

## WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT.

### BUSINESS ABILITY.

Women are Equal to Men in Many and Excellent Lines of Trade.

So much has been said and written about women in their relation to business that it seems as if the subject had been almost exhausted. But to women generally, and to a great many men, it is always one of interest. From the day when woman's only sphere was her home, till the day when every sphere belongs to her, if she will only take it, there has been a slow but sure growth. An inquirer among some of the prominent merchants who employ women, as well as among women who are themselves in business, found out that they coincide entirely. Without any one hearing what another had to say, or without any direct question bearing upon the several topics being asked, a talk with one echoes the conversation with others.

"Can and do women equal men in business?" said a merchant, repeating the question that was asked. "They can, and are found the equal of men in all branches of business if they simply apply themselves and persevere."

"Is there any limit to the positions they may occupy?"

"No avenue is closed to them which they choose to enter. While the idea has not been adopted in this city, there is rarely a dry goods store in Philadelphia where women are not employed in the dress goods department. They are supposed to have much better knowledge of dress materials for their own sex than men have."

"Are they made responsible?"

"They have entire charge of departments, and are solely responsible for the whole department, and with the possible exception being secondary to the manager of the whole concern, are as free to control the working as if they owned it. But they are most proficient in the millinery departments, which are generally in charge of women, and a girl entering as an apprentice has a good opportunity for advancement. It all depends upon the woman. If she is really anxious to advance, and puts forth her best efforts continually, she is very apt to be appreciated and rewarded."

"What is the ratio of excellence?"

"In stores where thirty men and the same number of women have the same labor, the percentage of those who succeed and advance will be equal, with the chances in favor of the women. There is a difference between the married women or widows and the unmarried women. With the former it is generally necessary for them to work, and often they have others to support. They may have had a sad life and turn to constant employment as the surest panacea, or there are a thousand and one reasons why they should labor, while the great difficulty with young women is the looking forward to marriage, when they expect to leave such labor and enjoy a comfortable leisure. One would suppose that a girl would naturally take an interest in ribbons and laces sufficient to take good care of them, but they do not always, and more men are employed in this department. Yet how well woman could go into the ribbon and lace business and make a trade for herself. But a woman can do well in the grocery, in jewelry in gardening, in the conservatory, in gloves, notions, shoes—almost any specialty she chooses to adopt."

"How about the dairy business?"

"It has always seemed strange to me that women did not do more of that business. There is always a demand for fowls, eggs, fashers—even chicken bones are not despised, but have a use. Here in the gas belt, where heat is cheap and so little trouble, a winter product would pay enormously. This talk only relates to those women with whom I am associated and whom I know directly. There is a large class of brilliant women in every class of business, who control great estates—occupy high positions everywhere. Their name is legion and their fame world-wide."

"Any large salaries paid here?"

"A large number of women in this city receive salaries ranging from \$800 to \$1,800 a year, and a few who exceed that amount. The majority average from five dollars to ten dollars a week, and a few receive less than that. The principal cause of women getting the starvation wages they do, in the work of making overalls and many other articles, is with the buying woman herself. She wants to give only seventy-five cents for a pair of overalls. The material in them costs sixty-five cents, and the greater portion of the advance at which it is sold the merchant thinks he ought to have, so this leaves but a mere pittance for the one who put the garment together, and they get for a dozen an amount that ought to be paid for the making of one. The shirt waist is another article on which there is no profit for the sewer. A woman wants a good shirt waist for seventy-five cents it takes two yards and a half of material, four buttons, at least, for the front and as many for the belt. She finds she can not get a good one for twenty-five cents, so she thinks she will make one herself. The two and a half yards will amount to more than twenty-five cents; she has her buttons, thread and labor to add to it, and yet this will be the very woman who feels sorry for the woman who sews in factories, and not willing to pay enough for a garment, even to allow a very small sum for the making. There is a man in this city who pays twenty cents a dozen for the making of shirt waists, and every one has to have four buttonholes. A dollar and a half and two dollars a dozen was all that was paid for making

the coats that were worn by many of the clubs during the recent campaign. There is no remedy I can see so long as the demand for cheap goods exists."—Indianapolis Journal.

