

testified by the experience of those universities in which the experiment has been fully tried? From one and all comes the same testimony—much of which has already been given in this Magazine, in the very words of the authorities,—that so far from subverting good order and discipline, the presence of ladies in college class-rooms has promoted order, quiet, gentlemanly conduct, and even stimulated faithful study among the young men. At Michigan University in particular, where there is a large body of female medical students attending the general medical classes, the presence of ladies has a perceptible beneficial effect on the demeanour of the students at the clinical lectures,—the severest test to which the system of co-education can be subjected.

But, in addition to this testimony from our neighbours, we have the experience, to a small extent, of one of our own universities, Queen's University, Kingston. For some years its class-rooms have been open to female students, and that they continue so, after a fair trial of the experiment, is itself a sufficiently significant testimony that no detriment has yet arisen to good order and discipline. In fact, the presence of several young ladies in various classes in Arts makes absolutely *no* difference, except that, in the opinion of the young men themselves, it decidedly promotes order. 'It makes the students conduct themselves in a more gentlemanly manner.' 'There is perfect quiet now, where sometimes there used to be rude calls and jokes.' Such is the testimony of male students, without any natural bias on the subject; the only drawback apparently experienced, so far, being that some of the young men feel a little shyness about reciting before the young ladies, a feeling which would naturally lead them to more careful preparation, that they might acquit themselves *well*! Lecturers who come to the University from a distance give exactly the same testimony to the perfect order and

tranquillity in the halls, utterly undisturbed by this dangerous feminine element! The male and female students do not come into contact at all, although the entrances are common. They do not necessarily even become acquainted, and as one student naively, but significantly, said, 'we very seldom meet in the street, because their studies keep them busy.' In fact, they see just as much or as little of each other as they do at church—*less*, if anything; and, to be consistent, those who oppose the presence of young women in University class-rooms on the score of propriety, should advocate the 'Quaker meeting' principle of arrangement in churches, and should discountenance all public evening lectures which young men and women can attend in company, if so disposed. Their attendance together at the ordinary University classes is, indeed, the more completely unobjectionable of the two. And if premature falling in love be an evil to be dreaded, and discouraged, young men are much less likely to fall in love with young women whom they meet only under the disenchanting influences of class-room competition than with those they meet in ordinary 'society.'

What has been proved to be not only harmless but useful, tried on a small scale, might reasonably be expected to be found equally harmless on a much larger one, since the presence of a larger number of young women would naturally prove a more powerful influence for good, while it would be a greater safeguard to the individuals composing it, making still smaller the chances of personal contact between students of different sexes. But it is very unlikely that there would ever be any very large number of female students crowding to our universities. For the great majority, circumstances and the ordinary chances of life will be far too strong. Young women will always require some strong mental 'vocation,' some cherished and definite aim, to overcome