

to work in earnest to do anything. Either from an original coarseness of the material in his nature, or from the habit caught by generations of doing many things at a time, even the ablest and most absorbed man seems always to have a considerable margin of fallow ground outside his realm of cultivation. Into that wilderness he can retire, either as sportsman, athlete, lounge, or what-not, for the time putting off the weightiest responsibilities or the most harassing trials, and return refreshed and ready for better work. The most ambitious male student in college seems always to have his eye out for a back door through which he can "skip" when the pressure is too hard. The boys that are destroyed by overwork in college are invariably of the fine-grain, feminine type, who cannot be interested in this outside life of their companions. The girl, whether studious by nature, or otherwise, is always in peril of an over-mastering and dominating interest that wholly absorbs her life, and for the time leaves no margin beyond its horizon. The superior types of womankind, whether in religion, culture or art, seem instinctively to take on this attribute of absolute consecration to the uppermost idea. In society, in business, in public administration as far as we have the experience, the same tendency to absolute absorption invariably appears. The effect of this is very marked to every close observer of the higher university for girls. It may be that the health of the upper strata of students in Vassar, Wellesley and similar schools, while in college, is in no special way more affected than the physical condition of the similar strata of boys in Harvard and Yale. The difference seems to be that the graduate of the woman's college leaves her Alma Mater with a fixed habit of intensity which is apt to become a confirmed habit the longer she re-

mains in any occupation connected with educational work. Without sleepless vigilance in overlooking the suburbs of her own nature, she becomes more and more a devotee, losing interest in society, often indifferent to her own physical well-being, burning up with the fire of her own consecration. At fifty the man, with ordinary care of himself, is on the threshold of his grandest achievements, while his sister—in the vast majority of cases—is laid on the shelf, or working with the remains of exhausted mental and bodily vitality. It does not exactly touch the point to ascribe this to the achievement, social, physical, or what-not, of the woman student. If you put her at gymnastics, the same thing happens. If you awaken a real interest, she is apt to lash herself into the imitation young man, now somewhat fashionable, who goes about, clad like her brother from the waist up; a boy in everything excepting—that she is a girl. We are compelled in the last analysis to recognize this radical difference in the manner in which the two classes of earnest and ambitious students go to work in the higher education, and adjust our methods according to the wise and benevolent ordering of Nature.

The warning from this experience would seem to be, that our really superior schools for girls, which have done playing with and gone seriously to work about the higher education, should revise the curriculum, and insist on a more limited range of subjects than they now indulge in. Even were it not for this constitutional habit of the girl student, the previous training of the vast majority of American girls would furnish this caution. The attempt to drive the girls' college, four-in-hand, with a crowded curriculum, with the inevitable excitement of the Music and Art department, becomes a two-edged