

BATHS, BATHS, BATHS.

The Victoria Electric, Medicated
and Steam Baths,

76 YATES STREET, VICTORIA.

HOURS FOR BATHERS :

For Gentlemen, 8 to 12 A. M. and 6 to 9 P. M.

For Ladies, 2 to 6 P. M.

A Lady Attendant During Ladies' Visiting Hours.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN.

IF statistical records of the population of the world did not already show the number of females to be largely in excess of males, the fact would be self-evident from the thousands of young women who crowd the busy marts of trade and fill numerous useful positions, along with the sterner sex, in almost all departments of mercantile life, in every populous business centre. So rapidly are these young women coming to the front, and so increasingly numerous are they becoming, that some of the leading American journals are beginning to seriously discuss their fitness and opportunities for the leading positions in future mercantile life.

We confess, that at first thought, the proposition to develop our fair ladies into anxious, careworn merchants or business managers, seems repulsive to us—at variance with our cherished ideal and best conceptions of "the female form divine," and opposed to the design of an all-wise Providence. It is true that girls make good typewriters and stenographers, fine designers, painters and decorators, musicians and artists; and occasionally where the girls of a family happen to be boys, their abnormal conceits and ambitions may sometimes lead them to rush in where angels fear to tread, and attempt to cope with the intricacies of politics, law, finance, medicine and numerous other subjects included in the modern phrase of "higher education." We have also known stray girls to take kindly to the care and management of horses, and

acquit themselves creditably at farm work, etc. No doubt it is this latter class of women of whom a leading New York journal had in mind recently when urging its lady readers to study plumbing; he goes on to say that it is a common thing for city households to experience vexations from bursting or leaking pipes, and that there is no reason why the women should not know how to turn off the water supply, arrest a leak, or even mend the break in the water pipe, without affecting her usefulness for any other position. This may be possible; but we think not likely; most women are not built that way, and to attempt to develop in them the hardy, coarser feelings of the man-mechanic would inevitably, we fancy, in time crush or render callous those finer instincts or feelings peculiar to their sex, and which make them such attractive society for the men in their hours of diversion and relaxation.

There are some light lines of business to which the feminine nature more readily adapts itself; these lines, such as dry goods, millinery, boots and shoes, and many others that suggest themselves, offer in our day favorable opportunities to many bright girls who possess good judgment, quick perception, and oftentimes a faculty for business, for earning a livelihood, while they otherwise might have to remain idle and become helplessly dependent and humiliated. To all such willing workers it would be the height of folly and injustice, as well as ungenerous, to refuse them any employment they are capable of satisfactorily performing, merely because the positions have formerly been

filled by men; again, where the merchant has one or more girls, and possibly no sons to help him in business, there can be no reasonable objection to his giving them a chance to add to their home education a practical knowledge of his business, always provided that they have a taste and aptitude in that direction. They may likely become good assistants, who could relieve him when necessary, and help themselves at any time in life when circumstances might call upon them to do so.

A contemporary, writing in favor of women acquiring a business education, says there are many points in her favor as compared with young men; the average young woman has no disposition to wild or dissipated habits, may be counted strictly honest, and in dealing with customers will likely exercise more tact than the generality of male employees, while she can learn to sell goods as well, keep a store as tidy, and accounts as accurate as anyone. We would remind our contemporary that many a young woman has acquired "a disposition to wild and dissipated habits," and become dishonest, through the associations she was subjected to after entering upon a business career; and it is well for employers to remember the statement of a large dry goods merchant in Brooklyn, N. Y.,—that the best women make the best assistants, but that the average woman ranks far beneath the average man.

Of course, in the present unequal state of the world's population, it is not possible for all ladies to get married, but we submit that marriage is the natural and legitimate