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REFLECTIONS ON THE HIGHER EDUCATION OF WOMEN FROM
A MEDICAL POINT OF VIEW; SUGGESTED BY THE
HEALTH OF PUPIL TEACHERS.

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Though this paper is lengthy, the subject, effecting as it does the generations of the future, is of such vast importance, and Dr. Bennett is such high authority, that we give it in full.

Among the large and increasing flocks of patients who crowd the outdoor departments of our metropolitan hospitals, there is a class of persons who of late years have rendered themselves conspicuous by demanding medical assistance. These are women who have to gain their livelihood by the exertion of their intellectual faculties, and who follow callings which require the constant exercise of their mental powers. An example of this is the so-called pupil teacher, whose career we shall endeavour briefly to sketch. A young school girl of about thirteen years of age is remarked to be unusually intelligent. It is suggested to her parents that she should become a teacher. They consenting, the child is at once placed under training. According to information derived from these pupils, the routine of life for the next six or seven years is as follows:—They have, first, to continue their education, by receiving from others several hours of special instruction every day, and a considerable proportion of their evenings is spent in preparing themselves for this. Secondly, they themselves have to teach the younger children in the school for from five to six hours daily. Thirdly, they have to pass a Government examination at the end of each year, which entails further special private study. This course of instruction continues for five years; and being satisfactorily concluded, the pupil becomes an assistant teacher. During the next two years she either resides in a college and there undergoes a special and systematic course of study, or, if her means preclude, she continues the system already described at school, and further prepares herself for a final examination; after which, if she acquit herself in an efficient manner, she becomes a full teacher, and as such is certified by Government.