### Unmarried Women.

There is a class of women in every community whom society denominates "old maids." The world ought to be told what uncrowned queens many of these women are, what undecorated heroines, what blessings to human beings, what builders of homes, what servants of others and of Christ. In thousands of instances they voluntarily remain unmarried for the sake of their families. Many of them have refused brilliant offers of marriage that they might stay at home to toll for younger brothers or sisters, or to be the shelter and comfort of parents in the feebleness of their advancing years. Then there are many who have freely hidden away their own heart hunger that they might devote themselves to good deeds for Christ and for humanity. A glance over the pages of history will show many a woman's name which shines in the splendor of such self-sacrifice. Then in every community and neighborhood in almost every family, is one whose hand has not felt the pressure of the wedding ring, because some loved ones or the work of the Master outside seemed to need her hallowed love and gentle service. We should learn to honor these unmarried women instead of decorating their names with unworthy epithets. Many of them are true heroines of neighborhood or household, the real sisters of charity of the communities in which they live. Those who sometimes speak lightly or flippantly of them, who jest and sneer at their sisterhood, ought to uncover their heads before them in reverence and kiss the hands, wrinkled now and shriveled, which never have been clasped in marriage.—Philadelphia Presbyterian.

### Ends To Be Attained.

I am in favor of woman suffrage, and would vote if the right were extended to me, for many reasons, based on the advantage to be derived therefrom by both sexes. One of my weightiest reasons for it is that I think it would be the surest means of securing for women the simple justice of equal pay for equal work. Facts show that voters alone have their interests properly guarded. For example, while the disbanded volunteers of the late war, who stay at home and vote, are a privileged class on whom honors and emoluments are heaped, and very justly, the regular army, who fought none the less bravely, but who are non-voters, are treated with scant consideration in time of peace. Moreover, I believe that the exercise of suffrage would train women to higher thoughts and aims, and introduce a refining influence into politics, so that women would be made stronger and men finer thereby.—Mary L. Booth

### An Archbishop's Opinion.

The Archbishop of York at the recent Church Congress put himself on record as a believer in the political equalization of the sexes. He is thus reported: "With respect now to the equal rights of women we have been very long in finding that out, but we are finding it out; and twenty years hence, when some other archbishop shall have the pleasure of addressing them, he will have workingmen and workingwomen all together before him, and he ventured to think there would be no privilege which the intelligent women should not have that men enjoyed now. He would say there was nothing that stood between them and the happiness and progress which God would give them and the evil will of men."

### THE WORLD OF WOMEN.

It is stated that there are 14,465 commercial travelers in the United States who are women.

The Philadelphia statistics show that there is not a trade or profession pursued in that city which is not more or less followed by women.

Mrs. JENNIE KELLOGG, of Emporia, Kas., besides being a devoted wife and mother and a model house-keeper, is a practical lawyer, and has been admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Kansas.

A FLOURISHING Woman Suffrage Club has just been organized in Charlotte Centre, N. Y. This is the fourteenth club formed in Chautauque County within the year by Mrs. M. T. Henderson, the county organizer.

A WOMAN'S LEAGUE has been formed in New Orleans. One of its objects is to look in a large and practical way after the interests of women—as to how they are treated in asylums, prisons, stores, station-houses, etc.

WOMEN began work in printing offices as early as 1520. An engraving made in that year by Jodocus Badius in Paris, shows the interior of a printing office, where three people are at work, one man pulling the press, another man rocking the ink balls, and one woman "sticking type."

In Austria it is said that the question of women's right to vote will shortly be brought forward. A bill will be introduced to give widows and unmarried women belonging to the rank of large proprietors, the right of voting in the elections of the Landtag, and it is said the measure has a fair chance of success.

Mlle. POPULIN has passed the law examination of the University of Brussels, and demands that her name be duly entered as a member of the bar. The matter is to come before the courts for argument. This is the first time that the question has been raised in Europe, and there is much interest in the result.

## ELECTIONS IN JAPAN.

A Politician of That Country Tells How They Are Conducted.

An enthusiastic observer of the recent political campaign work in this city was Hon. Y. Honda, a resident of Hiroaki, a city of 35,000 inhabitants in Northern Japan.

