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BOX 1 FOLDER 9

1st Annual Report to Women's Educational Association, ca. 1877

E 12th Annual Report ^{to us} of the Ed. Assn

It is always pleasant, to have our prophecies fulfilled and especially pleasant when some doubt has been expressed as to the probability of fulfillment.

I hope to be pardoned therefore if I seem to boast of the fulfillment of my own predictions.

I recall so clearly a conversation with two officers of the Association on the morning on which we paid over the last installment of money, collected for the Laboratory while both of the ladies were very much interested in the plan and delighted with the hearty response given to their appeal they both expressed their doubts as to the result. ^{one} They said to me. I wish I could feel as sure as you do that there are women who do really

So want this kind of opportunity
when I said that I felt perfectly
sure of 15 students during the
first year: both exclaimed Oh if
there are 8 or 10 I shall be
quite happy and think the
money well spent.

The ~~Laboratory~~ ^{Rooms} were not open until
the last of October and ~~was~~ ^{was}
not advertised, ^{outside of the asso-}
except by a few
circulars sent to friends of the
members and to contributors.

At this date we have had
23 students in the Chemical
Laboratory. ^{10 or 12 other applicants failed to come}
^{by reason of sickness - inability to pay}
^{or insufficient preparation.}

Doubt as to the success of the
Some 15 are already enrolled for next year -
interpret was also expressed in
another way.

Those who have had experience
with the free Green classes - said
that we should find the number

of those who were willing to pay
for their instruction very
small.

~~This doubt was never the~~
This statement was not far from
the truth if we substitute
"able" for "willing".

Of the 23 only 5 (as far as I am
able to judge) have been in
~~such circumstances~~ a condition to
pay the fee without ~~great~~ sacrifice
and self denial. This makes
the number who spend ~~very~~ much
time in Laboratory quite small.
They study as much as possible
outside and gain as much
as they can in an afternoon
while this increases the usefulness
of the Laboratory it materially
lessens its income. The receipts
from the 24 Students will
hardly be equal to the amount

received from 5 regular students

Some statements as to the class
of work done may interest us.
First in importance we may place
that of aid rendered to the
teachers. During Nov. and Dec.
the Laboratory had the honor
to number among its students
our friend from Smith Coll.,
later her successor at Wellish
and that lady's successor
at Framingham Normal.
The teachers of Science at Bradford
Academy spent a month with
us. 3 teachers of Chemistry
at the Girls High School
have given Saturdays to practical
work.

5

7 others are looking forward to becoming teachers of science.

These students have been given work which would illustrate principles, and not merely facts. All their instruction had had for its end the broadening of their ideas of Science and fitting them thus to impress on their pupils the depth of the channel and not merely its surface breadth as is so apt to be the result of popular scientific teaching.

Of the remaining number -

2 are engaged in original research.

3 are studying for the use they may put it to in the future but with no very definite aim for the immediate future.

Their work is more strictly
Educational, and had a more
direct bearing on their own minds.

We have 4 married women -
3 of them with families of children
from 5 to 18 years old.

The aid that the Laboratory
has been able to give them
has been to me its pleasant
feature, the proof of its truly
broad ^{liberal} character.

I have felt the greatest satisfaction
in opening the treasures of our
store-house to two of these
ladies in particular.

One is studying ^{in order to become} a Physician.
Her husband is a Doctor of long
practice and I presume a very
intelligent man - but he sees
the defects in the education of his
early days and wishes her to

have the best of modern times.

In the two months that she stayed with us we gave her an insight into microscopical work as well as some practice in the theoretical and medical Chemistry and taught her to read Scientific German with the aid of the Dictionary.

We feel that ~~however~~ superficial ~~of~~ and slight as was the actual amount of knowledge she gained it will nevertheless make her a far more intelligent & thoughtful pupil of the medical school to which she is going.

The other lady has been studying Mineralogy only, but this case deserves notice because of the possibility of many others taking courage to carry out even at a late day their

early longings.

Determinative

Mineralogy or the determination of
Mineral species by the Blowpipe
is rarely ^{if ever} taught in colleges
Smith College will be an exception
to the rule. Scientific Schools

usually give a course of it;
but until within a few years
the so called mineralogists
were mere collectors, who had
learned to distinguish the common
varieties by sight.

Most of the dealers in minerals
are still of this class.

I suppose very few women in the
country understand this very
fascinating subject and yet
there is not another in which
women would so readily excel
for it requires nice distinctions

of color, lustre and other appearances. 9
Although it is dependent upon Chemistry and in any strict scientific school should follow it yet it is quite possible to take it up and fully enjoy it and succeed in it as this lady has done without any previous knowledge of chemistry for the few simple principles are readily learned in the course of practice

I have been over ~~the~~ ground thus minutely in order to show you the variety of work made possible in this one little room with earnest workers therein.

Even if the belief of people in general, that woman's mind is not capable of deep scientific thought is proved true - yet we must acknowledge

that the valleys and foot-hills
of Sicim are very attractive
to the feminine mind even
if they can never hope to scale
the heights snowcapped above
them.

I will hazard the statement
that when the opportunities
are equal $\frac{4}{5}$ of the intelligent
girls will choose science and
will become industrious workers
in the field of observation
gathering ^{together} [heaps of] facts from
which their superiors may
build generalizations.

The other ^{and} more expensive room
the Optical Laboratory has
not yet been perfected. The
other room required so much
more time than we anticipated
by reason of the number and

variety of pupils that we have
made slow progress.

Nevertheless the Institute class
in Vegetable Physiology numbering
8 or 9 - the Boston University
Class in Botany and 3 ~~other~~
gentlemen have been accom-
modated there in a far better
manner than would have been
possible in any other place in
Boston. 6 or 8 of the students
in Chemistry have also availed
themselves of its privileges by
employing 2 to 4 hours a week
in this way.

As to the future prospects.
This optical Laboratory promises
the widest field when it becomes
known. It proposes to occupy
an entirely new field, looking

toward Biology from the Chemical
Side - not supplanting the
work of Biological Laboratories,
but sending to them for
better prepared pupils -

The old adage well begun is half
done has much truth in it.
We can certainly call this
new enterprise well begun and
as one of the Trustees said last
it will be easier to let it go
on than to stop it.