## The Value of Women.

June 16, 1888.

e-

d

ıs

0

e

d

d

bridge and backed up against the railing, which, breaking, let her fall into the water below. In Illinois, Miss Herz was allowed to keep \$7,500 as compensation for a fracture of her lowest vertebra, which produced paralysis; the accident was caused by a fall through a defect in a sidewalk. A school ma'am, Parks by name, got \$8,958 for a permanent injury to her spine. And down South, a lady was allowed by the court \$6,000 against a street-car company for degeneration of the spinal cord induced by a fall, caused by the negligence of the driver, when she was alighting. (37 U. C. R. 100; 87 Ill. 541; 88 Ill. 373; 35 La. Ann. 202.)

Miss Sweely fell, in the town of Ottawa, because of the wretched state of a sidewalk. Her arm was so injured that the muscles gradually wasted away. until she completely lost the use of it; and the shrivelling up was accompanied by incessant pain. She sued the town, and the jury gave her \$3,200, and the court thought that none too much. And, where the arm of a juvenile, of the immature age of five, was so fractured that it was permanently disfigured, though the court considered \$6,600, the award of a New York jury, far too great, yet the railway company that caused the injury was ordered to pay \$3,000 as compensation. A Massachusetts lady was badly used up in a railway accident; she lost one arm, and the other was rendered useless; her health and memory were im-Paired, and she was thenceforth in constant pain. The jury who investigated her injuries, considered her form divine very valuable, and awarded her \$10,000 damages. The railway company thought this sum out of all proportion to the value of other bodies and arms, and so craved from the court a new trial, and they got it. The second jury had a still higher opinion of Mrs. Shaw, the lady in question, or, at least, of those parts of her that were injured and gone, than the first jurymen, and gave her \$18,000 damages. Again the unfortunate com-Pany (which, though it had no soul to be damned, still had shareholders to damn) rushed to the court for relief, and the judges, doubtless older men and more cognisant of the vanity and frailty of women than the jurors, ordered a new trial. Again a dozen men weighed in the balances of their minds, suspended on their Oaths, the sighs and the tears, the aches and the pains, the lost bones and flesh, of the persistent but now sadly defective woman; and these good men and true said that \$22,500 would be the right amount to give for compensation. The court then gave way, declining to interfere any further, and the poor company had to submit. What these jurymen would have valued the whole of Mrs. Shaw at, when in her prime, heaven only knows. She must have been a rara avis. (65 Ill. 432; 50 N. Y. Super. Ct. 220; 8 Gray, 45.)

Nurse Jones stumbled on a broken board in the sidewalk, fell and fractured her right wrist so that she could not mix up the food for her little darlings, or do her duty in a proper manner in that state of life in which she had been placed; therefore the city of Chicago had to pay her \$1,000. As much as \$4,700 has been allowed for the loss of a hand; but then, women's small finger-tips have eyes. (66 III. 349; 71 Ga. 406.) Doubtless ladies have ofttimes valued the hand of a man at a higher figure, and for broken hearts feminine, caused by vanished hands masculine, have recovered heavy sums from susceptible jurors, but this \$4,700 was received by one of the fair for the loss of her own hand.