

cushion to fasten the work to, this pretty patchwork can be accomplished. The smallest bits of cloth or velvet come in, and an ordinary penny is used for the model of each piece. The foundation should be something strong and dark in colour, and strong black thread should be used to sew the pieces with.

An invalid lady I have recently heard of, having the use of the right hand only, manages to do the most beautiful knitting (of course, not stockings, socks, or anything requiring four needles) with two rather long needles, one pin being fastened at the edge of a table by means of one of those small, old-fashioned pincushions, with a screwed clamp, which fastens to the table. A hole for the needle made through this keeps it quite firm. The knitting off this needle can be accomplished with the right hand. Wooden or bone needles are best, as steel are too slippery. Petticoats, Afghan rugs, couvettes, can all be accomplished in this way with one hand. This little pincushion might be fastened to one of the invalid tables we have before illustrated, and so made useful to the partially-reclining invalid. They have been found invaluable by a paralysed lady for many years.

What is called rack-frame knitting, for which full instructions and diagrams were given in vol. ii. of the *THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER*, page 488, is also a suitable work for invalids with only one hand; so is the old hairpin crochet, provided the small frame can be fastened on some small stand. Berlin wool work, crewel and silk embroidery in upright standing frames, or arrasene work, are all within the reach of our invalids with one useful hand; so is the bright mosaic work with pieces of glass, which was brought out some time ago, we believe by Salviati, the great Italian glass manufacturer.

But of all the sources of happiness to the invalid, I think the possession of a "hobby" is certainly the most valuable. Be it what it may, the most harmless and foolish, or the deepest and wisest, the invalid's hobby will constitute her life's pleasure, and will in some cases conduce to her better health. A collection of some kind is one form of hobby, which should be encouraged. Autographs, postage stamps, a penny museum, coins, and seals, even down to the wonderful collection, which a friend has amassed, of the pipes of all nations and people.

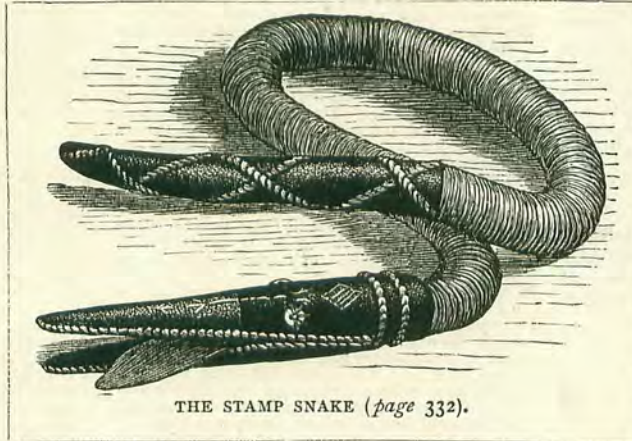
And now, having gathered my few last suggestions together, I will take my leave of those to whom my articles have been addressed, and for whom they have been written, in the anxious hope that, whatever the occupation suggested, whether small or great, it may be a safeguard against despairing and repining thought, and lead to a brightening of the mental vision. May morbid fancies and grievous repining flee away in the light of the cheerfulness brought about by activity and work, and so, in patient waiting, in quiet submission to His dealings, we shall watch for the day dawning from the everlasting hills.

DORA DE BLAQUIÈRE.



THE DISADVANTAGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

WE hear a great deal nowadays about the advantages of the higher education of women. During the last few years high schools have multiplied in every direction: colleges and halls have been opened at both Universities, and girl graduates are no longer *rare aves*.



THE STAMP SNAKE (page 332).

Now comes a question—Is this altogether advisable? Are there not great disadvantages as well as advantages connected with this system?

It is well known that a woman's *physique* is not equal to a man's, and the brain power depends very much on the *physique* which nourishes the brain—*ergo*, the average woman will never equal the average man on his own ground. We do not deny that a clever woman can equal or surpass an average man; nor that the present system of education is infinitely superior to the old dreary round of lessons. But even to that there are two sides. While girls are learning Greek and mathematics, they have little time for the needlework, which used to be a part of every girl's education, and which they will want to understand at some period of their lives. It is the fashion now rather to sneer at darning, mending, and other trifling household duties; but if a woman is to be a wife and mother, she will need a good deal of such knowledge. It is a great thing to know the relation of one angle to another; but it is not every mathematician who brings her knowledge to a practical issue with regard to tables and chairs, or can tell whether a room has been properly dusted or not.

