

In music, Finnish women stand high. The first Finnish female vocalist whose name became famous in Europe was the opera-singer Johanna von Schoultz, who died in 1863. Celebrities of a later date are Mrs. Alma Fohstrom, who has won the most brilliant success as a concert, as well as an opera singer, in London, Berlin, Russia, Italy, Spain and South America; and Miss Hortense Synnerberg, who has also been heard in London, Russia, Spain, Italy and America. To these may be added ladies of high local fame as concert and opera-singers: Mrs. Basilier Magelsen, Mrs. Achte and Mrs. Engdahl-jagerskjold. All these ladies, with the exception of Miss Schoultz, belonged to the Swedish and Finnish operas in Helsingfors, and several other ladies of merit in this department are mentioned.

In the department of instrumental music the pianist, Mrs. Alie Lindberg-Larsen ranks highest. The violinist, Miss Agnes Tschetschulin, is at the present time professor of the violin at the Cheltenham Ladies' College, England. She has also published small compositions for the violin.

The Finnish Government with an enlightenment and generosity worthy of imitation in Canada, endows the Helsingfors Institute of Music with 20,000 marks yearly. One hundred and one pupils, eighty-three being female, receive instruction this year (1893) at this institute. At the Orchestral School in Helsingfors are fifty-seven pupils, ten of whom are female.

The most successful lady teachers in connection with the Orchestral School are Mrs. Maria Collan and Miss Alexander Ahnger. Several ladies act as church organists, the church-wardens having the right to appoint them independently of an opposing ecclesiastical law. Two women are precentors.

In dramatic art Sweden for a long period enjoyed a monopoly, a Swedish theatre and Swedish stock company at Helsingfors, standing pre-eminent. In 1872 the Finnish theatre was founded, "and the dramatic art has since then occupied a prominent place in the national intellectual activity."

In this theatre artists and pupils are exclusively Finnish. "Actors and actresses are here looked upon as respectable people. This is chiefly due to the exertions of a noble and high-souled lady, Miss Emelie Bergbom, who with her brother, Kaarlo Bergbom, Ph.D., founded and still manages the Finnish theatre."

A Finnish lady, Miss Ida Aalberg, stands at the pinnacle of dramatic fame as an artist, in spite of her Finnish tongue. Her triumphs have been splendid in St. Petersburg and Berlin, and in Hungary and Scandinavia. Miss Carola Avelan, a lady of high social position, was one of the first Finnish ladies who went upon the stage, and her influence has done much to secure social recognition for the art.

The "Swedish Dramatic Society" in Helsingfors trains native artists for the Swedish stage, and has at present seven female and seven male students.

It is in the highest degree satisfactory to find the civilizing forces of literature and the drama so thoroughly appreciated and so highly honoured in a small and poor country like Finland, a dependent country also to a great extent, inasmuch as it does not enjoy full control of its own future, but this it wisely makes no difficulty of, but aims at developing within itself a nationality of culture and progress that

makes and keeps it abreast of other and stronger nations. To this end it already recognizes the value of its female element, and in the liberty it accords its women equals both England and America, surpassing both in some particulars.

In the municipal service Finland employs women as officers in its town councils, its city courts, police courts, boards of finances, and public libraries. Among these are registrars, librarians, secretaries and clerks. The highest salaries—those of a registrar and a cashier in Helsingfors—amount to 2,500 and 2,400 Finnish marks.

"Women have only lately been called upon to take an active part in the legal administration of poor-relief in Finland." In 1887, 3.56 per cent. of the whole population were wholly or in part in receipt of poor-relief, the amount involved being 2,239,327 Finnish marks, or at the rate of one mark for each person of the population. In 1889 female members of the commune who had a right to vote were eligible as members of the Poor-relief Board. Since 1891 the Poor-relief Government Inspector, Mr. Gust. Ad. Helsingius, has re-organized the whole system, and recommends that there should be at least three female members on each Poor-relief Board. "The method of providing for the paupers which has been found best to answer the purpose in our country—especially for the adult—is that of collecting them in 'poor-farms.'"