Mr. Honda is now on his way around the world. He is just out of a political office, having served two terms, or four years, as a member of the Ken Aomori, or Assembly, and was elected by the people of his gun, or county.

In conversation with the writer Mr. Honda said: "I was here a week before election, and greatly enjoyed attending the meetings held by the various political parties and beholding the great street parades; also the decorum that pervades the precincts of your polling-places, and likewise the subsequent interest manifested during the count and the reception of the election news. With us in Japan there is not so much demonstration, but withal, a very great interest is taken in our prefecture or ken elections for members of the gun, or county assemblies. Our country now has a population of over 38,000,000. We have a count made every year, and there are forty-three provinces, called prefectures, or kens, in Japan. Each ken has a kwan, or an assembly, like your State Legislature, composed of members elected by the people residing in the guns or counties into which the kens are divided.

"These several guns are entitled to from eight to forty assembly guns, or representatives, the number depending on the population, no gun having less than 30,000 people. The kwan, or assembly, holds an annual session, limited to thirty days, and the business discussed relates only to the assembly districts. This, you see, smacks very much of a republican form of government very like your own. This system has been our own for about ten years. The earlier mode was for the General Government to appoint a Governor and Secretary to rule over each ken. There are three prominent political parties in Japan—the Liberal, Progressive and the Conservative. I belong to the Progressive, which has been in the ascendancy for some time. The Liberal, which is not far behind, is considered too radical. In our country voters are obliged to have a property qualification amounting to a land tax of \$10.

"In my gun there are 70,000 people, but not more than 10,000 are voters. This does not mean that the other 60,000 are poor men by any means, for many of them are rich merchants and tradespeople, but they can't vote because they happen not to be land-owners, and, therefore, do not pay the \$10 land tax. Probably one-half of the 60,000 are too poor to be voters. At our elections the voting and counting are done in the largest hall in each gun and in the presence of every body interested.

"About eight years ago the Mikado promised the people that in the year 1890 he would accede to a largely expressed wish on the part of the people and call for the election of a National Assembly, which, I presume, will hereafter meet once a year. Preparations for this National Assembly and the building therefor are now being made. The radicals think that this move will result in placing greater power in the hands of the people, but I very much doubt it. Last summer the Mikado appointed a privy council to prepare a national constitution for the coming assembly, and this act, I must confess, occasioned considerable talk among the people, many of whom think that this constitution ought not to be prepared by the Mikado himself, but that he ought to have called together a representative general assembly for so important a work.—San Francisco Examiner.

### IN CASE OF FIRE.

A Description of Chicago's Unrivaled Electric Alarm System.

Somebody smells smoke or sees a strange light at night and rushing to the nearest alarm-box pulls the hook. In ten or twelve seconds the number of the box pulled is transmitted to every engine-house in the city. Five or six hundred men are instantly out of bed and dressed, and about two hundred horses, released from their stalls, spring into position. In twenty-five seconds, on the average, four engine companies, one chemical company and a couple of marshals are tearing along the street, and in a minute or two are on the spot where the alarm originated.

"How is it done?" repeated Prof. John P. Barrett. "By means of an alarm system that hasn't its superior in the world. Counting ordinary fire-alarm boxes, public boxes and private boxes, there are in Chicago upward of 1,500 points from which alarms may be given, and every time a box is pulled the electric current carries the necessary information over 100 miles of underground wire and 500 miles of aerial wire. The current is never off the wires and the hooks of the boxes are always there to be pulled as occasion requires. Yet you would be surprised to find how few citizens keep posted about the fire department. They don't know where the nearest box is, or where, in case that falls, the next is to be found. Fully a third of the residences in Chicago could have private alarm boxes at an initial expense of about \$34, and no subsequent loss whatever, yet there are only 330 private boxes in the city. Every citizen may have a key that will unlock any box in the city and the multitude don't get them. Few think of fire till they occur and then still fewer know just what to do. There are three keys, sometimes four, to every alarm-box, and citizens should keep posted as to where those in their neighborhood are kept.