Woman was created as an helpmeet for man, not as his equal or rival; and woman nowadays is very apt to forget that fact.

In our life and country the little things are the woman's work; and many of our best and noblest women are those who spend their whole lives in trifles (not trifling). Little things—soothing a fractious baby, mending a husband's shirt, doing a little for the poor, caring for servants, keeping the household machinery oiled—

"Little things
On little wings
Bear little souls to heaven."

It has yet to be proved that Cambridge examinations assist women in their household duties, and one of the Oxford nonsense rhymes has a terrible significance in its inner meaning:

"Who will marry you, my pretty maid?"
'Advanced women don't marry, sir,' she said."

Does not that mean that while the talented women of this generation are studying to equal men on their own ground they are leaving the women's posts for the incapables? If this comes to be the rule may God help the men!

Another side of woman's influence follows naturally on this. Do we not all know dozens, if not hundreds, of cases, even among our own friends, where "the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife"? Where the man who has been careless and irreligious is gradually brought into the right way by his wife? Where a mother's quiet wisdom keeps her sons straight, among the innumerable temptations which beset them, at school, at college, and on their going into life? Do we not all know at least a few of the women of whom it might be said—

"She never found fault with you; never implied Your wrong by her right; and yet men by her side Grew nobler; girls purer, as through the whole town The children were gladder that pulled at her gown."

We cannot help thinking that the great fault of the education of the present day is that the learning is made an end, and not a means. There is an old-fashioned notion that education is a preparation for the work of life, and that no amount of knowledge can take the place of practical usefulness. No doubt a certain amount of knowledge is necessary to fit us for this life; but, married or unmarried, a woman (if only she knows what she knows, and is taught when a child to do her work thoroughly) can find plenty of work lying ready to her hand, and she will be far more useful doing than studying.

A woman's natural quickness of perception may often be of the greatest possible use in matters which seem above her ken; but if she tries to advance too far she will certainly fall. Dwarfs on giants' shoulders see farther than giants; but we all know the fate of the dwarf who fought by the giant's side.

M. P. S.

VARIETIES.

SHORT-SIGHTED MORTALS.—When waves and trouble come over us, we say that troubles will never end; when God sendeth a fair wind, we think that the fair wind will never cease blowing.

NEW AND SECOND-HAND.
If thou wouldst tidings understand
Take them not at second-hand.

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE CAT.—People who have a strong antipathy to cats detect their presence by the odour, in circumstances which would be thought impossible. A lady in my study one day suddenly remarked, "There is a cat in the room." On my assuring her there was none, she replied, "Then there is one in the passage." I went out to satisfy her; there was no cat in the passage, but on the first landing-stairs, looking through the railings, sure enough, was the cat.—*G. H. Lewes.*

A GREAT INFLUENCE.
CHEMISTS tell us that a single grain of iodine will impart colour to seven thousand times its weight of water. It is so in higher things; one companion, one book, one habit may affect the whole of life and character.



AN OCCASIONAL PAGE OF AMATEUR CONTRIBUTIONS.

NOTE.

THERE are few habits so conducive to a well-regulated mind as the careful writing down of one's thoughts and sentiments in black and white, and our God-given power of influencing others for good is extended, if we are able to express ourselves clearly and correctly. These amateur compositions are inserted with a view to encouraging our girls in the practice of committing their thoughts and experiences to paper for the benefit of their sisters. Nothing thus printed is to be looked upon as perfect in composition, and the Editor wishes it to be understood that he will print only such verses or papers as shall be written in correct taste, interesting in subject to the general reader, and shall contain the age of the writer, and be certified as her *bonâ fide* work by a parent, minister, or teacher.

LIFE'S MUSIC.

Do the chords vibrate but lightly?
Or are they full and deep?
Does the music murmur gently,
Like a little child asleep?

Or is it harsh and broken,
Like moanings of the wind,
While we grow weary seeking
A tone which we cannot find?

There is a sweet note somewhere,
If we could only see,
It would make a sweeter music
And a fuller harmony.

Perhaps that note we're needing
From others' life is caught;
And its melody is answered
In our own deep train of thought.

