

rounded with everything which cultivation and refinement can bring, and, moreover, she has been brought up to believe that the good Bishop and his wife are her real parents. I will send you, some time, some more instances to prove that they care better in America for the "nameless child" than we do here.

MATRON.

WOMEN.

THE questions of "How may women earn money?" and "What shall we bring our girls up to?" are continually cropping up and as continually being answered by new suggestions and fresh developments for women's energies. The Women's Branch of the Horticultural College, Swanley, Kent, opens up a delightful prospect of healthful and congenial work to the girl with "outdoor tastes."

The reported progress of the College since its inception in 1891, is a working proof that gardening and its allied industries will be a very popular employment for women. The love of flowers is a distinctly feminine taste, and there is no reason why a delight in odorous blossoms and fresh sweet plants should not take a practical form. In the United States flower-growing has long been a favourite means by which women have supplemented a small income, and in some cases, indeed, have managed to provide for a family's needs by growing and sending daily to market dainty button-holes and sprays. A well-known business man in San Francisco, whose health and fortunes were utterly shattered by one of those sudden commercial cyclones so common in the West, found in his pleasure-loving wife—whose only fault in his eyes had been her reckless expenditure in plants and floral decorations—a most valuable helpmate. The husband's health gone, it became necessary for her to become the bread-winner of the little family. So she set to work at the only thing she understood—the growing of flowers and plants. Formerly she grew them for her own delight, now they had all to go off to market. The invalid husband enjoyed assisting in making the sweet-scented violets into bunches, just delicately fringed with fern and maidenhair. Her marguerites and white roses became famous, and her services and the resources of her beautiful garden were much requisitioned to furnish forth the decorations of wedding breakfasts and ball suppers.

It is interesting to find that the Kent County Council has granted a sum of £300 a year for the endowment of scholarships for women, five of which were held at Swanley during the past year. Three medals are granted annually as the result of a competition in the writing of an essay upon some practical point of interest connected with the term's work. The subjects chosen are such as "My First Year's Floriculture," "How could I most profitably utilise a single Glass-house?"

Since the foundation of the College 41 students have entered, 21 of these are still in training. Eight women are now growing fruit and vegetables for the markets, nine are using their knowledge in their own gardens, two are employed as salaried gardeners. One student

held a holiday appointment during the summer with such satisfaction to herself and her employer, that she is already engaged for the coming season; and the owner of a large bulb-growing garden in Ireland, who employed a Swanley student for a short time last year, has applied for the services of a woman-manager.

The ladies who have undertaken market-gardening on their own account have been exceedingly successful, the training at the College having given them a practical insight into the details of gathering, packing, and the selection of crops likely to prove marketable.

Many students have entered the College, almost entirely with a view to health, and to fit themselves for home-gardening. It is interesting to hear that the health of the students has much improved with their outdoor life and sunshine and air. The Lady Superintendent reports that the College inmates are commonly exempt from even the small ailments of ordinary family life.

Sir Edward Sieveking is of opinion "that there is a large field for development for female taste and for female energy in gardens, in greenhouses, in the management of trees, of flowers, in the poultry-yard, in bee-keeping, &c., without entailing undue physical exhaustion or making demands upon their bodily strength, exceeding what may be fairly demanded of a healthy young woman."

The College is a large old-fashioned country house, standing in charming grounds. The women share the lecture-halls, library, workshops and laboratories for analysis and microscopic work with the men—duly chaperoned, be it understood!

Apart from the openings their training affords as market-gardeners, poultry-growers and gardeners, there should be a good prospect for the remunerative employment of women-lecturers under the County Councils Technical Education Scheme, and to give practical demonstrations in villages on the management of allotments and cottage gardens.

Altogether, it is pleasing to know of this Swanley College and to think of the healthful and delightful work of these young women amid the sweet-peas and honeysuckles, and fresh lettuces of the beautiful old Kentish garden.

Notes on Art.

THE NEW GALLERY.

(FIRST NOTICE.)

THE striving for originality is very evident in this exhibition, which opened its doors last Monday. Surely the qualities that should first attract us to look at a picture should be beauty of subject, execution, tenderness, strength, or colouring; the originality should dawn upon us later, or too often it is merely eccentric, having for its origin a weak wish to astonish the art world. Among much of this striving after new effect, there are several who have shown the beauty of true art combined with new combinations of colour and

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