"It is often said that the man who pulls the box awakens the firemen, looses the horses, and throws open the doors, and so forth. This is true of small cities but not of a place like Chicago, where there is a network of telegraph and telephone wires. If a couple of wires get crossed there is a possibility of false alarms. Under the direct system our men would be turned out one hundred times a night. Hence, here, all alarms come directly to the central office, and are thence sent to the various engine houses. In general terms the system is simple. Pulling the alarm-box winds a clock-work inside, to which is attached a wheel, jogged so as to give the number of the box. The breaking and completing of the circuit makes the register print the number of the box in the office here. By sliding a key, with scarcely a second's delay, we transmit the number to every engine house in the city, where registers reprint the number, gongs awaken the men, and mechanical appliances—every thing worked by the current—set free the horses. To slide down the pole and hook a few snaps is the work of but a moment, and away go the companies.

"Every day the wires are tested to make sure that the resistance offered doesn't interfere with the passage of the current and to guard against breaks. All our circuits are metallic—that is, have a return wire. They are safer than the common circuit in which each end of the wire is grounded. We can't afford to risk having a number of boxes useless. As additional security, especially down-town, the wires are interlaced so that if one box fails to bring the department the next one will. By this interlacing of lines the security of the business part of the city is doubled. Every fire-alarm box has also a full Morse telegraphic outfit. If one of our lines break we have but to ground the ends at the engine houses between which the break occurs and we have temporarily the circuit commonly used for commercial purposes. Every precaution is taken to guard against atmospheric influences and every form of disturbance and accident.

"The facility offered for giving alarms is rarely abused. It's a dangerous thing to maliciously send in a false alarm, for every keyless box has a bell on the inside that is pretty sure to call a crowd before the mischief-maker has a chance to escape."—Chicago News.

### TROUBLES OF GROOMS.

Two Good Anecdotes Pleasantly Told by a Jesuit Father.

I have had some very amusing incidents come under my observation in the pursuance of the religious duties connected with weddings. Not long since, while in Chicago, I was to officiate at a very brilliant wedding. The church was filled, the nuptial party grouped about the happy couple and the ceremony proceeding. When the time for the placing of the ring arrived there was a pause. The poor groom dived in one pocket, then in another, still in another, but, consternation! no ring could he find. The bride was on the verge of fainting or becoming hysterical, when he whispered the cause to me. I bade him follow me in the sacristy, the room just without the sanctuary, and calmed him as best I could. I endeavored to have him think where he had put the ring, but, in vain, he could not. He then suggested borrowing a circlet from some one in the church for the occasion, but I knew the bride would never feel fully satisfied, so I told him to slip out the rear way to a jeweler's near by and purchase one. Then the difficulty arose that he was in full dress and could not well pass through the street without an overcoat. He was of slight build and I am very tall and broad, but it was all we could do, so he crept into my big overcoat, my large hat crushed on his head, and presenting as comical a sight as I had ever beheld, but he went forth and returned as soon as possible with the ring. All the time the poor bride was standing, and the immense crowd filling the church wondering what was the cause of the delay. Some, I suppose, thought the groom had decamped at the "eleventh hour." However, the delay was afterwards explained satisfactorily. Not long since, in this city, a young lady in the suburbs was to marry a Lieutenant in the army. He arrived that day barely in time to procure the license. Hastening down he found, being a stranger, no one to identify him, and the recorder insisting on the presence of some relative, he had to borrow time from time, as it were, and go all the way to the suburban home to bring the bride-elect with him for the license.—Rev. Father Bronzelet, S. J., in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"Ah," said Miss Erudite to Miss Shrewd at a dinner party the other night, "what a sad, sad face that gentleman has over there in the corner. I have been watching him all the evening, and have not seen him smile once. His heart is heavy with some mighty grief, I am sure of it, and I have been wondering what it could be and letting my heart go out to him in sympathy. Do tell me if you know his history." "Yes," replied Miss Shrewd, briefly, "he is editor of a humorous paper."—Drake's Magazine.

—Single or semi-double fowls bear seeds freely, while double ones are less fertile. For this reason the best fowls should always be expensive.

## BUTTER AND BEEF.

An Attack on the Unreasonable Statements Made by Many Dairymen.

