

Industrial Education for Girls.

Education is not a giving of something to somebody. It is a bringing forward or a bringing into use of the faculties with which every well born human being is endowed by nature. All nature shows a spontaneous activity which makes itself felt all through life. This activity must be the foundation upon which all education is built and if fully trained will guide all work to a desired end and make every day of life one of usefulness.

The education received at school and college is but a beginning and is valuable in so far as it trains the habit of continuous application in a systematic way. The present methods of training children are toward the practical. In Kindergarten perhaps it is more noticeable than elsewhere. The child is taught to use both hands and brain and while exercising the body and enjoying the work given him with the bright balls and papers, and making pretty mats, he is cultivating the powers of observation and imagination. In order that any knowledge may be useful it must be made practical. In explaining to a child the phenomena of nature it is necessary to use object lessons: to proceed from the known to the unknown. The proper teaching of botany and entomology requires the student to study and dissect plants and insects for himself in order to make the study interesting.

and profitable. In the study of physics and chemistry, experiments and practice are essential to establish the facts in the mind. So we find as in all other studies so it is with Industrial education. It is not enough to be told how to do a thing, the theory is not sufficient; it must be followed by practice before we can become skilled in the art of cooking or sewing. As the nations become more civilized and more highly educated, people are coming to see that education has a two fold purpose, we must first study to develop and cultivate the mind; we must then study for an end in the use of the acquired knowledge. The woman who thoughtfully plans her household having in view the needs and comforts of each member, who cooks the right kind of food at the right time, who can make happiness of the truest kind in the home, is the woman who uses her energy aright and has learned the lesson of a true education. Let a boy have a knowledge of the use of tools, the setting of type, the planting of trees, the feeding and currying of stock and he will not only be more ready to grasp the opportunities of life but his thoughts will be wider and his judgment clearer.

Give a girl nimble fingers for sewing, strong wrists for the kneading of bread, or a hoe might be used and result in a surprising effect to both girl and garden. If these be mixed with her French, Latin and music

her life will be sweetened by becoming more familiar with nature. The command *subdue and have dominion* is a mark of God's power and man's power. It requires man to study his Maker's works before he can adapt himself to his laws and use them to the best advantage.

For many years after the doors of the colleges were open to women the course was arranged in such a way that girls could not hope for a college education and training. In fact the idea that a good education has a bearing on practical every day life has been accepted but a short time. The progressive farmer no longer considers the District school a sufficient means of educating his children, nor does he send the boy to college and keep the girl at home: they are both sent to improve the same opportunities, the girl works right along with her brother and if there is any difference she is ahead, and whatever line of work they undertake, whether it be science, literature or art they make a success. If the housekeeper has had the advantage of a thorough course of training in Domestic Economy in addition to her mother's training she will understand the art of preparing and serving well cooked food and will feel supreme in the kitchen. Food may be well cooked but if taken up in any kind of style to get it on the table and not tastefully arranged it will not be very appetizing. As much ingenuity

and good taste are required in the arrangement and serving of food as in preparing it. In the kitchen there is a place for every thing, and we are taught to keep everything in its place, thus not only economizing time but aiding greatly in the tidiness of the kitchen which is the living room of the majority American women and therefore should be kept as cozy and comfortable as possible.

A woman likes to do dainty work and it is said pretty things naturally grow under her fingers, the ability to give pleasure to the eye and ear is greatly prized by her, but these accomplishments as attractive as they may seem do not take the place of real practical knowledge. It certainly is very desirable to be accomplished in music and fine arts but the after life of such an one may be spent hundreds or perhaps thousands of miles from a piano and it is of no real use to her, while a special training in cooking and sewing may be useful in whatever position of life she may find herself.

No one knows unless placed in a position where she must either make her own dress or do without, of how much use merely the rudiments of sewing are to a woman. For a woman who can look at a new garment, go home and make one like it, it is not so hard, but for the woman

who know nothing about either cutting or fitting and has not confidence enough to cut into new goods it certainly is hard, and again it is not very comforting to have it made like every one else's dress in the shop. It would be a great relief if she could cut for herself and make things as she knows she wants them.

In a woman's life there are many spare moments that go by unheeded while if she knows how to ply the needle she can take several stitches while waiting for the head to take or while entertaining a visitor.

Provision is made as we all know for girls to take sewing one hour a day for one term of the first year, arrangements are also made for cooking during the second year. A special in cooking may be taken any term after the second year and it is by this means that girls are taught the various ways of preserving fruits and making innumerable dainties for the table, and are given some ideas about the making of candy.

The object of the long years spent in hard study is to fit them for the duties that await them as men and women and to give them the best methods of meeting the

hardships which may come to them.

While a woman may give the greater part of her attention to home duties her influence may extend beyond her little sphere reaching out for something higher and thus enables her to be a power of greater usefulness.

We must remember there is always room at the top and if we continue to climb we shall finally reach the goal; and if there is that unalloyed love for truth and knowledge which alone can insure the highest success in research this shrine will be viewed as only the portals to a holier temple where God reigns in his purity and love.

Agnus Romick.