

With the gradual progress of civilisation, with the slow but sure evolution of society, the work of the woman physician must unfold and broaden to an extent undreamed of now. At the present time her professional duties are chiefly among women and children, but there are already indications of wider fields of labor. To the delicate manipulations of laboratory research she can bring such deft and skilful fingers that a man's awkward hands seem like the flappers of a seal in comparison. Centuries of fine needlework, crocheting, and embroidery, have prepared those fingers for section-cutting, staining, and the innumerable synthetical and analytical processes necessitated by modern methods of scientific research. She brings also to science the intuitive wit, the swift imagination, the deductive methods of philosophy which Buckle so lauded in his essay on "The Influence of Women on the Progress of Knowledge." This writer gives his reasons for affirming that women are more deductive than men:—"First, because they are quicker than men. Secondly, because, being more emotional and enthusiastic, they live in a more ideal world, and therefore prefer a method of inquiry which proceeds from ideas to facts; leaving to men the opposite method of proceeding from facts to ideas." He goes on to say that "women have rendered great though unconscious service to science by encouraging and keeping alive this habit of deductive thought, and that if it were not done for them, scientific men would be much too inductive, and the progress of our knowledge would be hindered."

But this service to science rendered by women is now no longer unconscious, as Buckle described it at the time he wrote this essay, over forty years ago. It is a fully conscious service, as is evidenced by the very creditable work of women at the present time in many branches of science. There is a real place for the women who graduate as doctors, but do not care to practice the art of medicine, in our laboratories, for pathology, chemistry, physiology, psychophysics, and the like, and physicians of both sexes are fast beginning to appreciate the peculiar fitness of women for work of this kind.

And this is not by any means the whole domain over which the woman physician may yet come to rule. There is a particularly feminine quality which will ultimately serve her in still another important sphere of activity. All these centuries of domestic occupation, before women entered upon her commercial and professional career, have bred in her an instinctive love of clearness and beauty. As a physician she does not lose that innate sense of orderliness, neatness, cleanliness, nor does