, and musicians of our sex, such as Sappho and Hypatia, will be illustrated by their portraits, and by what remains to us of their illuminated manuscripts, miniatures, music, books of poetry, romance, and history, &c.; textile fabrics, elaborate embroideries, drawn work, rare tapestries, and the various rare laces that have been produced in almost every country and era. An effort will be made to procure the originals or reproductions of the various objects which have had an influence on the times in which they were produced. For instance, the old Bayeux tapestry, made by Matilda of Flanders and her maidens, which is the best and most authentic history of the conquest of England by her husband, William the Conqueror, and is constantly referred to by every authority treating of the military science, arms, accoutrements, costumes, and the manners and customs of that day. An effort will be made also to procure reproductions of the statues made for the Strasburg Cathedral by Sabina von Steinbach,

---

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

---

The "NURSING RECORD" has a Larger Sale than any other Journal devoted solely to Nursing Work.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)