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## WOMEN AS TEACHERS.

**I**N the present day, when the profession of teaching is ranked so much higher than it used to be, and when there are so many openings in that line for women, it may be worth while to consider what are the qualifications necessary for a good teacher, and whether most women can possess those qualifications if they will. The subject has been pretty well exhausted, as far as the purely technical training goes; but useful or necessary as this technical training is, it is not the most important part of teaching; it is well to keep another side of it in mind. There can be little doubt that teaching will always rank among the highest branches of employment for women, however useful other branches may be, just as intellectual work must always be classed above manual; for, in spite of increased facilities for study, it does not seem likely that any large number of women will ever make their living by entering the medical or legal professions. As regards teaching, there is an idea, rather popular in the present day, that you

are either "born a teacher," or not. This idea is doubtless quite true, exactly as it is true that in every branch of every art or science you will find individuals naturally endowed with an amount of capacity in that line, at which less gifted people must only wonder and admire. But this idea is not true in the sense in which it is often taken, that a woman with no strong natural gift cannot make herself a good teacher if she will. To judge of the truth of what may seem a startling proposition, one must consider what are the necessary qualifications for a good teacher. First, then, there are three great ones—patience, sympathy, and a thorough knowledge of what she teaches. Then come a series of smaller ones, such as method, punctuality, and a certain facility for organization; more or less wanted, according to the nature of her teaching. And here it seems to me that all the necessary qualifications cease, though, of course, there are others, such as brightness of manner, readiness in speech, etc., that are all