

BE GENTLE TO THE NEW LAID EGG.

BY HOWARD PAUL.

Be gentle to the new-laid egg;
The product of the hen;
In om'lette form or lightly boiled,
Is much beloved of men.
If once you break the fragile shell,
The wrong you cannot right,
The yolk and white will all emerge—
'Tis not a pleasing sight!

Act promptly with the new-laid egg.
It should be eaten quick;
It's toothsome amber depths enshrine
The "makings" of a chick;
So when you lift it from the nest,
Most careful be, I beg,
No artist lives whose cunning skill
Can mend a broken egg!

Then touch it with a gentle hand,
For till the egg is boiled,
Who knows but accidentally
It may be dropped and spoiled.
Who'd coarsely treat those milk-white shells
Ought soundly to be thrashed;
For eggs, like youthful purity,
Are awful when they're smashed!

ENGLISH FEMALE COLLEGES.

GIRTON AND NEWNHAM.

Girton and Newnham are the colleges at Cambridge University which have been established for the use of female students. Girton is the older of the two institutions, thought not by many months. While the college was building a house was taken at Hitchin, and here the first lady students, since reverentially called by their followers the "Girton Pioneers," commenced their studies. But these studies were attended with many difficulties, for the distance from Cambridge was too great to allow of sufficient communication; indeed this was only looked upon as a temporary home, to be occupied till the permanent one was ready. The present building was opened in 1873; but it has been several times enlarged since then. It now forms two sides of a square; but it is hoped that some day, when the number of students is doubled, the square will be completed and the collegiate quadrangle attained. It is situated about one and a half miles out of Cambridge, in what is now known as the Huntingdon road, but was originally the Via Devana of the Romans. Those indefatigable road-makers would indeed have been surprised could they have had a vision of the use their road was to come to: of lady students going to and fro between Girton and Cambridge to attend lectures or do shopping, or still stranger perhaps, of lecturers going out to Girton on that most modern of vehicles, a tricycle.

The college, with its red-brick walls as yet but too scantily covered with creepers, is a striking object on this lonely country road. The front windows face south, the side windows east and all look out on the grass-plots in front, which, from one o'clock till dusk, are never long deserted by the lovers of the noble art of lawn-tennis. The college has two stories; on the ground floor are the dining-hall, kitchen, lecture-rooms and several sets of students' rooms. The dining-hall is on our right as we enter, a spacious apartment with a large bay-window, looking out on another lawn-tennis court. Next to the dining-hall is a small reading-room devoted to the use of students. Here the papers are kept, and most people stay in after lunch to read them and await the arrival of the second delivery of letters. Here meetings are held; a notice-board is devoted to the use of the students, on which announcements about lost property, tennis-matches, meetings, etc., are posted. On the mantelpieces are several slates on which tennis engagements for the day are entered. A handsome bookcase contains some of the most honored possessions of the college—the mathematical books used by Mrs. Somerville, which were presented by Miss Cobb, together with a bust of their former owner. A small prayer-room on the first floor contains some other treasures of a very different description. These are some Roman and Saxon antiquities found in the grounds of the college, among which are some peculiarly fine specimens of Samian ware and some Roman glass and beads.

A hospital has been added to the college, so arranged as to be entirely separate from the rest of the building. Hitherto it has fortunately never been employed for the purpose for which it was designed, but has been only used for college examinations. A laboratory is also attached to the building, where the natural-science students spend a great part of their days performing strange rites with bottles and "substances," and whence proceed, at times, various unsavory fumes.

The first and second stories, or middle and top corridors, as they are called, are almost exclusively devoted to students' rooms. Of these each student has two, a sitting-room and bedroom, which, in most cases, communicate by folding-doors. On the top corridor there are curtains instead of folding-doors, and though here the rooms are really single, yet the curtain arrangement allows a larger space for the sitting-room than the folding-doors; and besides, these top rooms have charming little nooks and corners which lend themselves to all manner of adornment.

