

"Woman's proper sphere is the home," is a true maxim, though not in the narrow application often given to it. Circumstances may make another sphere more congenial or even necessary; hence the justice and propriety of having the advantages of a liberal education. And since Universities have been opened to them, many women have proven their ability to hold their own with men, both in class competitions—and these not merely in the lighter subjects—and in teaching.

But while the present Arts course is undoubtedly a boon to ladies who wish to make a professional use of it, is it the best for those who wish to get the best preparation for their special sphere? The majority of the "sweet girl graduates" never use it professionally, while it costs them four years of hard work, much of which is, to say the least, trying to the lady of average strength. Hence it seems questionable whether a course necessitating two years' work in such subjects as Metaphysics, Mathematics, Physics, Classics, but totally ignoring music and art, is the best investment of four years' time and energy on the part of a lady who seeks culture rather than professional qualifications. Much of the Ladies' College training of the present day is deplorably of the veneer character, so that there is manifestly room for a University course which will combine with the less technical subjects of the present Arts course, options in music and art, so peculiarly adapted to give the finest and fittest culture to a lady.

There are ladies taking classes in the University at present who feel the need of such a course, and who, instead of seeking a degree, are combining private culture in music and art with certain classes in languages and literature, and we can imagine that these obtain a truer preparation for their peculiar sphere than many who take a degree. Is it not a pity then that the University can not give options in these subjects, so as to make it unnecessary for all, irrespective of natural ability and inclination, to either go through the same mould or leave the University without its recognition.

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Much has already been said about the need of a Literary Association in the College, and we believe there is now a sufficient interest

among students and graduates to make it easy for any person sufficiently enthusiastic to organize one at once. We would like to indicate the form which it should in our opinion take. It may be urged that it is now too late for anything to be done this session. But it is neither too late nor too early to organize. If its work is to be successful next session, the programme should be drawn up before College closes this spring. This would give the papers the benefit of a summer's leisure and thought.

As has been shown before, the society must not, we think, be too special. It should include literature of all kinds, philosophy, history and political science. All these lines of thought may be brought to bear upon any author, almost upon any book. The classics in particular fairly bristle with points which cannot be adequately discussed or even noticed in class. For instance, to take the first example which suggests itself, Cicero—or to take a particular work—the second book of the *De Natura Deorum*, would afford points without number worthy of the attention of persons interested in any of these departments. Cicero's position in history, or even the history of the year in which this work was written, would give the historian ample field. The philosopher could discover the germs of modern ideal philosophy expressed in concrete form in some of the arguments; while the science of the ancients as illustrated by this work would stand treatment at any length.

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## LITERATURE.

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WE are having a great deal of literature regarding Carlyle just at present. About two months ago one of the English magazines published "A journal (unpublished) of an unsuccessful trip to France in 1851." We now have notes taken by an attendant on some lectures he gave when a young man, and Sir Gavan Duffy's "Conversations and correspondence with Thomas Carlyle," which is appearing in the *Contemporary*. There is no doubt that the first two should not have been published. Carlyle himself steadfastly refused to permit it during his life, even with the additions and corrections of his later