The Importance of Industrial Training for Young Women

by

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It has been said, "mane first necessity is to his life is 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 cities swarm with so many out of work, and the highways are brimming with criminals; all because of the lack of patience necessary for the earning of an honest living.

However, this has not always been the case, for not many years ago, industries which were once conducted by great corporations were in the hands of the working people, and as most of the population was then in the rural districts, the earning of the different trades necessary for comfortable living was taught at home. While corresponding, blacksmithing, it was being taught to these girls. The girls were learning to spin, weave, and sew. As civilization has advanced, and cities have become the great centers of population and industry, the home economy has been replaced by the factory, and the demand for skilled workers in every line of business has been and is constantly increasing.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 been within the last half century, the rise of industrial schools, which have found a consummation...
atmosphere for growth both in the country and in Europe. With the new systems 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 special 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 contact with objects, in growing experience to thought stimulated by the contact, and in transforming by tool and machine, crude matter into forms of beauty and utility. The aim in the development of conscience, skillful reasoning, and the subordination of every power of body and mind to the action of the will."

The chief product is not the exact duplicates, the perfect or completely realized machines, the flawlessly done 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.
Indeed I favor one art I favor the art of
the expense of another, it works for the harmon-
ous development of all. It recognizes and en-
forces the equal rights of women to every in-
tellectual and industrial field which is afford-
ed.

We read that Greek civilization was ruined
because of the lack of training which her women
needed; and yet, it is only in late years that
she has been admitted to step to the highest
plane of our college curriculum. Still, said
the proud lady who danced the minuet, at
the inauguration of George Washington, think
that their granddaughters should ever be com-
elled to enter the field of labor to earn a
living, but the progress of which we have had
known neither age nor sex, and believe woman-
hood as well as undeveloped, has been compelled
to meet its requirements. It has thrown upon
her burden for which she is unprepared, but
for which proper training, has proven herself
fit.

Great numbers of women annually go to
live in shame and vice because of the lack of train-
ing necessary to give them an honest living. Even
today, do we not find women entering upon
marriage licence, in order to have a place they can call home, because I lack 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 receive more or less a share, shall she not be supplied with sufficient knowledge to properly care for one, 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 the garments of the care of the sick, together with the thousand and one other things which go to make up the duties of a home helper life. It is not merely a question of cooking and fashioning the food, but the nutrition as well. It is not a question of washing and pressing the cloth under the iron, but the stains and their removal, the care and its merits. In short it is the great question of sanitation, guarded by laund, which to be tried must be understood.

The girl who has, along with her other studies, mastered these elements, that invite her to the serving 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 husband receives from his cashier, or the merchant from his employer, thus helping them to be artists in their humble calling. She will appreciate the lesson given by Mrs. Paul Cullen Barnet in his book, "Blessed is the Wandering," where he so vividly pictures the interior of a servant's kitchen, in which were "beautiful white voiles hung in doing the work. Each arm was by to have idealized her work of not realizing her ideal, and eyes almost forgot that it filled an hour for and fear are fear, and only think of the beauty there, in the kitchen work.

This is not the only girl’s spin to women, however. Trained women are in demand for every line of service from the kitchen to the college classroom. From the industrial training school, she has invaded the fields of electrical appliance photography, etymology, and architectural decoration. There is no reason why a woman forces architectural ability on any other ability which she wishes to use in making her own way in the world. She who is founded from doing so. She should at all times have
an equal advantage with her more fortunate brothers.

Switzerland is said to stand the world
in the number and excellence of her home training schools,
though there is no country where the home helping
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 women who would fill the places
that are now empty and replace those which
are already filled by inexperienced workers; and
in a novel, the next generation would become
better educated and civilization would advance as
rapidly as if we had reached the present state of
we have advanced beyond the past.

Woman, as properly rising to her new position,
should have a deep interest in all measures which
will render her less dependent on husbands, fathers,
or brothers, and which will prepare her when this
fails, 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 existence.

From all other advantages which may
rear training gives, is its effect upon the
character. It tends to develop judgment, correctness, brazenness, independence, and self-respect. It gives the highest kind of moral culture; by planting habits of industry, the will is disciplined and the mind broadened; but above all, it teaches the nobility of labor and ends a life for it. The girl who is given such training will come to know the demands of society and learn the art of intelligent, careful work. men, who can when necessary demand it, be the true friend, the helpful wife or worthy mother.