The statement has several times been made at meetings of dairymen that the same amount of food that is required to make a pound of fat beef will produce milk enough to make a pound of butter. Some farmers have been led to believe that this can generally be done. But such is not the case. With ordinary cows, ordinary care, and the kinds of food that most farmers have at their disposal, three pounds of flesh and fat can be produced on one animal while another is giving the milk from which a pound of butter is made. The possible and the probable are very far apart in dairying, as in almost every thing else that people undertake. From the milk of a choice cow of one of the dairy herds, as a Jersey, an amount of butter may be made that will equal the gain in weight of another cow that has been allowed the same kind of food. At least this may be done during a few months of the year.

During the past few years the owners of cows of different dairy breeds have endeavored to reach the maximum milking capacity of some of their animals. They have done this in order to advertise their breeding stock and to call attention to the merits of the breed to which they belong. In several instances they have succeeded in making two or more pounds of butter a day from the milk given by one cow. It does not follow, however, that the cows that broke the butter record were very profitable to their owners. One of them costs as much as a horse that broke the trotting record. She was kept in a building better than that provided for most human beings. She was supplied with stimulating food; was given a soft bed, filtered water, and a variety of condiments. She was carded, brushed and washed. The time selected for testing her butter capacity was about a month after she had dropped her calf, and always during the most pleasant portion of the year.

Like the precocious children who read before those of the same age are able to talk, the cow that beats the butter record generally dies very young and often dies soon after she has achieved fame for herself and a reputation for her relatives. An experiment was performed on her that can not be repeated. Like those the gods love she died young. Such experiments are seldom made with a view of ascertaining how fast a beef animal can be made to gain in weight. Careful feeders would be reluctant to try to ascertain how much a cow or steer could be made to gain in a month. They would fear that the creature would not live to be driven to the butcher. Besides, they know that there is no profit in forcing the growth of an animal beyond a certain limit. They know, too, as every dairyman knows, that there is no profit in stimulating the secretion of milk with a view of seeing how much butter can be made in a certain time.

Farmers who abandon stock raising for dairying with the expectation of obtaining as many pounds of butter as they have obtained of beef by feeding the same amount and kind of food to the same number of animals will be disappointed. It is not likely that they will be successful in obtaining more than one-third as many pounds. They will also find many expenses in dairying that they never had in raising beef. They will be obliged to have better barns and to give more care to their animals. During the summer and early fall the steer that gains a pound or more each day is of no trouble to its owner. It eats the grass growing in the pasture, drinks from the brook that flows through it, quietly lies down at night, and grows fat all the time. The cow, however, must be milked night and morning, and her milk must be set to allow the cream to rise or be run through a separator. The cream must then be churned, worked, salted, packed and sent to market. Food is the only expense incurred in the production of beef. Little or no labor is required to add a hundred pounds to the weight of a steer, but a hundred pounds of butter represents a large amount of labor. Skill is not necessary to the production of beef, but it is absolutely essential to the making of good butter, and only such as is very good commands a high price.—Chicago Times.

### Extracting Oil from Wood.

The French scientific journal La Nature states that the extraction of oil from wood in Sweden is becoming year by year a more important industry. Those parts of the trees which have hitherto been regarded as useless, such as the stumps and roots, are no longer left in the forest to rot, but are subjected to various methods of treatment, by which, not only wood oil, but also turpentine, crocote, acid of vinegar, charcoal and tar are obtained from them. The oil as it is now usually extracted can not be burned in ordinary lamps, for it smokes too much; but it may be used in special lamps, which are not dissimilar to the usual photogen lamps. The latter can easily be adapted to wood oil, and when the oil is mixed with a certain quantity of photogen, it may be consumed in ordinary lamps. It costs about 3d. per pint, it does not explode and lasts twenty-five times longer than photogen. When intended for lighting, it is extracted wholly from pine and fir. Thirty factories in Sweden make its extraction part of their business, and the production is now considerable.

## HOME AND FARM.

—Dry paths lead to comfort outside the house and cleanliness within.

—Save the old brooms and take them to the barn. They are handy to clean the mud off the horses' legs with, and can be put to many other uses around the stables.

—Windows can be cleaned in winter, and the frost entirely removed, by using a gill of alcohol to a pint of hot water. Clean quickly, and rub dry with a warm chamois skin.