Emerson has said that the real advantage of university life is that of having a room and fire of one's own. Probably the Girtonians, as Cambridge custom calls the students, would be very

willing to agree to this sentiment. To have a room of one's own means to be able to impress one's individuality on one's surroundings, and this most of the students do. The college provides furniture which is of the same kind for all the rooms; yet individual additions and changes have gone far to give each little study a stamp of its own. In many cases the students have supplied the wall-paper, a great opportunity for displaying individual taste; often the college chairs have disappeared to give place to some more comfortable form of lounge. Some of the musical students supply themselves with pianos, and others make use of those provided by the college in the hall and lecture-rooms. By an agreement among the students there is to be no music during certain hours of the day, so that the studious may not be disturbed.

The college supplies each room with a carpet, a writing-table, a cupboard and small side-table, and with everything that is required for a bedroom. Coals and candles are also provided—there is no gas in the building; in short, the college supplies all necessities, and in calculating the cost of residence the subject of furniture may be left out of the question.

Another great advantage, from a pecuniary point of view, is that it is possible at once to estimate the total expense of a course of study at Girton. The cost is one hundred guineas a year, and this includes board, lodging and lectures—in fact all necessary expenses except the books that students require for their own use. The college provides flies for driving to lectures at Cambridge—this is a great boon to those who are not good walkers, and is besides a great saving of time—and it is often possible for students who are going to Cambridge for other purposes to avail themselves of a vacant seat in a "lecture fly." It is unfortunate that the college is situated so far out of Cambridge, as it would on many accounts be pleasanter to be in the town; still there are some advantages in its country situation. The ground is higher than in Cambridge and the situation healthier. Girton is unusually fortunate for this part of the country in being situated on gravel instead of on clay, and the fields round about afford a pleasant, though often a very muddy walk. Cambridge scenery is proverbially flat and the top windows of the college, whence the spire of Ely Cathedral, seventeen miles distant, is distinctly visible, afford a good view and reveal what peculiar charm this kind of country possesses.

It may be of interest to our readers to know something of the life that is led by the students at Girton. The plan is to have all the meals in the dining-hall. Breakfast is supplied there from eight to nine, lunch from twelve to three, and dinner, which is, of course, a general meal, at six. Tea is sent to the students' own rooms. About four o'clock the cheerful rattling of tea-cups is heard in the corridors and announces the arrival of the servant with a large trayful of cups. These trays are taken round to all the students' rooms and also to the lecture-rooms, where the combination of tea and study forms a peculiar feature of Girton lectures. Four o'clock is an important hour at Girton, and one that is not willingly missed by students. Those who are absent from their rooms for a short time generally leave a notice on their doors asking for a cup of tea; and another notice that may frequently be observed when walking along the corridors is "Please see to my fire." "Engaged," is also put up by busy students who are anxious not to be disturbed.

The morning hours are of course the best working hours. From nine to one is the usual working time, one being the favorite hour for lunch. Nearly all the lectures at Girton are given in the afternoon, and the hours between two and six are generally divided between lectures and tennis or walks. But most students have some completely free afternoons which they can devote to expeditions into Cambridge or long country walks. Lectures in Cambridge are given in the morning, and to these the natural-science and history students go. Most mathematical and classical lectures are given at Girton.

Nine o'clock in the evening is the time which public opinion fixes as the right moment to leave off work. Of course this is not always possible, but as a rule it is the sociable hour and the time for tea-parties. Trays with materials for tea, coffee or cocoa are sent round to the rooms, and as every one has a kettle of her own, tea can be taken at any time, and this is generally a social meal which two or three friends partake of together, enjoying the luxury of leisure after work. Once a week a practice is held by members of the choral society, who usually give a concert at the end of the term, to which friends are invited. There is also a debating society and an institution peculiar to Girton, a ladies' fire-brigade, "womaned" by the students in Cambridge parlance. This was first thought of when some small fire-engines were presented to the college, and some of the students, after receiving due and formal instruction, taught the many details of pumping, passing buckets, carrying in mysterious knots, etc., to the rest. The institution continues to flourish and to hold weekly practices.

