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AC 0298

BOX 1 FOLDER 15

Ether Swallow Richards Account of the planning of the women's laboratory,
by Ether Swallow Richards, nd.

mc 157

RBR 5:5

When the plan proposed in the circular came to be closely considered by those in charge of the matter. It was felt that the amount and character of the space so obtained would be wholly inadequate for the accommodation of the number and **advancement** of the students who would apply after the first winter

and so in full faith of the demand, the possibility of obtaining space on the ground floor which could be adapted to the accommodation of twice the number of students was considered.

It was finally decided that the money could be most satisfactorily expended by combining the two new ideas of the year and erecting a separate building which should accommodate both the woman's Laboratory and the Department of Practical Mechanism.

The result is a well lighted Laboratory for Analytical Chemistry with a weighing room and dressing room - 40 ft by 25 - space with working tables for 16 persons.

It is a pleasant and more commodious room than any other ^{Laboratory} belonging to the Institute.

Immediately adjoining is an optical Laboratory 20 by 24 ft which has been fitted with tables for the use of the microscope, Spectroscope and other optical instruments. This will accommodate 12 students at one time and proves admirably fitted for the work.

Another adjoining room also 20 by 24 ft - is designed for the coarser work, and is to be fitted with furnaces and steam kettles and other appliances for experiments relating to industrial Chemistry.

It is impossible to tell at present how far the cost of all this space will

be covered by the money
already paid in.

There will undoubtedly
be a deficit - as at least
twice ^{as much} ~~the~~ space is now
occupied as was contemplated
and as the number of
students increase the wants
increase in a certain measure.
There ~~is~~ ^{is} already needed one or
two balances and an apparatus
for gas analysis.

But - those in charge feel
assured that this work
will be appreciated by
people who will be glad
to aid women in ^{obtaining} scientific
education.

Ellen H. Richards

There is now quite complete provision made for the study of chemistry in all its branches by women and the optical laboratory offers advantages that have not heretofore been enjoyed by the regular students of the Inst.

The next question is how to bring these facilities within the reach of those who will profit by them.

The Government of the Inst can not be expected to make any discrimination in its charges in favor of women but it is a well known fact that

in New England at least
a woman does not receive
the same pay as a man -
ought she therefore
to pay the same for her
education.

It is conceded that to
establish this department
on a firm footing a
professorship for this special
work ought to be established
and either scholarships
or some lessening of the
expense as by stipulating
~~with~~ the Government
to lower the fees for
Instruction in consideration
of the money paid to
them for a Professorship.