

Editors' Table.

LADIES IN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

THE State of Kansas has the honor of being the first to open its Agricultural College to young ladies as students, and to appoint a lady to one of the Professorships. Other States, we believe, have followed or are preparing to follow the example, but to Kansas belongs the credit of being the first to do an act which is not the less honorable because it is merely a deed of justice. We know that it often requires more courage to be just than to be liberal.

When Congress gave its magnificent donation of public lands to the States for the establishment of Agricultural Colleges, there is no reason for supposing that the benefits of these colleges were designed for men alone, though in some of the States this seems to have been taken for granted. Did Congress intend that our farmers should be educated for their calling, and their wives left in ignorance? Let any one who supposes this consider for a moment how large a part of the success of a farm depends on the exertion of feminine minds and hands. Take the important department of the dairy. We do not know, and probably no one pretends to know very accurately, how many millions of dollars would represent the value of the butter and cheese produced every year in our country. But we may assert—what every dealer in those articles will certainly confirm—that the value of these products brought to market would be immensely increased if the producers were better instructed in their duties. Every year, too, as our cities and towns grow, the demand for dairy produce of the best description increases faster than the country can supply it. Then there is the rearing of poultry, which is also usually in the charge of women, and is growing in importance in the same way.

But our farmers' wives have duties of a much higher cast imposed on them by their position. They must practise medicine and surgery, whether they will or not. The husband, or son, or laboring man, meets with one of those accidents which so often befall men in their work; or a stroke of disease falls upon him. The physician is many miles away. The housewife must bind the wound, or administer the proper medicines and other appliances which the case requires. Indeed, the farmer's wife must often be in her household all that the Lady of the Manor was in the Middle Ages, and frequently with much less training for the office.

There is another department of the highest importance which belongs wholly to woman's province. It is the selection and preparation of food. If we are to be a vigorous and enduring race, we must have both well-selected food and good cookery. Cookery, as every one now understands, is a science. It is in fact a branch of chemistry. No doubt, a person may be a good cook, as another may be a good farmer, without a knowledge of scientific principles. But it is now well understood that those are most successful in any work who not only know how to do it, but the reason why it is so done. This, indeed, is the very principle on which our agricultural colleges are founded. If this principle is correct, there is every reason why young women should be admitted into these colleges, and why professorships of domestic economy and of medicine should be established for their benefit. There will be no lack of educated ladies well qualified to fill these appoint-

ments. Their pupils in turn will be prepared to instruct others; and thus each college will become, as it was intended to be, a source of light and improvement to the whole State.

We earnestly appeal to the authorities who have the control of this great endowment in the different States, and ask them to take this subject into serious consideration. Is it just, and is it for the public good, that one-half of the community should be shut out from the benefits of this grant? Have the women of our republic no right in the lands of the republic? Shall we rear up a race of scientific men and ignorant women? Let our lawyers and statesmen consider these questions in the light of conscience and with the impulse of patriotism, and we can have no doubt of their decision.

FASHIONS AND EDUCATIONAL INFLUENCES.

(EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER TO THE EDITRESS.)

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"A MAGAZINE of aids to feminine character comprehends a great deal. For the term 'a fine woman' implies not merely grace of external observance, but inward warmth and growth. It does not suffice, then, that a young lady be taught all the newest methods of embroidery, all the latest fluctuations of fashion, or even how to make, in these dear days, one dollar serve the purpose of two by skillful handling. Though these are good and useful things to know, if not for one's self, for another. The absence of *caste* in our country and of sumptuary laws or rules, while causing some confusion in the mind of the slight observer, gives, doubtless, a general air of prosperity and taste in external decoration, which might well have prompted the foreigner's inquiry: 'Where are your poor people?' And as the LADY'S BOOK penetrates to the fastnesses of the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific sands, it is not strange that a homogeneity greater even than that produced by speaking the same language should be the result. Two ladies from opposite poles meeting each other on the plaza or boulevard of the city, recognize with lightning-like quickness the true fashionable height of the hat, the length of the plume, and the dress, with or without trail, as the case may be. Lace may be imitated, silks may be adulterated, but the general air which comes of familiarity with all the best modes, and which makes the dress and appearance what the French call *comme il faut*, can only be gained by education.

