

the curriculum of our American female colleges. These doctors insist that the tendency has been bad, that the girls run the danger of losing their health by severe study, and they point out the fact which can not be disputed, that families were generally larger fifty and a hundred years ago than they are to-day. Those who believe in the higher education of women meet this issue boldly. They admit that the mothers of to-day in good circumstances have not on an average as many children as had their grandmothers, but this is attributed to a very different cause than ill-health. It is noticed that women in all countries who are well-to-do are less prolific than the mothers of a poorer and inferior class. Children swarm in a tenement-house, but no one expects to see so many in the luxurious Parisian flat or the costly residences of the educated and wealthy. This is as true of the human race, as it is of the plant of life. "All weeds thrive apace," says the proverb; but the most beautiful flowers are rare, and are the result of careful cultivation. Miss Anna C. Brackett denies that study injures the health of girls. Worry, anxiety will do so, caused by systems of school education which involve competitions, examinations, and markings, which at once stimulate and frighten the candidates for class honors. As a matter of fact, even the graduates of our women's colleges enjoy far better health than do the average of girls out of college. A committee of the alumni of Vassar College took the trouble to send circulars to the graduates of that institution inquiring into their general health. The result, when obtained, was compared with the answers received from an equal number of factory girls. It was found that the college graduates enjoyed far better health than their working sisters of the same ages. A good deal of nonsense is written now-a-days about the evil effects of study. Philosophers, and all who have devoted their lives to study, are generally blessed with length of years. There is something quieting and health-inspiring "in the still air of delightful studies." As Miss Brackett points out, there is more danger in novel-reading, play-going, and an idleness which allows the imagination to run riot, than there is in study, however severe. It is the indulgence of the emotions and the stimulation of the passions which too often wreck the health and happiness of the young; but parents should be careful how they yield to this clamor against study for their children.

Correspondence.

To the Editors University Gazette.

SIRS,—I have long wished to hear of some steps being taken to secure lady representatives on the editorial staff of the GAZETTE, and regret exceedingly that my desire has in no way been gratified. I feel that the idea would be a popular one, but for an indescribable sentiment (by no means confined to students), bordering on the confines of timidity and doubt as to the propriety of such an act. I am sure that if the matter be brought fairly before the students in general, the board of directors and you, sirs, it will not drop without careful thought. I am doubly hopeful of the

issue, because I have heard really no objection adduced against the proposal. For instance, it is said that it is not at all probable that the ladies would accept the positions of editors, and sit in council with the men. (It was not implied by this that the male editors were more awful than the average men.) This doubt may be well founded or it may not. We know that three years ago many grave heads in this city regarded the opening of the course in Arts to women as a mistake. They said that few would attend. But these wise heads have been mistaken. They acknowledge the success attained in point of numbers, and with all the mathematics, and classics, and debating societies, these young ladies are ladies still. It is just possible that some of us may be mistaken in regard to their acceptance of positions on the GAZETTE. I would ask what better or more manly means is there of putting an end to such a doubt than by respectfully and cheerfully presenting this right, for their approval or disapproval. I look upon it as a simple duty.

In American colleges, to which we owe so much, ladies and gentlemen are constantly found acting as editors on a common journal, and with admirable success. It seems to me that since we have seen the high literary attainments of the lady undergraduates, the GAZETTE loses much by not having them more closely associated with it. If this be not done before very long they will have a college journal of their own.

I have said, sirs, above, that what I termed an indescribable sentiment with regard to allowing women into pursuits which timid people fear are too masculine, is not confined to students, and, as an example of this, I instanced the doubts that were felt, and honestly felt, with regard to the establishment of the course of higher education for women in McGill. I have also referred to American colleges, which we see, and see to our shame, however, far more active and prompt in acknowledging these rights, yes, rights, than we Canadians. Public feeling, it is true, is accepting this principle, but it does so hesitatingly. The ultimate result you and I can see very well. And I would ask, why should not McGill College, the first seat of learning in Canada, be the very foremost in hastening this result?

Again, it is said that contributions are received from the ladies, and what more is necessary? If any one of the faculties of Law or Medicine, Arts or Science, were not represented on the staff, that faculty would consider itself unfairly treated; why then should this not hold good with reference to the ladies? Human experience has at all times taught that there is no better means of interesting individuals in a work than by giving them a share in the responsibility of the successful carrying out of that work. I feel sure that far more contributions would be received, more interest in and importance attached to the necessity of a college journal, if, say, two representatives were admitted from that important section of our University. To this would be added the direct benefit of new thought in counsel.

You see, sirs, that I consider this not as a matter of sentiment, but of simple justice, and a plain duty on our part, to offer a place for the ladies. It will then remain in their hands to do what they think best