—Horses can, of course, stand more exposure in cold weather than men, but the same kind of exposure that produces colds, rheumatism, etc., in men, will be liable to affect horses in the same way. It is, therefore, apparent that warm stables, good blankets and protection from severe weather are necessary.

—Boiled Beans: Boil the beans till nearly done, then make a dough of one pint of flour. Add one teaspoonful soda and a pinch of salt. Wet with enough rich butter milk to make a rather soft dough. Roll into a long roll and pinch off pieces the size of an egg and form into balls and boil fifteen minutes. Don't lift the cover till done.

—Ginger Bread Patties: Two tablespoons melted butter, one cup molasses stirred together, add one teaspoonful ginger, and a pinch of salt, one teaspoonful saleratus in a cup of hot water; let it cool a little before stirring in the mixture; three cups flour—bake in patty pans.—Albany Journal.

—Creamed Mushrooms: Peel the mushrooms, cut off the stalks, and put them in a sauce-pan, add butter, and let them cook ten minutes, and add a teaspoon of thick cream, pepper and salt. Take from the fire, add the well-beaten yolk of one egg, and a tablespoonful of grape jelly. Serve immediately.—Farm and Fireside.

—To clean and polish a parlor organ or piano, wash it with a soft, old silk handkerchief wrung out in lukewarm suds made with best Castile soap. Then dry immediately, and rub with chamois skin, and, if the instrument is very much scratched and defaced, rub with good furniture polish and polish for a long time with a dry chamois, or a piece of soft silk.

—After winter grain is sown there is yet time to remedy defects of soil and exposure. If there is a knoll in the field it is probably the poorest part of the lot, and one or more loads of manure distributed over it any time before winter will have a wonderful effect, not alone upon the grain crop, but on the equally important clover or grass seeding that should go with it. If a farmer will do this every time a field is sown the poor knoll will soon become as rich as any part of the farm.

—There is such a thing as a natural aptitude for different kinds of business. One farmer will grow poor on a rich farm, while another will grow rich on a poor farm. One poultryman will make money in fowls, and another will lose it. The one is adapted to his business, the other is the right man in the wrong place, or the wrong man in the right place. Success can be had only when the right man is in the right place. Life is strewn with the wrecks of those who have attempted to make a square bolt fit a round hole.

### Feeding Bran or Potatoes.

Approaching the subject from the chemical side we can get a pretty satisfactory answer from that point of view. At 25 cents per bushel potatoes are worth about 40 cents per 100 pounds. Calling bran \$12 per ton we have a cost of 60 cents per 100 pounds, so that the question is: "Which is the cheaper feed, potatoes at 40 cents per 100 pounds, or bran at 60?" On page 104 of the fourth annual report of this station is a table showing the digestible constituents of our common food articles. By this table we find: 100 pounds potatoes, worth 40 cents, contain 1 pound protein, 16.6 pounds of carbohydrates; 100 pounds wheat bran, worth 60 cents, contains 12.6 pounds protein and 47 pounds carbohydrates and fat. It is quite evident that bran is far cheaper than the potatoes for feeding purposes at the prices named, and if a farmer can get 25 cents per bushel for the potatoes he can afford to haul them some distance to exchange them for bran at such prices. The potatoes would require cooking if fed to cows. I believe, however, that if one should feed potatoes to stock he will get rather better results than would be indicated by a chemical expression as I have here given. Animals require variety in their food in order to make the best gains, and the farmer who feeds nothing but hay and bran, or cornstalks and bran all winter long will find that for a time his animals will show remarkable results from almost any new kind of palatable food they may receive.—Hoard's Dairyman.

### The True Road to Success.

The longer we live the less we believe in extraordinary talents as an element in success. It is by the sweat of the brow and not by any sudden inspiration of genius, that the ground brings forth seed for the sower and bread for the eater; it is by the sweat of the brain that the fields of the intellect are made to bud and blossom. If any one would be of use, let him not seek an easy place. Let him take a situation which will tax his strength. The persevering turtle is sure to reach the goal before the sleeping fox. In these days there is need to punch the gong of hard work.—United Farming System.