

Women's Residences.

WE cannot study the rise of the movement for the higher education of women, and follow its progress through the latter years of this century, without having woven into our thought incidentally, the part that has been played in this movement by the college dormitories, as centres of home-like influence bringing comfort and social pleasure to brighten the lives of the students during those marked years of strenuous mental growth, a part which has an importance that can hardly be over-estimated, and yet which acts and interacts so subtly upon individual lives, that it is difficult to estimate it concretely at all.

We have but to observe a few facts to realize that the movement for the improved education of girls is a comparatively recent one. In England by the years 1848 and 1858, it was expressed by a few notable instances of the founding of schools and colleges for women; and in 1856 the hunger for higher education declared itself in the application made by a woman to the University of London for permission to become a candidate for a medical diploma, and in 1862 another woman applied to the same university for admission to the matriculation examination. Both these requests were refused on the ground that the senate had not power to grant them. A memorial was then sent to the senate asking that a change be made in the charter to remove this disability, but the motion in favor of granting the request was lost by the casting vote of the chancellor.

From the interest that these efforts awakened grew the formation of a London Committee, of which Miss Emily Davis was an active member, to work for the admission of women to university examinations. The first thing they did was to ask the University of Cambridge, which had established a system of local examinations for boys,