

# The O. A. C. Review

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JANUARY, 1899.

### *A Letter from Utah—continued.*

ticulture, gardening, floriculture, and even the chemistry and economy of foods.

The differences are not so great as many may think. In the special agricultural work the boys take the subjects of veterinary science, animal husbandry, soil crops, manure etc., while the girls would devote their time to the science of nutrition, cooking, household economy, fruit work, hygiene, etc., larger subjects perhaps, than those who have not looked into them would think.

One of the most difficult questions, it appears to me, is that in relation to the practical work. There are two possible solutions. In the first place the girls may do the work inside the college as the boys do it outside. They would, too, of course be detailed to do certain suitable work in the garden, greenhouse and dairy. A second proposition, and a better one, would be to dispense with the paid labor, and devote all the afternoons to laboratory work. Chemistry, physics, botany, entomology, geology, bacteriology, dairy, the kitchen, the sewing room, and the laundry, would afford ample opportunity for afternoon employment, and all of the practice may and should be made instructive. I do not know whether it is now the practice at the college, to herd the boys in the class-room during the afternoon or not. Certainly a change was desirable, for as I look back upon those two hours I spent there three afternoons in the week, it

seems to me that I received less benefit from it than from any time I spent at the institution. This time could be much more profitably employed in properly directed laboratory work.

If the field of the college was enlarged, new buildings would of course be needed, but probably a dormitory with a high, well-lighted basement for the special laboratories of the domestic arts course would fill all requirements, and a few thousand dollars would cover the cost. The special equipment for the course need not be elaborate to begin with and could be provided for by about \$700.00 to \$1000.00.

Perhaps the greatest bug-a-boo in the mind of many is the danger(?) of educating young men and women together. Since I have looked into this difficulty it seems to be without a shadow of foundation. These people who conjure up difficulties do not reason from what they would do, but from what they think some person else would do. Their fears have their origin in old-time customs which would not stand for a moment a little common sense investigation. Are not our boys and girls educated together in our public schools? Do they not share each others' company in the society of their own homes, and do they not expect to enjoy each others society after they get through college? Then why in the name of common sense try to build a fence around, or between them while going to college? The idea is absurd and contrary to the best interests of all concerned. I can speak only from what I have observed, yet it seems to me that the little experience which the college has had with the young ladies attending the dairy course, should be most assuring.

Reasoning from analogy, and from what I have observed in other places, I fully believe the young ladies who would avail themselves of this course would be fully equal to the young men, and as time goes on would reflect fully as much credit upon the work of the institution.

Perhaps under the new condition of things the college boys may, at times, find something beside an education, something that may prove as helpful, aye, even more so, that would not desert them when education may fail of its support. But I do not know of any better place where