For everyone must perfect
His work of love and life,
Must keep it purely spotless
In the midst of sin and strife.

And there is One to help us,
Who knows that we alone
Can never make it holy,
Never purify its tone.

He takes our burden from us,
And tells us in His love
Our life-work shall be perfect
In Our Father's home above.

OLIVE HAWTHORNE (aged 15½).

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—The first remark I wish to make on the article entitled "The Disadvantages of Higher Education," by "M. P. S.,"* is, that it is unmistakably written by a man, and one who certainly has never had a wife who has been highly educated, or he would not have wasted his time in penning the article before mentioned. He says a woman's physique is not equal to that of a man's, and therefore the brain power of a woman can never equal a man's. That may be; but is it necessary, does it follow that a woman after she has learnt to read and write, to sew, clean a house, and cook a dinner, should allow her brains to lie dormant? I think not. A woman's education must go on all her life, exactly the same as a man's, or she will never be even a helpmeet for her husband.

If God had intended woman to be merely man's slave he would never have furnished her with reasoning powers. She need not have had even a tongue, for she could have cooked his dinner and mended his shirt quite as well without one. I think if such had been the case the emancipation of slaves would never have taken place. As for girls never learning sewing nowadays, I know that any girl educated in a Board School thoroughly understands the practical work of cutting out and putting together materials of all kinds.

Do you think, Mr. Editor, that "M. P. S." ever read Sidney Smith's "Pleasures of Knowledge"? If he did, I wonder if he skipped the following passages or read them:—"I appeal to the experience of every man who is in the habit of exercising his mind vigorously and well, whether there is not a satisfaction in it which tells him he has been acting up to one of the great objects of his existence? The end of nature has been answered: his faculties have done that which they were created to do; not languidly occupied upon trifles, not enervated by sensual gratification, but exercised in that toil which is so congenial to their nature and so worthy of their strength."

This applies equally to a woman as to one of the other sex. There is an anecdote I have read which I think is appropriate to the subject in hand. It is as follows. "When I lived among the Choctaw Indians I held a consultation with one of their chiefs respecting the successive stages of their progress in the arts of civilised life, and among other things he informed me that at their start they made a great mistake—they only sent boys to school. These boys came home intelligent

men, but they married uneducated and uncivilised wives, and the uniform result was the children were all like their mothers. The father soon lost all his interest both in wife and children. "And now," said he, "if we would educate but one class of our children, we would choose the girls, for when they become mothers they educate their sons."

In THE GIRL'S OWN a few months since I read that God did not take woman from man's head, so as to be his superior; nor from his feet, so as to be his inferior; but from his side, in order to make her his equal and companion, and unless a woman is educated she certainly cannot be either his equal or companion.

But, Mr. Editor, I fear I am taking up your valuable space, so I will be contented with merely mentioning that some women cannot be wives and mothers. They have their living to earn and must go out in the world, and if they are not educated, and highly educated too, I think the right word to apply to them would be incapables. I infer from "M. P. S." that he considers all women's reasoning faculties are not alike. He says that "While the talented women of this generation are studying to equal men on their own ground, they are leaving the women's posts for the incapables." Now, all women are not geniuses, neither are they incapables. There are some go-betweens, and these are the ones fitted to be wives and mothers. I do not mean to say that a genius would not make a good wife and mother, but possibly her genius requires her to concentrate her whole energies on one object. Then the go-betweens? They are improved, refined, and better able to train their sons to be great, good, and noble men, than if they had no sympathy with their tastes and feelings. A man enjoys talking to another, about politics for instance, and more so when he knows his opponent is "worthy of his steel." Would he not feel just the same pleasure in arguing with his wife, if she were educated, so that she could understand and talk sensibly and intelligently with him? Then, again, a talented woman is not obliged to be a heathen. Possibly, indeed most probably, she will be an earnest-minded Christian.

"M. P. S." also says if a woman advances too far she will certainly fall. I say the same of a man, but a woman cannot advance too far if she be sure of every step she takes. I could say more, Mr. Editor, but will refrain. And now, with numerous good wishes to you and "Our Girls,"—I am, yours sincerely,

BERTHA MARY JENKINSON
(Aged 14 years and 7 months).

* M. P. S. is not a man, but the daughter of an illustrious dignitary of the Church of England.—Ed.