

The Importance of Industrial Training for Young Women
by
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It has been said, "man's first necessity is to live," ^{and} his first duty to work; but at no time in the history of the world has the problem of how to live ^{and} to earn a living, been of greater importance than at present. Our streets swarm with loafers, our highways with tramps, ^{and} we find our prisons crowded to overflowing with criminals, all because of the lack of fitness necessary for the earning of an honest living.

However this has not always been the case, for not many years ago, industries which are now controlled by great corporations were in the hands of the working people; and as most of the population was then in the rural districts, the learning of the different trades necessary for comfortable living was taught at home. While carpentry, blacksmithing, etc., was being taught to the boys, the girls were learning to spin, weave ^{and} cook. As civilization has advanced ^{and} cities have become the great centers of population ^{and} industry, the home system of labor has been replaced by the factory, ^{and} the demand for skilled workers in every line of business, has been ^{and} is constantly increasing.

To meet this demand, there has arisen within the last half century, the new idea of industrial schools, which have found a congenial

atmosphere for growth both in this country and in Europe. With this new system of education, came the belief that what is good for man is good for woman, and as a result we have in many parts of the country, established industrial training schools giving especial advantages to girls, which have met with universal appreciation and approval.

Industrial education includes both manual training and technical instruction. By the former is meant, to give the definition in the words of another, "The training of the mind to use the hand and eye in connection with other sense organs, - acquiring knowledge from well planned and graded contacts with objects, in giving expression to thought stimulated by these contacts, and in transfiguring by tool and machine, crude matter into forms of beauty and utility. Its aim is the development of conscious, skillful energy, and the subordination of every power of body and mind to the action of the will."

Its chief product is not the expertly fitted joint, the perfectly constructed machine, the beautiful dress or the well cooked dinner, but it is the self centered self controlled young man or woman, who is fitted to meet and to solve the problems of every day life.

Instead of training one set of faculties at the expense of another, it works for the harmonious development of all. It recognizes ^{and} enforces the equal rights of women to every intellectual ^{and} industrial field which is afforded.

We read that Greek civilization was ruined because of the lack of training which her women needed; and yet, it is only of late years that she has been admitted to step to the highest plane of our college curriculum. Little did the proud ladies who danced the minuet, at the inauguration of George Washington, think, that their granddaughters should ever be compelled to enter the field of labor - to earn a living; but the progress of which we boast has known neither age nor sex, ^{and} delicate womanhood as well as tender youth, has been compelled to meet its requirements. It has thrown upon her burdens for which she is unprepared, but for which ^{the} proper training, has proven herself fitted.

Great numbers of women annually go to live of shame ^{and} vice because of the lack of training necessary to give them an honest living. Even to-day, do we not find women entering upon

marriage licences, in order to have a place they can call home, because of lack of independence and the neglect of proper training, sufficient to promote that independence? Shall she not be trained to stand alone, if need be; or if it is her fortune to become mistress of a home, shall she not be supplied with sufficient knowledge to properly care for ours, or at least to direct the affairs, even though she does not do the work herself? To do this, requires a thorough knowledge of domestic science. It requires a thorough understanding of cooking ^{and} the hundred domestic services of laundry work, of the cutting fitting ^{and} making of garments, of the care of the sick, together with the thousand and one other things which go to make up the duties of a house keepers life. It is not merely a question of cost ^{and} fashion of food, but of its nutrition as well. It is not a question of washing ^{and} passing the cloth under the iron, but one of stains ^{and} their removal, of soap ^{and} its merits, in short it is the great question of sanitation, governed by laws, which to be obeyed must be understood.

The girl who has, along with her other studies, mastered the elements, that invite her to the sewing room or the kitchen, will grow

up to be the true and noble woman. She will recognize all women as sisters and she will receive from her servant-girl, - the same willing service, that the banker receives from his cashier, or the merchant from his employee, thus helping them to be artists in their humble calling. She will appreciate the lesson given by Wm. Cullen Garrison in his book "Blessed be Drudgery," where he so vividly pictures the interior of a convent kitchen, in which are, "beautiful white robes and her doing the work. Each seemingly to have idealized her real if not realized her ideal, and you almost forget that kettles are kettles and pans are pans, and only think of the beauty there is in kitchen work."

This is not the only field open to women, however. Trained women are in demand for every line of service from the kitchen to the college class room. From the industrial training school, she has invaded the field of electrical appliances, photography, phonography and architectural decoration. There is no reason why if woman possess architectural ability or any other ability which she wishes to use in making her own way in the world, she she be prevented from doing so. She should at all times have

an equal advantage with her more fortunate brother.

Switzerland is said to attract the world in the number and excellence of her household schools, though there is no country where the house keeping machinery is so complete as in France; and there is no reason why Americans should not be as comfortable at home as other nations.

The advantage of such training to the state would be great. It would result in the production of skilled workers who would fill the places that are now empty and replace those which are already filled by incompetent workers; and as a result, the rising generation would become better educated and civilization would advance as rapidly and as far beyond the present state as we have advanced beyond the past.

Woman, rapidly rising to her new position, should have a deep interest in all measures which will render her less dependent on husband, father or brother, and which will prepare her when others fail, to obtain a generous support. A knowledge of any art will tend to give her a higher position, and will at the same time give new and added grace to that position.

Above all other advantages which manual training gives, is its effect upon the

character. It tends to develop judgment
earnestness, rectitude, independence^{and} self
respect. It gives the highest kind of moral cul-
ture; by planting habits of industry; the will
is disciplined^{and} the mind broadened; but
above all, it teaches the nobility of labor^{and} creates
a love for it. The girl who is given such
a training will come to honor the demands
of society^{and} home as an intelligent, careful
noble woman, who can when occasion demands
it, be the true friend, the helpful wife or
worthy mother.