

appearance of harshness in behaviour. Let that courtesy distinguish your demeanour, which springs not so much from studied politeness, as from a mild and gentle heart. Follow the customs of the world in matters indifferent, but stop when they become sinful. Let your manners be simple and natural; and of course they will be engaging. Affectation is certain deformity. By forming themselves on fantastic models, and vying with one another in every reigning folly, the young begin with being ridiculous, and end in being vicious and immoral.

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It is necessary to recommend to you sincerity and truth. This is the basis of every virtue. That darkness of character, where we can see no heart, those foldings of art, through which no native affection is allowed to penetrate, present an object, unamiable in every season of life, but particularly odious in youth. If, at an age when the heart is warm, when the emotions are strong, and when nature is expected to show itself free and open, you can already, smile and deceive, what are we to look for when you shall be longer hackneyed in the ways of men; when interest shall have completed the obduration of your heart, and experience shall have improved you in all the arts of guile? Dissimulation in youth is the forerunner of perfidy in old age. Its first appearance is the fatal omen of growing depravity and future shame. It degrades parts and learning, obscures the lustre of every accomplishment, and sinks you into contempt with God and man.

BLAIR.

The Higher Education of Women.

A report has just been published on the examination for women conducted by the University of Cambridge last July. This is the third annual examination of the kind held by the University, and it is satisfactory to find that the number of candidates increases steadily. Beginning with thirty-six candidates in the first year, the University had eighty-four candidates in the second year, and a hundred and twenty-nine last July. It would appear, notwithstanding the absolute smallness of these numbers that the examination meets a want which is generally felt.

The report of the Syndicate is on the whole decidedly favourable. A table of general results speaks eloquently through its bare figures of the evils of women's education as it has been hitherto conducted. While less than 10 per cent. of the candidates are rejected in the language group, 43 per cent. are rejected in the preliminary group, consisting of arithmetic, history and geography, and English literature. Again, the figures speak of the very unsatisfactory manner in which a smattering of natural science is ordinarily taught. Of all educational impositions, the worst is that which professes to teach botany, zoology, and geology, without a scientific knowledge of the subject. Another significant fact drawn from the same figures is this—that only 9 per cent. of the whole number of candidates present themselves for examination in music and drawing.

The one point which seems to be always weak in the examination work of girls and women, as tested by the Universities, is arithmetic. At Southampton, the other day, every one of the senior candidates in one examination was plucked for arithmetic. The report of the Syndicate points to a change in this respect. By constant plucking, the examiners seem to have effected a reform, for they report that "there is a marked improvement in this subject." On the other hand, in English composition great inaccuracy of punctuation, "amounting in many instances to utter disregard of all rule and principle, was a prevailing defect in the essays sent up by the candidates." "The Latin scholarship exhibited was quite on a par with the average of the scholarship of a public school sixth form, or of candidates for the classical tripos in their first year." In French translation want of "fidelity and closeness" is complained of, and in

grammar the answers were not so good as the answers of the best boys of a public school in the grammar of the Greek language. In mathematics there was a marked improvement over last year, and some parts of the papers were decidedly well done. In Euclid, "one candidate answered every question except one rider." In statics, astronomy, and dynamics, one candidate showed knowledge "thoroughly sound as far as it went." But the report points to a weakness in abstract reasoning which is not incompatible with very considerable success in geometry and applied mathematics. It says of the algebra paper:—"While candidates are fairly skilled in the management of symbols, they seem to have little idea of a logical proof." In geology and physical geography, "no one has done well. The answers are, in most cases, shallow and full of bad blunders." In political economy, the majority of the papers "gave evidence of conscientious and intelligent study of the subjects, and showed an apprehension of principles lively and clear as far as it went, though not profound." In geology and physical geography there was an insufficient knowledge of the simple laws of physics, and no one showed even a "tolerable acquaintance with the outlines of systematic geology, or any knowledge at all of palæontology." In the answers on art history "the dominant fault is vagueness. They reflect general impressions, rather than any considerable amount of precise knowledge."

These alternate failures and successes are easily reduced to a general law. The candidates do best in those subjects which they may be supposed to have taken up for the first time; they do worst in those subjects upon which they have been employed all their school life. In Latin, which is rarely learned by girls, the examiner finds evidence of "hard and genuine study." In French, which all girls learn, the standard attained is very much lower. In German, which is learned by many, though not by all, the results are much the same as in French—except that the few who "had taken the trouble to read the philological subjects recommended"—who were dealing, that is, with wholly new matter—"answered the questions exceedingly well." In English, which probably every girl supposes herself to know by instinct, the failure was most marked. In geology, which has for some time past been rather a favourite subject in ladies' schools, the answers were unsatisfactory to the last degree; whereas in the harder subject of mathematics, and in the less attractive subject of political economy, the average of success was decidedly good. Nothing could more clearly bring out the two great defects from which the education of women now suffers—want of good teachers and want of good text-books. In Latin there are no text-books specially intended for women, and few or no women who profess to teach it. Consequently, in Latin the candidates are found on a level with young men of the same age, the reason being that they have learnt it from the same sources and on the same method. In French, on the contrary, every governess is reputed able to teach it, and nearly every master has written the grammar which his pupils use. It would be well if the Syndicate would give the candidates some guidance in this respect by specifying a grammar in which the language may be studied with thoroughness and exactness. The habit of learning French simply for the purpose of conversation has been of great injury to girls, and many of the books to which in the absence of any authoritative hint, they are likely to turn, are really nothing more than attempts at making a short cut to this goal. The chief need of women at the present time is not so much that they should learn more, as that they should learn what they do learn better. There is hardly a girls' school in the country which would not give a really liberal education if only half the subjects which figure in its programme were taught in practice as well as in profession.—*Pull Mall Gazette*, Nov. 8.

The great deficiencies in female education lie in thoroughness, care, logical strictness, and precision. The apprehension of women is far more lively, their natural powers of expression more copious, than those of men; but they lack steadiness and depth. Their range of view may be wider, but it is less accurate.