

say they can draw or paint very well, and when they send me specimens of their work, I am utterly disappointed, not to say disgusted, with their folly. Why cannot sensible girls who do not want to be driven into marriage on the one hand, or to endure the pinch of poverty on the other, give some time and trouble to learning how to do one thing well. At this moment the energetic secretary of the National Health Society tells me that, although she is inundated with applications from ordinary and fairly well-educated young women to find them some occupation, she can meet with but few who are willing to train in special subjects, so as to be able to join her already competent staff of teachers, and to take part in the work promoted by the various County Councils in their several centres, which is to give simple Lectures in the outlying country districts to the uninstructed villagers and working people on such subjects as 'How to keep home healthy and happy,' 'Cookery for the family and for the sick,' 'Nursing,' 'First help to the injured,' 'Hygiene,' and kindred matters. With a thorough and practical knowledge of any one of these subjects so as to talk intelligently and sensibly about them, and to illustrate them with such materials as are to hand, the Councils of several counties in England are prepared to negotiate through the secretary of the National Health Society for such trained teachers on excellent terms; and yet so few competent women are able and willing to undertake these duties. My friend tells me that having satisfactorily completed various lecture tours in a Western County which were devoted especially to instruction in cookery such as the working class require and frequently value, several of her lecturers have returned to London, and decline to enter on further work, however remunerative, till they have had a long holiday and rest, for some of them declare that although they are interested and pleased, they are somewhat tired with the routine of giving one lecture a day for nine weeks, to village audiences at some distance from each other, which the lecturers have to travel in a chaise, by train when possible, or in any convenient manner. This, too, in summer weather, and with every facility for making comfortable arrangements for themselves.

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"I do not wonder that employment is scarce for women when I hear all this, and I must say, that if women ever hope to compete with men in the labour market, they must attend to business as men do. A lady lecturer who is an excellent cook, and has had most successful classes in Devonshire, leaves her course incomplete, because

she is 'wanted at home;' another because she has been asked to take a short trip into Norway with some friends. Did any one ever hear of a man making such excuses for shirking his work, and would he not be at once sent adrift if he did? Women are suffering now, just when they are beginning to strive for some independence from their early surroundings and bringing up. They cannot look at things seriously, or face life bravely in its less attractive aspects, whilst they learn and work to prepare for a future which may be a recompense for all. Then—must I say it?—Women are usually unreliable in attention to business, and so over-weighted in the matter of health, they can stand nothing; and are never at a loss for an excuse to abandon an undertaking before they have completed it. I fear that this present generation of young women will scarcely vindicate the expectations of their champions, and of those who in helping to clear away obstructions in their path, and in recognising their right to work for themselves without losing caste, thought that all difficulties were removed, and that they had before them 'a fair field and no favour,' which must ensure success. We must educate our girls, as our boys, to realise that they can no longer be treated only as pets and puppets, but that they must take their share of the burden of life and must prepare to make the best of it, and not to consider entirely or chiefly what they like to do, but what they must do, and, to accomplish this properly, they must lay in a stock of health and strength whilst they are young, and adapt themselves, both in dress and general behaviour, to the necessities of their independent existence. Women seem to me to try and combine interests and duties which never fall upon men to attempt. No man ever dreams of performing domestic and household functions, or of nursing his sick relatives when he is actively engaged in earning money by practising a profession or guiding a business; yet so many women fancy they can do both, and so they do neither, well. There ought to be a wise division of interest and occupation in a family of girls. Let those who feel it incumbent on them to become bread-winners for themselves, or for others, steadily devote all their energies to this side of life, not attempting to interfere or take part in the domestic side, which should be undertaken by those who are best fitted for it, and who are willing to manage, arrange, and keep the home bright and pleasant for all. I think amongst enterprising and working women who live together there should, as much as possible, be a division of labour, and this is especially needed now, when it is recognised that the time and energies of a well and technically

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