

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

LADY DOCTORS.

THE well-fought field is won, and now after many a year of patient waiting and of successful agitation women Doctors have gained the day, have become recognised factors in modern society, and are legally admitted into the Medical profession. Women may now enter for the examinations of the following Universities and Medical Corporations—*i.e.*, "the University of London, the Royal University of Ireland, the Conjoint Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, Edinburgh, and Faculty of Physicians, and Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, the Society of Apothecaries, London," and these all give a qualification for Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery. The University degrees, though giving a higher distinction, require a more expensive training, and the student must calculate on five years at least for study ere all the examinations can be passed. In fact there is no use for any woman to dream of becoming a Doctor who has not good natural abilities, and also received a thorough high-class education, for the preliminary examination (which must be passed before anyone can commence the study of medicine) is difficult, and comprises a great variety of subjects. For those deciding not to try for an University degree, the Senior and Junior Local Examinations of Oxford and Cambridge, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, St. Andrew's, &c., suffice if the subjects prescribed in the preliminary examination are taken. The best school by far for lady students is the London School of Medicine for Women, 30, Handel Street, Brunswick Square, W.C., in association with the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, and most of the coming school of women Doctors have been educated there. For instance, Dr. Sophia L. Jex-Blake, Mrs. Percy Phipson, Miss Annie Clark, Mrs. de la Chevois, Mrs. Stewart Ker, Miss Alice Marston, and the late lamented Miss Fanny Butler, who died last year in far away Kashmir. There are several scholarships in connection with the school: one (the John Byron Scholarship) is only open "to Students requiring pecuniary aid for the prosecution of their Medical studies," and two others (the Jubilee and Dufferin Scholarships) only to those willing to practise medicine in connection with the Lady Dufferin Fund for providing Medical help for the women of India. The School is kept up partly by the donations and subscriptions of friends. The prospectus of the School states that "the fees for the curriculum at the School and Hospital, which must be taken whatever license, diploma, or degree the Student is preparing

for, is £105, or if paid in instalments extending over four years, £115. Besides this sum there are fees for separate lessons, and also the cost of qualification to practise, the lowest of which (M.B. degree of Royal University of Ireland) is £6. Thus it will be seen that the study of medicine cannot be undertaken by penniless folk. There are now one hundred and two Students attending the School. But the fact that good health, ability, and money are all necessities for becoming a lady Doctor will, for many a year, prevent this profession from being unduly over-crowded. Women Doctors, whether general practitioners or Physicians, charge about the same fees as their male competitors. Feminine M.D.'s hold also several posts in Hospitals in Edinburgh, Birmingham, &c., and the New Hospital is entirely governed and officered by women, Mrs. Garrett Anderson being one of the Visiting Physicians. One word more: a Medical career should never be undertaken without a decided taste having been displayed in that direction, for the Doctor is not, any more than the poet, made, but born.

BOARD and residence cannot be obtained at the School of Medicine for Women, but there is a College Hall at Byng Place, Gordon Square, W.C., and also there are several boarding houses for students. The terms are generally from fifteen to eighteen guineas for the term of twelve weeks. Miss Heaton, the Secretary of the School, would, I am sure, willingly answer any questions.

MISS JEAN INGELOW has lately written out in her own handwriting and signed some of her own shorter poems. These are on sale by Messrs. Roberts Brothers, of Boston, and find ready purchasers in American autograph hunters. The profits are given to the funds for the restoration of St. Lawrence's Church, Evesham, in which Miss Ingelow takes a great interest. This clever writer is an universal favourite "the other side of the water," where her poems are widely read and appreciated.

M. DE GASTE, the French champion of women's rights, made an amusing proposal the other day, *i.e.*, "that the Senators of the French Chambers should be reduced to two hundred, and the Deputies to four hundred, and that half each department should be women." Yet after all is it so preposterous an idea? Half, yea, and the best half, of the world's population are of the feminine gender, and yet the feminine element is not admitted to the councils of the Governors, but has to be content or malcontent, as they will, to be governed as it pleases the men. So much for the boasted nineteenth century civilization.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)