"All these graces and refinements are certainly only the bloom on the plum, the down on the peach, the hue on the flower; yet who would be without them? Granted then the comparative inferiority of externals, they have an absolute value, and should be cultivated in their proportion, as a rose-hue deepens and heightens the delight with which we inhale its fragrance.

"These thoughts have occurred to me on turning over the many-leaved directions in your valuable magazine for all kinds of work and play. I have pictured to myself scenes which indeed I have often literally witnessed, where your magazine was almost the only link between a secluded life, without grace or variety, and the distant world which seemed full of visions of brightness and beauty. As the magazine makes its appearance, the young people in the family all spring at once to grasp it, with a welcome

ing gladness which I am certain would give you sincere joy to witness. The love tale is conned, the newest shapes meditated on, the last receipt tried, and the drawings copied. It is a refreshment in a weary land which can hardly be overstated, to be brought thus into frequent contact with the live, stirring world of thought and action. Nature cloys a little, for the trees never whisper of new bonnets, nor do brooks babble of Parisian modes. Yet, the modes must be attended to, or how else is a young lady to comfort herself in a possible future in Washington, or even as lady of a foreign minister? As there is no height to which manly talent may not attain in our happy country, so should womanly elegance and culture be ready for adaptation to any high places that may be allotted by the possible Fates. We are proud of the simple dignity and high-bred grace of our Mrs. Abigail Adams, at the English court; how much more elegant she was than the good dowdy Queen Charlotte herself. But in her memoirs we see how such manners were naturally evolved from an upright and observant mind, a kindly heart and thoughtful intellectual habits. These made the country-bred girl a fit companion for princes, and, what was more important, for her own superior and admirable husband.

"When I see in the LADY'S BOOK such models of feminine character always held up, and think of the wondrous influence of these ideas thoroughly disseminated and ingrained in the minds of women, I feel that you are doing daily a great and good work, and that we ought 'never to despair of the republic' while such a source of right thinking remains."

LITERARY FORGERIES AND THEFTS.

THE literary world of Paris has lately had an astonishing sensation in the discovery of literary forgeries which exceed all of the kind on record. M. Chasles, the mathematician, had a passion for autographs, and from 1861 had been supplied by an Italian with extraordinary collections of autographic letters and documents. These M. Chasles purchased, paying the sum of \$30,000 in gold to the man of mystery who supplied these treasures of antiquity. M. Chasles had, as he fancied, in his collection notes of Julius Cæsar and of Charlemagne, letters of Copernicus, of Christopher Columbus, and of Shakspeare, and authentic documents of some kind from the most distinguished men and women who had lived from the earliest period of the Christian era. Included in this list were letters of the apostles. The bubble burst last summer. The forger, whose name was Irene Lucas, was arrested, and the exposure was complete. All these varied papers or autographs, comprising more than 20,000 pieces, were, as he declared, fabricated by himself.

The great literary forgery is a phenomenon that will seldom occur; the petty larcenies are the parts that trouble us. We lately had a specimen of this kind that deserves exposure. A person, whom we do not know, sent us a poem for the LADY'S BOOK. It was worth publishing, and, as it bore the writer's name, Lewis Morrison, with a request to have it returned if rejected, we saw no reason to suppose it a stolen article. It appeared in the LADY'S BOOK, June, 1869. "The Last Tear I Shed," by Lewis Morrison, a tender little poem that must have moved many a mother's heart. We have learned that it was stolen from a volume, "The Faded Flowers," by Robert Josselyn, published twenty years ago in Boston. Mr. Josselyn has sent us the poem in question, as he wrote it, containing one stanza which the imposter omitted. We shall republish it in June next, as we are sure our readers will prize the finished

poem. Now, we have the pleasure of giving them a poem written expressly for the LADY'S BOOK since the discovery of the larceny. It is a gratification to us that we have thus opportunity of placing the name of this true American poet among our contributors.

SONG.

BY ROBERT JOSSELYN.

SHE was sweet and as pure as the dewdrop that lies
On the rose in a morning of spring,
And her voice, and her smile, and her soft loving
eyes

To my heart and my memory cling;
Through the mist and the chill of the gathering
years,
Which are shrouding my spirit in gloom,
And the all, my lone pathway that brightens and
cheers,
Is the light that yet shines from her tomb.

