

Among the questions that come to the busy, happy, sometimes heedless school-girl when, whether as preparatory student or more thoughtful graduate, she drops rules and ologies and ometeries long enough to question of herself and her work "whether" and "why", is one that was suggested when she finished the common school course and talked of going away to college.

Devoted parents counsel long before they finally decide that she can go. To give her up for four long years is hard. To send her away among strange people and new influences where home ties may be weakened and home-training, defeated by the novel and charming life, is harder. But she must have more education than home schools can offer, and believing that the training of a college course will make her a better woman for her woman's work, wherever, whatever it be, they prepare to send her away; and she, timid, hopeful, thoughtful, awaits the eventful week when her new life and her college education will begin. She hears a well meaning friend deploring the lack of wisdom in her parents' decision and, wishing to change it, argu-

ing that she should not be sent from home now when she needs most to be there and is most needed; that she will acquire nothing but a little book learning and will be ignorant about any practical work; that she will come home only to be married and go to a new home and her education will be for nothing.

The maiden begins her college life and goes on step by step through the course, learning her lessons, from books and friends and experience, as they come, - and still she sometimes wonders about those two ideas given her when she began. Is her college education to fit her better to be a good useful woman, or are the time and money and sacrifice to be thrown away on something that can be of no use to her in a home? Are higher education and housekeeping incongruous? She must look outside of her own life for answer until she has lived long enough to speak for herself.

The means for college education for women are widening every year and woman has never before been so far advanced in intelligence and culture as now. But is she

going to give up housekeeping - or, better, homekeeping? On the contrary that department of work has never before been so much studied and so really progressive. Never before have homes been so nearly perfect. Never before have houses and all their furnishings been so nearly model. Of whose efforts is all this the result? Only the uneducated and uncultured woman finds her whole world within the four walls of her house and her whole work in keeping that house according to the exact rules and methods of her mother and grandmothers. In contrast to such the educated housewives of the land form one great school whose study is of the "right way" in their work and whose object the elevation of the home. Each student works in her own laboratory or study but the walls of the separate houses form the thin partitions separating one from the other. The interests, the objects, the results are common; and what is learned by one student benefits the many. For women's books, women's papers, women's clubs and women's teachers soon make any new knowledge the property of all who

desire it. Many women today are devoting time and thought and skill almost entirely to this, woman's largest, most exhaustive study and seeking, for the benefit of the world, the systems and methods that will produce the best results with the least expenditure of time^{and} labor. And after the study is done, their pen gives to the world a literature which affords in itself a liberal education to all those who use it. The "Woman's Column" in the weekly paper gives way to journals of the highest class entirely in the interests of the home^{and} containing the results of the experience and best thinking of the most successful home-keepers in the land. One example of progress which is merely indicative of that made all through this department is the modern cook book, as far in advance of the old as is the incandescent electric light of the old tallow dip. No woman born to make a home can fail, with a little experience, to cook well if she follows closely the carefully and exactly prepared dir-

actions. Every thing in any way relating to the kitchen and dining room can be found in this wonderful volume. The proper way to beat an egg or clean house; to make Johnny cake or angel's food; to cook mush or prepare the most elaborate banquet - all are described to the minutest details, for women have studied out this proper way for others as well as themselves.

The women who are making all this advancement are not women who know nothing but housework, but those who have had the benefits of higher education and studied as earnestly in other branches as in this.

In schools the line of distinction between study and housework is apparently very broad. In many of them there is a great lack of encouragement for girls to show their interest and abilities in homely duties and so they are hidden behind more attractive and popular "accomplishments."

Then it is not amazing that many people regard the college-bred girl

as one without much practical sense or working ability; that when the "smart girl graduate" delivers her final oration on some profound subject of which she really knows nothing, people think her mind soars above common every-day work and her education is a mere sham. But the interest and the ability are still possessed, though hidden, and only need to be called out into use. The old distinction is being obliterated as schools, trying to connect the two educations, introduce into their course domestic science in all its branches and other studies that bear directly on the welfare of the home. House-keeping is being more and more recognized as an art that cannot be properly acquired by every woman naturally and without effort, but requires patient practice and thoughtful study, and should be placed as high in education as any other.

All the studies in a course have their places and uses in giving train-

ing and knowledge, widening the field of thought and interest, and fitting for better work and happier life. Nearly all have some important bearing, direct or indirect, on home-making. As studies touching food, clothing, exercise, ventilation, heat, cleanliness, drainage and such subjects have to do with physical welfare in the home, literature, music, language and like studies have their important influence in the mental and moral well being.

Even if no information gained is remembered, (and much will be) the course cannot fail to be beneficial. The more thorough and extensive the study at school the more able to study and understand and execute does the woman become. Her reasoning power, judgment and discipline place her far in advance of her sisters who do their work mechanically and from habit regardless of the best methods and conveniences.

When the college graduate goes home

her friends need not lament that when
 she has to make and keep a home of her
 own her education will be for naught.
 She has had the benefit of her mother's
 teaching and much of her experience.
 She has been in other homes ^{and} in the years
 at school has learned much from those
 around her. She has been with many
 people and knows better the wants ^{and}
 needs of her associates. Her world of thought
 is not confined to one branch of work
 but every study taken has helped to
 give her information ^{and} comprehension.
 She has studied the works and best thoughts
 of recent writers on practical topics
 especially in woman's world. She knows
 how to study and think for herself
 and has books and papers to help her.
 She has all the helps that the study of
 her ancestors has furnished her to make
 possible the convenience, luxury and
 beauty of the modern home. She has
 a good mind in a strong body (unless
 her home training was at fault) and
 she has a grace and culture ^{and} taste
 acquired during her school life

that make her more the cultivated lady. Physically, mentally, morally and socially the college graduate has opportunity to become a home-keeper far superior to the young woman whose education for her work is received in one home under the direction of one teacher.

These advantages suggests scores of others that point toward the fact and make it reasonable to say that the hope for the model home of the future is in the college-bred girl; that the successful home-maker will be the one who studies and who learns how to study, at college.

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