

say that the same questions of history, the same analyses of literature, can and ought to be treated from different points of view according as they are addressed to boys or girls.

"In France we have a horror of learned women, of bluestockings. We should be quite unfaithful to the national traditions, we should heap contempt on perhaps the most eminent genius of the French race, we should renounce Moliere, if we dreamed of making French women so many '*Femmes Savantes*.' Moliere has spoken of these in terms which, fortunately, are of a nature to discourage forever and cover with ridicule those who would like to try such a thing.

"Is that, however, any reason why we should let French girls grow up in ignorance, why we should not try to form their judgment, their taste, their reason? To take a single example in literature, why should not girls of France learn the reasons which make an intellectual production really beautiful, by which qualities such a work is distinguished, why it deserves to be read, reread, and reflected on, how it ought to be read and criticised?

"What we desire is that, with that instinct which belongs to women alone, with that sort of divination which appertains solely to their sex, with that taste at once pure and delicate, which seems to be the principal attribute of their intelligence, in the evening, when the day is done and the hour of repose has come, in the family talk, when such or such an idea comes up for discussion, when the name of such or such a writer, more or less renowned, is mentioned, the wife, the mother of the family, the young girl, hope and charm of the household, may say, with simplicity and discretion, but with that charming and fine authority which manifests sureness of knowledge and elevation of mind, why and how the book which is spoken of, the

article which has just been read, ought to be appreciated, and all that without pedantry and affectation.

"We do not ask that French girls charge their memory with useless names. We do not require that they be strong in the nomenclature of facts, in the genealogy of kings, in the succession of events, in the dates of battles. We would easily forgive some confusion in various epochs just as we would pardon faults of orthography. What we ask, above all, is to cultivate and adorn the minds of our girls, to teach them how to exercise their reason, to have just ideas, to express those ideas with clearness, elegance, and especially moderation, which is the supreme quality of the French nation and French genius. Let us teach French girls to shun exaggeration of all kinds—exaggeration of thought, exaggeration in expression—to keep in mind the precept of antique wisdom, 'of all a little and not too much of anything.'

"This is the kind of women we seek to rear in and for France, and such can be reared only in institutions of higher education like the one just started at Macon, where young girls are instructed by methods specially adapted to them and quite apart from the other sex."—*Translated for the Literary Digest.*

NONCOMBUSTIBLE CLOTHING.—Canada is noted for its asbestos products. At Thetford, on the line of Quebec Central, is a celebrated mine. The product of this industry is largely shipped to Europe. At Quebec and other places asbestos goods of many kinds may be seen. Mittens, shirts and overalls for firemen's use are made from this mineral. The cloth is of a light granite color, quite soft and pliable, and resists the action of fire.