There are seventy poor-farms in the country. At about fifty of them women are engaged as matrons. At some poor-farms a male overseer to overlook the farming is employed. The principal work at these institutions, however, is nursing the sick, invalids, and babies, providing garments for the poor, and trying to inculcate order, thrift and cleanliness, work in which ladies of wide training are needed, and in many places are supplied.

"Experience has already proved that women as matrons, and as members of the Boards, are indispensable, when the unhappy are to be comforted, the fallen rescued, and the bitterness of receiving alms tendered by legal poor-relief alleviated."

This is a testimony fully borne out in England also.

"In olden times Finnish women seem to have taken very little part in business and trade, because they were in this as well as in many other connections fettered by prejudice and a narrow legislation. According to the law of 1734, neither married nor unmarried women had—on account of their being considered minors—the right to carry on a trade or handicraft. This right moreover was a monopoly reserved for the burghers of the cities." "Not until 1879 were industry and enterprise proclaimed free in Finland," the only conditions now imposed being that the trade carried on be consistent with public morality, the person engaging in it of good repute, and that he or she has the right to dispose of his or her property. A Factory Act of 1889 protecting children, only allowed youths under eighteen to work on certain conditions and for certain hours. This restriction has led to the replacing of boys and youths by grown women who were to be engaged at slightly advanced wages. These mostly in work requiring little skill and but ill-paid at best.

"In factories and workshops where workers of both sexes are employed, they have not, as

is the law in some foreign countries—Germany—been separated at their work or does the law require it." No danger to the morals of either sex has ensued, on the contrary the female workers "seem to have had a humanizing and refining influence on the speech and manners of their male companions. Every technical school admits female pupils, and though the number of these students is not large, it is because the schools are comparatively new and their advantages little known."

The total number of women engaged in the different branches of industry in Finland may be estimated at 14,000. The number of women who manage a commercial business of their own is 1,050. About 1,150 hold situations as cashiers, clerks and assistants. In banks, insurance, telephone and other business offices about 400 women fill positions. Thus it will be seen that women occupy an important place in the industrial work of Finland.

"Finnish women, even of the lowest classes, have always exhibited no small amount of orderliness, adherence to duty, and contentment."

From time out of mind the work done by women in the department of agriculture has been of greater importance than in other countries. "Upon the Finnish women of the peasant class devolves not only the care of the household—which is, in narrow circumstances, no less than a vast task—but also the whole charge of the cattle and dairy, inasmuch as in Finland every occupation pertaining to the dairy and cow-house has, until the present day, been generally thought unfit for, and even derogatory to the dignity of men; whereas not only the enriching of the milk but the feeding of the cows has been left in the hands of women."

At the present epoch in the history of Canadian dairy work, and cattle breeding and feeding, these notes from a country having a large butter export are worthy of particular attention, and it is satisfactory to be able to call to mind as a successful Canadian cattle feeder and breeder, our own example in a woman's enterprise, Mrs. Jones, of Brackville, whose prize cattle have long formed a prominent feature at our exhibitions and fairs.

"Ever since the Middle Ages, butter has formed one of the chief articles of export from Finland. In the middle of the present century about 1,000,000 kilograms of butter ("peasant butter" as well as butter produced in large modern dairies) a year were exported. At present the yearly export amounts to about 8,000,000 kilograms. This must be considered a result of the industry of the peasant women, and considering the good name this butter has obtained in the foreign market, it must be admitted that the result is most creditable to them. In many parts of the country butter making has of late years, passed into the hands of the peasant wives, from being the hands of the owners of great dairies; but where this is the case the work is mostly performed by women. In the dairies of Finland 609 women and 326 men are at work. Finnish peasant women have also exercised an important influence on cattle farming and dairying, and are also instructresses in these subjects." For the training of instructors in dairy schools, where a course of instruction in dairy work is given, the Agricultural Institute at Mustiala opened a class for educated women."