SHE was gentle and kind and obliging to all,
And her beauty and grace had no peer;
With a passionate glow of my heart I recall
Every charm to my memory dear.
But the flowers that are fairest are soonest to fade,
And she left for the region above,
Where her beauty and goodness immortal were
made,
And she lives still an angel of love.

They may sneer, who are cold and as senseless as
clay,

At a love which is fervent and true,
Which can live through all trial, and knows no decay
With a heaven hereafter in view;
Where the loved ones, long parted, united shall be,
With a joy which this earth cannot know,
And I long, like a captive who sighs to be free,
To that blessed reunion to go.

THE MARRIAGE RELATION.

IN the *Edinburgh Review*, for October, we find an able article on the equality of the sexes, as asserted in the theories of Mr. Mill. We quote a few paragraphs—all we have room for; the whole should be read by those who take interest in the subject. The hypothesis of Mr. Mill is that the married pair are separate persons, equal in rights.

"They are one person in law." This Mr. Mill asserts to be a cruel fiction.

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"And we assert that this faulty law has yet, amid all its offensive and tyrannical enactments, caught sight of the principle in which lie all the difficulties of the question, and which Mr. Mill ignores. It is, that the man and the woman united in the first of all primitive bonds, the union upon which the world and the race depend, are one person. We say it not sentimentally or poetically, but with the profoundest sense of reality and seriousness. If they were two, the matter would be easy. It would be but to establish the balance by law, as Mr. Mill suggests, and to keep it even; a business requiring the watchfulness of Argus, yet probably manageable by dint of pain and trouble. The secret of all that is hard, and dangerous, and bewildering in the matter is simply the fact that in very truth the two are one.

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"We repeat: if they are precisely the same kind of beings, with no differences except those which are physical, then we allow without a moment's hesitation that women are the natural inferiors of men. Equality must embrace the whole being; it cannot be taken as belonging only to a part of it. And woman is confessedly and unmistakably man's inferior in one part of her being; therefore, unless she is as unmistakably his superior in another, she can have no claim to consider herself his equal.

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"But let us turn for one moment to the other view of the question. It is, that a woman is a woman, and not a lesser edition of man. The competition, in which we are forever laboring to involve them, has no existence in nature. They are not rivals nor antagonists; they are two halves of a complete being. The offices they hold in this world are essentially different. There is scarcely any

natural standing ground, which we can realize, on which these two creatures appear as rivals. The very thought is preposterous. Shall the woman challenge the man to a trial of strength? Shall the man pit himself against the woman for delicacy of eye and taste? Shall she plough the heavy fields with him, wading through the new turned mould; or, shall he watch the children with her, patient through the weary vigil? An exchange of place and toil, the man taking the indoor work, and the woman the outdoor, in order to prove the futility of their mutual discontent, was a favorite subject with the old ballad-makers, and the witty minstrel is generally very great on the domestic confusion that follows, and gives the wife the best of it. But the fact is that such rivalry can be nothing but a jest. The two are not rivals—they are not alike. They are different creatures—they are one."

NOTES AND NOTICES.

THE WOMEN CLERKS AT WASHINGTON.—The Treasurer of the United States, Hon. F. E. Spinner, has paid a tribute of praise to the young women employed as clerks in his department which does honor to his own noble manliness as well as to their abilities and faithfulness in duty. We can only give an extract, but hope to find opportunity of returning to the subject. We shall take the liberty of designating these employes as *men and women* :—

"The women, many of whom are now employed in this office in the handling of money have, by long practice and close application, become experts, and do as good, and in many cases better, official service than men clerks who receive double their compensation.

"All the coupons, and all mutilated United States notes and fractional currency, are assorted, counted, and prepared for destruction by women clerks.

"This requires great care and patient labor, and subjects these clerks to great responsibilities and risks, and not unfrequently to pecuniary losses.

