

for both sexes is the same, and amounts to five marks a lesson. On the board of management one lady must sit as well as the lady principal. The Normal institute for Folk-school teachers is styled a seminary, and a certificate from a State High School Normal Institute entitles the owner to fill the position of lady principal, or teacher in a State High school, also teacher in a seminary, and, under certain conditions, that of "Kollega" at the High School for girls.

Private enterprise provided for the training of teachers a quarter of a century before the government took it up, Miss Elizabeth Blomquist and Mr. and Mrs. Godenhjelm being the first to establish Normal classes.

That much-debated question, Co-education, has received the fullest attention in Finland, and has been unreservedly adopted within the last ten years. "Boys and girls have been taught together from time out of mind," says our record, "in infant schools, in the course of instruction preceding confirmation, and partly in Folk-schools. In certain technical schools, too, both sexes have received instruction together, and young ladies have finally been admitted to take part in the studies carried on at the university. At the middle school, however (for pupils from eight or nine up to the age of eighteen or nineteen) co-education did not exist in Finland before the autumn of 1883, when the first school for both sexes, leading to the university, was opened. The plan of teaching both sexes together has met with great success in our country, no less than seven co-educational schools having been founded in ten years, and have the largest number of pupils of any in spite of the fees being sometimes double, sometimes triple the amount paid in the High schools for girls, affording an undeniable proof of the favour with which the public regard them. The government, however, has not shown its sympathy with these schools to any extent, separate schools for the sexes being aided by sums three times as large as co-educational ones.

"Whatever experience we have hitherto had," says our record, "of these schools has not caused any doubts to arise, either from a moral point of view or concerning their influence on the health of the girls, or concerning the common aims and methods of instruction." "The pupils from the two co-education schools which have hitherto sent candidates to the university, have passed their examinations with the best average results of the year. The co-education question has been much discussed in the daily press, not seldom by female writers. The question has also been discussed at a meeting of principals (rektor) of the State schools, at another meeting of male and female teachers, and finally at some sessions of the Estates. These discussions have resulted, partly, in proposals that the method of instructing both sexes together might be introduced into the lower classes of the State boys' schools, partly that the complete private co-education schools might be placed in the same position relating to State subventions, as are private boys' schools leading to the university." In some of the smaller towns where no State schools for girls existed, the municipal authorities and some private persons applied to the government to have girls admitted to the boys' schools, which was granted. The girls' fees were in these cases, again, made double that of the boys.

At present some of the State schools in

various municipalities are being re-organized into co-educational schools belonging to the communes and receiving government grants, a fact in itself insignificant, yet indicating a slight change in the attitude of the government towards co-education.

"All schools for general instruction in Finland are placed, since 1870, under the supervision of a Supreme School Council in Helsingfors; there are, moreover, local committees, proposed by the local authorities of town or communes, and authorized by the Supreme School Council for three years. These consist of from three to five male or female members."

The foregoing rapid glance at the state of women's education in Finland brings us very naturally to the culmination of such full and complete provision so widely extended, and our last item in this connection is *Women at the University*.

We who have so lately achieved this right for our women, look with heightened interest at the same advance on behalf of its women made in Finland. This spirited and high-souled little country stands in this respect side by side with ourselves, and indeed records an example of a woman at the State University earlier than we do.

Of the difficulties, if there were any, to be encountered before a woman was admitted to compete with her fellow-men on their highest plane of learning we are told nothing; perhaps, in this respect, the Finnish ladies were happier than we; but now that our battle is fought in regard to our Provincial University of Ontario, and our denominational universities have, most of them, followed suit in the matter of co-education, we experience no drawback to our pleasure in learning of other successes abroad. Space forbids our copying the whole chapter, as we are strongly tempted to do, but we give as full a synopsis of it as possible.

"In 1870, a Finnish woman for the first time passed the examinations required for admission to the University of Helsingfors. In 1873, another passed. After an interval of twelve years two women, in 1885, made the venture and succeeded. In 1887 the number of female students was seventeen. There being no school open to girls, carrying instruction up to the point of university entrance examinations, these women had often under great difficulties to prepare themselves.

Not until 1890 did the co-education schools, established a few years only, send their first contingent, consisting of thirteen young people of both sexes to the University. In 1891 forty-four women students entered at the University; in 1892-93 there are fifty-six, or 3.2 per cent. of the whole number of students. Three of these have devoted themselves to law, four to medicine, twenty-four take mathematics or natural science, partly as a preparation for medicine, and twenty-five go in for philology or history.

Miss Emma Irene Astrom who has been previously mentioned, took her B.A. in 1882 and was immediately appointed a professor ("lector") at one of the seminaries for training of Folk-school teachers. Six women have since taken their degree at the University. Two have devoted themselves to education, and two have passed also the examination (in arts) of candidates of medicine, a preliminary step for the degree of M.D. demanded by the University. The first Finnish female doctor, Miss Rosina Heikel, was never entered at the

University, but was given special license to allow her to take the medical course alone; she is now a parish or district physician at Helsingfors.

Women seeking admission to the University are still obliged to apply to the authorities for a special permission; the situation of women students is, therefore, somewhat anomalous "from a formal point of view." The settling of this matter, however, does not lie with the University authorities nor any Finnish authority. The University Council and the Estates have for some years petitioned the government in somewhat forcible terms on behalf of the free access of women to the University; "all these attempts, however, have stranded on difficulties relating to circumstances on the other side of our eastern frontier."

Within the college itself no difference is made between male and female students. The travelling fellowships and other scholarships are also open to women as to men. It is also very satisfactory to learn that the Finnish public have sympathized with women university students and their aims, to the extent of founding four scholarships for them exclusively, three in medicine—two of these in honor of Miss Rosina Heikel, the first Finnish lady physician—and the fourth for women students in general.

S. A. CURZAN

PARIS LETTER.

The French are always churning their statistics; no doubt the question is important for them, their population being retrograding whilst that of neighboring nations is progressive. On the present occasion foreigners in France occupy attention. They amounted in 1891 to 1,130,211; in 1851 when they were first counted, their total was 380,000. The population of France increased between 1851 and 1891, by 2,300,000, of which 750,000 were foreigners, so that 39 per cent. of the general augmentation is due to foreigners. It is known from reviews of birth and deaths within the last two years, that the general population is retrograding, and would be more so were it not for the foreign residents. As one-tenth of a nation's population is set down as its fighting force, the foreign contingent must be omitted. The number of foreigners vary from 465,860 Belgians, to 800 Chinese, Japs, and other Asiatics.

The nations that next figure highest are the Italians and the Germans, then the English. The English total is 39,687, a few less than the Dutch. The North Americans are set down at 7,000; and the Russians at 14,000. Of the 1,130,211 foreigners, 65,644 lived on their money; 38,095 by professions; but more singular, 683 males and 853 females are employed in the police force, and 2,398 in the civil service—which passes all understanding. Of the English, 15,000 reside in Paris and its suburbs; the Alps and the Pyrenees have Anglo-Saxon nests 3,533. The British occupy Boulogne-sur-Mer, and the neighborhood. Smaller colonies pitch their tents at Orleans, Nantes. Of the 7,000 Americans, 4,834 reside in the capital and its vicinity, the balance in the low the Anglo-Saxon line. In the case of English and Americans, the number of women residents is superior to the men, the latter being 78 and 85 respectively, per 100 men.