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## HIGHER FEMALE EDUCATION IN ENGLAND.

THE "logic of events" has happily solved the knotty question of Higher Education for Females in England. What in 1846 was deemed "chimerical and unwise, if not unwomanly as a new social 'departure,'" has in 1880 demonstrated not only its entire success, but its immense value as a great moral and social force in elevating the state and promoting the usefulness of large numbers of women in England—and women too who would otherwise have been dependent and helpless, or aimless and frivolous.

In a late number of the *Nineteenth Century*, Lady Stanley of Alderley has contributed a valuable historical paper on the subject. Right Hon. J. Stansfeld, M.P., has also, in a previous number of the same Review, contributed an able and exhaustive article on the medical education of women. Other writers have also discussed the question. The English public are, therefore, well informed on the subject, and the recent success of Miss C. A. Scott, of Girton College, who obtained the rank of eighth wrangler at Cambridge, has awakened new interest in the subject. In this country little is known practically as to the substantial progress which has been made of late years in England in this important matter. We shall therefore state the principal facts in regard to it.

The first practical movement made in England was the establishment, by the Rev. F. D. Maurice, of Queen's College, London, in 1848, chiefly for Governesses. Subsequently its functions were enlarged; and all were made welcome "who could come to the classes." The numbers in attendance have steadily increased, until they now reach 400. The latest change has been in the direction of opening the London University examinations and degrees to the students of Queen's College. Hereafter the matriculation examination of the University will be the goal of the four years' course. A further course may also be taken in the University.

The next substantial movement was made in 1862 by the University of Cambridge in establishing local intermediate examinations, to which in 1863 young women were admitted. The plan succeeded; and after a time Oxford followed suit, but with this difference, that it admitted boys and girls to the same examinations. The first universal examination took place in six places in 1863, at which a total of 126 candidates attended. Last December the fifteenth examination was held at 76 places; the aggregate number of candidates was 2,379. Last year 30 per cent. of the whole number of candidates which attend-

ed these university local examinations were girls. The Oxford system has afforded curious evidence as to the comparative intelligence and working power of boys and girls—on the whole in favor of the former. The boys excel, as might be expected, in their own special subjects of Latin and Mathematics, but the girls in modern languages and other subjects.

The next natural movement was to obtain the advantage of university education for women. As an experiment Girton College was opened, and subsequently Newnham Hall. Both are close to Cambridge. The former was modelled on the old University College basis, the latter on a more flexible and modern plan. Girton followed the method and studies of the same University—had the same curriculum, within the same limit of time, and its students were admitted to examination on the same conditions as the ordinary undergraduates. The result has proved beyond a doubt the controverted fact of woman's capacity for such mental labor as young men of the same age are expected to undertake, and the success of Miss Scott, in obtaining the high position of eighth wrangler in the recent Cambridge Mathematical Tripos has demonstrated the fact that, other things being equal, women are able to carry off some of the highest honors of the University. In the report of this examination it is stated that if women were not excluded from academic honors, three other ladies would have come out in the third class. It is further stated that some of the female students from Newnham, who were informally examined last autumn, were similarly successful. One lady got a first class place in the Moral Science Tripos, and two others a like position in the Historical Tripos.

The success of Girton and Newnham had its influence on Oxford, and two Halls for women were subsequently established there. This was followed by the opening of the London University degrees to women. At this point Lady Stanley of Alderley remarks:—

"It can scarcely be doubted that the earnest, thorough work done by the College, the admirable spirit and tone among the students, and the success achieved in passing the successive years, some of the most difficult examinations, have combined powerfully with the determined energy of the medical students to create that change in public opinion which made the action of the London University possible, and which reduced to mere questions of time any other measures that may yet be needed to open a full and free career of employment to women."

In order to supply the yet "missing link" in higher female education, a "National Union for the improvement of women's higher education" was formed. In 1871 a committee was formed to carry out the various schemes of this society. The Princess Louise consented to be its President. The special object of the Union was to establish good and cheap schools for girls, above those attending the public schools, to provide means of training female teachers, and to promote higher education for those after school age. Complete success has crowned the