"It frequently happens that a lady engaged in the counting of money loses more than half her month's salary by reason of having lost money, or having overlooked and passed over counterfeit notes. No one, who is at all acquainted with the business operations of this office, will gainsay the fact that many women clerks, receiving only nine hundred dollars per annum, can do, and do do, more work of the kind mentioned, and do it better, too, than any clerk in the department, receiving double their salary, possibly can. On coupons the experiment has lately been thoroughly tried and tested. It was found that the work done by women was done much better, and more was done in a given time, than had been done by the men clerks who receive the larger salaries. In order to test the difference between the two kinds of clerks, on this kind of work, more thoroughly, the women clerks were required to review and recount the work of the men clerks; and it was found that they not only corrected errors in the count, but that they detected counterfeits that had not before been discovered or known to any person connected with the Treasury Department in this city or elsewhere, and that had been overlooked by the men clerks in the offices where they were originally received, and by those in this office, who had counted them. But for the timely discovery of these counterfeit coupons, the Government would have suffered great loss."

We are sorry to find that the introduction of woman's help into the Treasury Department has had the effect of lowering the titles of those who hold clerkships. The awkward prefix of the animal term, *male* and *female* does not accurately indicate the dissimilarity, which as *man* and *woman* pertains to humanity. We need a wider scope of feminine terminations in order to express the offices of women, as they enlarge their sphere of usefulness. We shall refer to this in another paper; now we have ventured to substitute *man* clerk and *woman* clerk, instead of *male* and *female*. The last are longer by one letter each, and neither definite nor dignified.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE.—Professor Blot has lately repeated his valuable lecture on the art of cooking.

That the ladies of Philadelphia, who had the privilege of listening to his sensible discourses, gained much useful information is certain; but ignorant domestics may fail to carry out the orders which they cannot comprehend. The women and girls employed in American households need an opportunity for special improvement in the knowledge of their duties.

School of training for household work. Such a school is needed in every American city. Why cannot Philadelphia lead in this great domestic philanthropy? Good cooks are being wanted all over our country. *Cookery* would be the most important department. A restaurant might be connected with this cooking school, where ladies, who come from the populous environs of this great city to pass a day, might always find refreshment. If this restaurant were wisely managed, it might furnish dinners for families. The advantages of a judicious system, such as Professor Blot teaches, would soon enable such an establishment to become popular and profitable, and thus aid in supporting other branches of instruction, such as that of chamber-maid, waitress, nurse, etc. A laundry would also be profitable, and an intelligence office necessary. In short, such a "Training School" is the great want of Philadelphia. If the hundreds of ladies, who heard the lectures of Professor Blot, would interest themselves in this plan, it would be sure to succeed.

CHESTNUT STREET SEMINARY FOR YOUNG LADIES.—Parents desiring a thoroughly good school for their daughters will find this, under the charge of Miss Bonney and Miss Dillaye, one of the best in Philadelphia. The course of instruction is thorough, and the system exceedingly good.

"Physical education receives special attention. Thorough ventilation, calisthenics, a walk in the morning and in the afternoon are among daily school duties. To these may be added lessons in riding, swimming, and dancing. The natatorium and lessons in calisthenics are under the personal and constant care of a physician, who regulates the kind and degree of exercise with direct reference to the health of the individual pupil."

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE, September—December, 1880.—We are compelled, in our notices of this excellent weekly, to condense many numbers into a few lines of comment; but every new *Living Age* would give us abundant opportunity for appreciation and praise. We have read *Littell* for many years, and no other eclectic in the country can approach it in the variety and interest of its contents. In each number is generally one story, one or two articles upon important subjects from the quarterlies, a number of shorter and lighter papers upon the topics of the day, and an excellent selection of poetry. The most famous men of the country have commended this excellent magazine.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.—We have returned many poems, as desired by the writers, because we had not room, and this month have only accepted the following: "Winter on the Sea"—"My Lost Friend" and "The East."

These articles are declined: "Dora"—"Song"—"Beautiful Hills"—"Gates Ajar"—"A Memory"—"Visit to the Parsonage" and "Before the Battle." "Omega" was sent as requested.

NOTICE.—Manuscripts must in all cases be accompanied with the name and address of the authors, and stamps for their return, if not accepted. The utmost care will be taken and all possible expedition used with regard to them; but it must be understood that the Editor is not responsible should a MS. be mislaid or lost.