

Woman's Work.

BY LINA MOLLETT.

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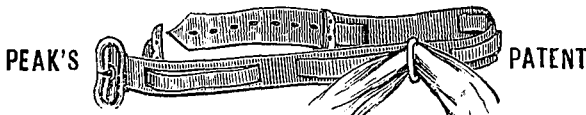
THE Government High School for Girls and Women's Training College in Hanover, has been quoted as the best-disciplined educational establishment in Germany. This school teaches botany to its youngest pupils, girls of six. The knowledge of the scientific classification of plants required by some of the examination papers, easily answered by girls of twelve, would startle many English ladies, who "take up" botany in after life, as a play-science. The pupils take turns in providing the necessary specimens for class demonstration, and are told where to look for them, gaining a personal intimacy with the habits of the plants in the search and uprooting, that is worth a thousand printed statements. Often a class of forty-two girls will join in a quest for some rare specimen that will escape their sharp eyes perhaps for weeks. General excitement prevails when the hour for the botany lecture comes round; and when, again and again, there is nothing to take the place of the dried specimen

or pictured plant, a hum of mingled disappointment and determination runs through the ranks. Great is the pride of the successful explorer, if the search finally ends in success. (The triumphs of after years are tame compared to the joy of school-victory, as most of us have experienced!) There is an element of vitality and "camaraderie" about these botany lessons, that is refreshing in a school which glories in almost military discipline and thoroughness. Though the rudiments of a beautiful and interesting science are taught, the atmosphere of *cram* is conspicuously absent, while the frequent exams, that are under the control of a staff, and liable to Government supervision, render slipshod dallying and self-deception impossible.

It has not been everyone's good fortune to enjoy such early training, and no attempt in later years can quite supply it; yet co-operation and mutual help under judicious leadership would do a great deal, and even minimise the necessary efforts to a very great extent. A dozen, twenty, thirty, or fifty women, each armed with some small capital, and each willing to devote such business capacities as she possessed to the study and exploitation of *one* branch of her profession, might, united, do good work, and clear a livelihood under the most favourable circumstances.

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