

## BUSINESS FOR WOMEN.

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There has been much complaint within the last score of years that so many women are forced to live dependent and idle lives, because the avenues to business are closed to them; or, if opened, that they only a low female employees inferior wages.

At the same time, there is a widespread complaint on the part of employers that they cannot obtain female labor in several departments where it is peculiarly fitted to excel, and where fair wages are paid.

Certainly there cannot be good foundation for both these complaints; one or the other must be untrue; or else the social position of woman must be anomalous indeed. Let us take the average young American woman, and ask why it is she is dependent; why she fails to make her own living? Does she possess the qualities which are essential to business success in men? To succeed, she must be well educated in ordinary English branches; she is nearly always deficient in arithmetic, which is the most important of all. She should be industrious, methodical, an early riser, and plain in dress; often she is careless, dissolute, and is idle through much frivolous reading. She should have no false pride, but regard all labor as honorable; in nearly every instance, she rejects with scorn the proposition to discharge domestic duties in another family. She should be self-dependent and healthy; her constitution is generally weakened by neglect of exercise and vicious habits of dress, and she does not even attempt to think independently. She should be economical, and determine to live by one business; she is careless of money, and intends to pursue no business longer than marriage. This may not be agreeable to read, as it is not to write, but if women wish to know why they do not succeed, these are the reasons.

House-keepers constantly complain of the difficulties they experience in obtaining competent domestic servants. Young American girls will rarely accept employment in that capacity, and the foreign born or colored residents who fill these situations rarely give satisfaction. It is much to be regretted that American girls cultivate the false pride which prevents them from going to service. At \$3.00 a week it is a more profitable employment than school teaching, selling goods in stores, or working at a trade at \$6.00. Though these employments nomi-

inally yield more, when a fair allowance is made for lost time, board and lodging, the domestic servant can save a larger sum during her year.

But is not this prejudice partly caused by the housekeepers themselves? Too many of them care little for the comfort of their servants; they confine them to damp and small kitchens, give them ill-ventilated and cramped sleeping apartments, allow them to see but not to taste various delicacies of diet, and insist on curtailing their innocent privileges to the utmost. Ladies may ask themselves whether they are hasty and ill-tempered with their servants, and whether they set them an example of kindness, punctuality, strict performance of duty, truthfulness and economy. If a servant is trained to lie, for instance to say Mrs. Smith is "not at home," when she is in fact half-dressed in the nursery, it is absurd to expect that the lying will stop there; or that it will not be associated with various companion vices. Lack of education is the real reason why women are not able to be independent. A Persian proverb says, "a hewn stone is not left by the wayside;" and she who can do any one thing well which people want well-done, will not proffer her skill in vain in these busy times.—[Selected.]

## MARVELS OF ELECTRICITY.

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The electric light, the electric telegraph and the telephone are the three most remarkable contributions of electrical science to the comfort and convenience of mankind, although they may be followed by others equally important. The electric telegraph is one of the most potent aids to civilization ever imagined. It makes the world one vast market, doing away with the necessity of keeping great stocks of all goods in each country or great town. Thus each locality is more free to develop its own special resources or capabilities. Not only can the London merchant communicate with his agents at Shanghai, Melbourne, or the Cape immediately, and follow the course of trade simultaneously in all the markets of the world, but even the provincial tradesman is able to do the same, and to order goods direct from any foreign country. The whole trade of the world is focused by the daily papers, based on the use of the electric telegraph, and by the telegrams received by the various trade exchanges.—By a process never before possible, because