Girton, of course, has a reading-room club. The college provides some of the daily papers, and the students club together to buy other dailies, weeklies and monthlies. A meeting is held once a term to vote on the papers that are to be taken. The *Athenæum*, *Spectator*, *Punch*, the *Nineteenth Century* and one or two others retain their position undisputed; others are now taken, now left, according to the disposition of the particular meeting. Some of the

papers are bound at the end of the year; most are sold by auction at the end of the term, when it often happens that in the excitement of the moment some particularly popular or amusing paper is sent up to a figure far beyond its original price.

The usual length of residence at Girton is three years, or sometimes a little longer, depending on the line of study taken up. Students are not obliged to reside for the three years, but unless they do so, they are not entitled to receive a certificate. The year is divided into three terms of about eight weeks each, corresponding to the University terms, and it has lately been arranged that those students who desire to do so can come up for some weeks during the Long Vacation. There is, of course, an extra charge for this, but the cost of residence in the "Long" is somewhat lower than for the ordinary terms.

Most students read for what are called the tripos or honors examinations; but until quite lately the ladies' colleges were not formally acknowledged by the University, and though the students had the benefit of university teaching, they could not claim the right to join in the degree examinations. This privilege was, however, almost always accorded them through the kindness of the examiners, who undertook to look through the answers to the questions set and report what the place on the list the candidate would have been had she been formally examined. After this had been done for some years, the number of students at both Girton and Newnham increased so much that it became advisable to make some definite arrangement about these examinations, as it did not seem any longer desirable that so large a number of students should have to depend on the favor of individual examiners. Several memorials to the Senate of the University were therefore drawn up, begging them to admit women formally to the examinations, and the result was that, after much discussion, some proposals in favor of the women were drawn up and passed by a large majority of votes. It was agreed that they must conform with the same regulations as undergraduates in regard to keeping terms, that they must pass what is popularly known as the "little-go" examination or an equivalent, and that they should on these conditions be admitted formally to the tripos or honors examinations, that their names should be published in a separate list, and their place in the class indicated. No provision was made for admitting women to the examinations for the ordinary degree, nor did the University agree to confer the title of B.A. upon them; but it does grant them a certificate which is really an equivalent. The formal conferring of degrees on women, a step already gained in London, has yet to be attained in Cambridge; but there are hopes that if the institutions there continue to be as successful as they have hitherto been, and the women to occupy as prominent a place in the lists, even the day of "girlgraduates" cannot be far distant.

The most popular subjects of study at Girton are the time-honored classics and mathematics; and although the more modern studies of natural science and history have also found many adherents, it has hitherto been in mathematics that Girton has achieved its most brilliant triumphs. At Newnham natural science and history have been most successful.

Before admission to the college, students are required to pass an entrance examination, unless they have already passed some other similar examination, which exempts them from it. Such are the senior local examinations and the matriculation of the London University. In connection with these entrance examinations scholarships are awarded. Most of them are due to the munificence of private benefactors, or of the rich city companies, whose generosity in regard to educational purposes has of late rivalled their wealth. Most of the scholarships are awarded for general success in all the subjects of the examination; some are given for special subjects; and every four years a scholarship of eighty guineas a year for four years is given for proficiency in classics. Students are not admitted under eighteen years of age.

In thus fully describing Girton and Girton life, we have made it unnecessary to give as detailed an account of Newnham. There are, of course, differences in the constitution of the two colleges, partly because they were founded with different aims. The aim of Girton was from the first what it still is: to supply for women a similar University training to that enjoyed by men. Newnham had at first more modest aims, and was started merely to afford a home for women who came from a distance to attend University lectures, without imposing any restrictions with regard to length of residence or examinations. After a time, as the institution increased, its students also became candidates for the triposes; and soon a second hall had to be built, and in 1880 the two were incorporated as Newnham College. It is still possible for students to come to Newnham only for a short time; many reside for a year only, and merely qualify themselves for what is known as the Higher Local Examination; nor is it compulsory to read for any examination at all. The charges are more moderate than at Girton, being only seventy-five guineas a year for board, lodging and lectures; but each student has only one instead of two rooms of her own.

