

stantinople. The vitality and endurance of the Turks is remarkable. An instance is given of a man whose stomach was penetrated by a bullet, who not only kept his place in the ranks until the end of the battle, but marched ten miles afterwards. The extreme rapidity with which the patients recover from their wounds has also excited much comment. This fact has been accounted for by the abstemious lives led as a rule by the Turks.

At the flying hospital near the Imperial Palace of Yildiz, every arrangement is made for the comfort and well-being of the wounded. By special order of the Sultan, the best physicians and army surgeons are in attendance on the patients. Specially cooked dishes are sent to the hospital from the Imperial kitchen, and messages of sympathy and welcome have been conveyed to the men from the Sultan. The ladies of His Majesty's harem have also sent large quantities of bandages and lint.

### Women Doctors.

It is not only in this nineteenth century that women have been admitted to a University education and University distinction. Passing by instances recorded in the history of the Middle Ages, we find the names of several women who, during the eighteenth century, received diplomas and held chairs in the Italian Universities.

In 1732 La Dottoressa Laura Bassi graduated at Bologna, and was appointed to the Chair of Natural Philosophy, which she held for six years. She married, and had several children. A contemporary speaks of her as exemplary in all the relations of family life, and as having "a sweet, serious, and modest countenance." She died in 1778, and was buried with public honours—the doctor's gown and silver laurel being borne before her to the grave.

In 1750 Signora Agnesi was appointed Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Bologna. She was connected with the University for twenty years. She translated several treatises on the integral and differential calculus, and published a volume entitled, "Analytical Institutions." Towards the close of her life she retired into a religious house, and died in 1798 at the age of eighty.

In 1794 Clotilde Tambroni became Professor of Greek at Bologna. After occupying the Chair for four years, she was obliged, on political grounds, to resign. The revolutionary wave was then rising, and Tambroni was conservative and a royalist. She then spent some years studying in Spain. On her return to Italy Bonaparte, forgiving her politics, made her Professor of Greek at Milan. She held the office for some years, and died in 1817. Madonna Manzolina lectured on anatomy at Bologna about the time that Tambroni was teaching Greek at Milan.

In January, 1849, the University of Geneva, in the State of New York, conferred upon Miss Blackwell, an Englishwoman, the diploma of Doctor of Medicine. In 1851 her younger sister, Emily, graduated at the College of Cleveland (Ohio); two years later a Polish lady did the same, and from that time a continually increasing number of American women have been engaged in the study and practice of medicine.

In 1860 Miss Garrett began to study medicine in London. It is unnecessary to detail the history of her various attempts to gain admittance to a school as a regular student. Failing in all these attempts, she obtained permission from Apothecaries' Hall—the only examining body who had no power legally to refuse to examine her—to attend the required lectures of recognised Professors privately, and having in this way completed the curriculum, she passed the examinations of The Hall, and received, in 1865, the diploma of L.S.A., or Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries.

In January, 1867, three other ladies passed the preliminary examination in Arts at Apothecaries' Hall. It was their intention to get the medical education by means of private lectures, and on the strength of the permission previously granted to Miss Garrett, they had already begun to attend private courses of instruction in Anatomy and Chemistry. But the road was not allowed to remain thus open. Shortly after the Arts examination, the Court of Examiners at the Hall passed a resolution forbidding students to receive any part of their medical education privately. It was determined that students who had not attended lectures in the public class of a recognised medical school should not in future be accepted. Obviously this resolution could only refer to women. Many years of unremitting effort followed. In Edinburgh an extraordinary degree of acrimony was manifested by the opponents of the women students. All means of getting upon the English Register were closed, but women continued to get their medical education abroad—at Paris, Zurich, &c., and returned to practise in England. A medical school for women was opened in London, and later in Edinburgh and Glasgow.

In 1876 an "Enabling Bill" was passed, under the leadership of Mr. Russell Gurney, which empowered all the various licensing authorities in Great Britain and Ireland to open their examinations to women, if they were so disposed. The first examining bodies to avail themselves of this power were the King's and Queen's College of Physicians, Ireland, and the Queen's University, Ireland. They were quickly followed by the London University, and no legal hindrance any longer obstructs the entrance of women into the profession.

The change that has since that time taken place in the view of the majority of medical men with regard to women doctors, is illustrated by the fact that in 1877 the British Medical Association at its annual meeting passed a resolution declaring, in future, all women to be ineligible as members, and in 1892 the same body, meeting at Nottingham, rescinded this resolution, by the enormous majority of 600 to 4.

It is sometimes said that the study of anatomy and physiology tends to injure or destroy the fine instinct of purity which characterises most women. We believe that experience proves this fear to be groundless. Let the opponents of female doctors reflect upon the influence of the flood of fiction poured in from circulating libraries, the food set before the hungry imaginations of the young, the unhealthy sympathies called forth in hearts which are sickening for an outlet; the familiar scenery of home life reproduced and invested with a vicious colouring, an intimate acquaintance with the ways of sin represented as a knowledge of the world, which it is childish not to possess—this is the poison which women, young and old, are imbibing from day to day, while some people would hold them back from the reverent study of Nature, lest their innocence should be contaminated.

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