Newnham College is situated in Cambridge itself; a little turning to the right, just at the end of the long line of college gardens, leads to two large red-brick buildings, known as the South and North Halls, and these together constitute the college. Very new these buildings look to those who have just passed by the beau-

tiful college gardens and gazed with admiration on the old gray buildings, so charmingly set off by the fine old trees and grass that suggest spring at all seasons of the year. Newnham and Girton have no past to recount like these venerable buildings, but let us trust that they may have a future; and those who have followed the fortunes and success of the colleges so far will be content to wish that the end may be worthy the beginning.—*Home Journal*.

ECHOES FROM PARIS.

M. LECOCQ has signed an agreement for the composition of a new opera in three acts, to be called *La Princesse des Canaries*, the dialogue by MM. Chivot and Duru.

THE Comédie Française has informed Madame Damalas that it intends to prevent her playing again in Paris until she has paid that institution the hundred thousand francs to which she was condemned.

It is said that a rich Englishman insisted upon purchasing the looking-glass Mme. Bernhardt-Damalas uses in playing in the *Dame aux Camélias*. We are told that the enamoured gentleman gave 2,000 francs for it.

IN hosiery, every possible design is embroidered on or woven in the stocking. Perhaps the latest is an immense *appliqué* sunflower, and very hideous it is too. Black silk stockings are considered the extreme of style.

THE new Hotel de Ville at Paris will be opened on July 14th. A grand banquet of 450 covers will be given in the hall of the State. The Diplomatic Corps, the Municipality, Consul General, and Government bodies, and the mayors of the chief French and foreign towns, including the Burgomaster of Berlin, have been invited.

AN extraordinary tricycle journey has been accomplished by the Vice-President of the Lyons Bicycle Club, accompanied by his wife, on a two-seated "machine." The travellers went from Lyons, through Nice, Genoa and Rome to Naples, returning *via* Florence and Turin, the whole journey, representing a distance of some 2,000 miles, being accomplished at an average of about eighty to a hundred kilometres a day on the road.

NOTWITHSTANDING the decided taste for racing shown by French people of late years, it is singular that the French daily press does not recognize the change and cater for it. Of course the Grand Prix and the steeplechase at Auteuil are fairly described, but it is inconceivable that the race of all races still, the English Derby, is not considered worthy of a word. The day after the Derby day not a single Paris paper had any comment on the race on Epsom Downs.

A WATTEAU party was recently given by a distinguished leader of society, at her country house, to the *élite* of Paris, who were all expected to be in, and did appear in, costumes of villagers. More than this, they were asked to, and they did fill the parts of rustics to the very life, among other eccentricities milking the cows, and eating brown bread and strawberries, telling tales, dancing jigs, and playing kiss-in-the-ring.

THE Parisians are very angry at suffering from the proprietors of music whose music is accidentally played or sung. The director of the Pré Catalan, M. Ber, was astounded by receiving a summons to pay certain dues for having permitted the band in his gardens to play the overture to *Lucia*. Vainly did he show that Rossini's Italian opera had long fallen into the public domain, that the music had been played, no words had been sung. He had to pay.

THERE is a fashion in parasols as in other accessories of the toilette. A new and handsome parasol, of Boulevard style, is made of crimson satin, with a very fine knife pleating of olive-green satin lined with the crimson, and on the edge of the pleating a deep fall of *crème* Spanish lace. On the outside is a wreath of flowers in shaded pinks and green in hand embroidery, and at the top the usual knotted silk acorn pendants. This has a pimento stick, and, by the way, the tops of all the sticks are cut at an angle; not one is left square.

THE marriage recently at the Temple of the Rue de la Victoire of Mlle. Lucy de Rothschild to M. Léon Lambert was attended by a brilliant company, including Princess de Metternich, Countess de Pourtales, Marquise de Gallifet, Prince de Joinville, Marshal Canrobert and Lord Lyons. The bride was dressed in white satin covered with lace. The seven bridesmaids wore rose-colored dresses. A considerable portion of the service was musical, and was executed by a complete orchestra and the choirs and chief solo singers of the Grand Opéra. The Temple was superbly decorated. Some three thousand guests were invited. All the members of the Rothschild families were present. The father of the bride, Baron Gustav de Rothschild, has embraced the occasion to hand to the authorities, for distribution among the poor of Paris, the sum of twenty thousand francs.