

## MEMORIES.

THE golden sunset's last faint ray  
 Has faded out of sight ;  
 'Midst lingering shadows of the day,  
 Comes on the wintry night ;  
 And sitting by the fire-light's glow,  
 I watch the ruddy blaze,  
 And muse on all the long-ago,  
 The happy by-gone days.

The past events of early youth,  
 Fond childhood's grief and glee,  
 Shine forth again with vivid truth,  
 Painted by Memory.  
 I seem to pass through life again,  
 To feel its hopes and fears,  
 To taste once more the joy and pain  
 Of well-nigh seventy years.

And as I watch the blazing glow,  
 I see myself stand there,  
 Just as I was long years ago,  
 When I was young and fair ;  
 When *one* had whispered of his love,  
 And blushes rosy-red  
 Told plainly any words above  
 The words I left unsaid.

And then a happy joyous time  
 Gleams forth from out the fire,  
 And fancy weaves a merry chime  
 From a far-distant spire—  
 A merry chime of wedding-bells  
 That floated on the breeze,  
 And made sweet music in the dells,  
 And whispered to the trees.

Since then full many and many a year  
 Has swiftly passed away,  
 With many a sorrow, many a tear,  
 And many a cloudy day ;  
 And yet life's joyous sunny gleams  
 Have oft shone golden-bright,  
 And summer morning's gladd'ning beams  
 Have followed each dark night.

Ah, every scene of long-past days !  
 I see you all once more,  
 In the fitful fire-light's dancing blaze,  
 In the shadows on the floor !  
 Oh, memories, fond and sweet to me !  
 I hold you very dear,  
 Like the notes of some soft melody  
 Heard in a by-gone year !

G. W.

## EDUCATION IN QUEEN'S COLLEGE, LONDON.



THE question of the higher education of women has, during the last ten or twelve years, taken a prominent place in the social movements of our time. On some points—such, for example, as the admission of women to practise the medical profession, or as candidates for university degrees—public opinion is still more or less divided, and it is not our purpose in the present paper to take any part on one side or the other in the controversy. On the one hand, it may be pleaded that the wide induction of the experience of many centuries has marked out certain limits of physical and intellectual power, which define, if not by a hard and fast line, yet with sufficient precision for all practical purposes, the place of woman in the economy of home or of public life, and make that place more or less subordinate. On the other, it is urged that the experience so appealed to does but represent a large number of experiments made under imperfect and unfavourable conditions, and that there is room accordingly for fresh experiments under new and more promising circumstances.

But whatever view may be taken of these debatable problems, there is a fairly unanimous agreement that the education of women of all classes, except that of

the lowest, for which the action of Government in the inspection of primary schools had provided something like a definite, though it might be a low, standard, had been left till lately far too much to chance, and we may welcome every measure which aims, more or less successfully, at giving to female education a character of greater thoroughness.

The admission of girls, among the senior or junior candidates, to the local examinations conducted by the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London ; the inspection of girls' schools by examiners appointed by those universities ; the classes opened at Cambridge and in our large commercial and manufacturing cities, by lecturers from the same centres ; the organised system of tuition by correspondence, in which Cambridge has been specially active ; lastly, the College for more advanced students at Girton—all these have done much, and are likely to accomplish yet more, in the way of at once widening the range and raising the standard of education among those who have come directly or indirectly under their influence.

Our object in the present paper is to give a brief account of the work of an institution which was in the van of this movement at a time when it had as yet to struggle against routine and prépossessions, before the subject had become popular and, in some sense, fashionable. In the year 1848 the Rev. F. D.

Maurice, in this as in so many other things a leader of thought to his generation, felt that much of the future of England depended on a better culture being provided for the women of its upper and middle classes than that offered in the fashionable seminaries and academies. With the help of one of the practical philanthropists of the time, the Rev. D. Laing, the founder of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution, of the Rev. C. G. Nicolay, then Librarian of King's College, and of such men as Charles Kingsley, Archbishop Trench (then a colleague of Mr. Maurice's at King's College), and others, a few classes were opened, and introductory lectures given at a house in Harley Street belonging to the society with which Mr. Laing was connected. It was soon seen that the experiment met a real want, and before long Queen's College (the name was assumed with the special sanction of Her Majesty, who showed her sympathy with its work by a donation of £250) felt that it needed and could claim a more permanent organisation. A charter of incorporation was granted by the Crown in 1853; another house taken, which gave accommodation to boarders as well as additional classrooms; and the whole management of the College placed for educational purposes under a Committee of professors, subject to the financial and general control of a Council. The Bishop of London was made Visitor of the College, and that office has accordingly been held successively by Bishops Blomfield, Tait, and Jackson. The council has from time to time numbered on its list such men as Bishops Wilberforce and Lonsdale, Dean Alford, Lord Ebury, Sir Edmund Beckett, and a large body of Lady Visitors, who, as their name implied, were frequently present at the classes, and so provided for the maintenance of that moral discipline and refinement of manner without which, in the judgment of most English mothers, the mere training of the intellect would be a miserably insufficient education.

And so the work went on and prospered. Speaking roughly, for many years there was an average of about a hundred girls taking the entire course of education in the College, forty preparing in the junior department or school, sixty or seventy taking one or more classes at their discretion. Several scholarships were founded, partly by the professors themselves, partly by the liberality of private benefactors, giving a free education for two, three, or four years. Boarders came in sufficient numbers. Ladies who had been pupils of the College obtained distinction at public examinations, or became prominent in educational work themselves. With a view to securing thorough efficiency in all parts of their work, the Committee invited the inspection of examiners appointed by the University of Cambridge.

The years as they passed witnessed, of course, many changes in the staff of teachers. Mr. Maurice was succeeded in the office of Principal by Dr. Trench, Dr. Trench by Dean Stanley, he in his turn by the Rev. Llewelyn Davies. On Mr. Davies' resignation, at the beginning of the present year, the Bishop of London, at the request of the Committee, nominated Professor E. H. Plumptre, who had for

many years exercised the chief executive authority as Dean and Secretary. Through death, infirmity, or other causes, it lost the services of Dr. Bernays, Mr. Stopford Brooke, Mr. Henry Warren, Professor Lonsdale, and lastly, of Sir Sterndale Bennett.

The fortunes of the College received a severe shock two years ago, from which it has as yet scarcely recovered. Extensive repairs were found to be necessary in the fabric of the houses which it occupied in Harley Street. As these went on, the defects of the original structure became more patent. Wall after wall gave way, and the College work had to be carried on, at great cost, in temporary premises in Stratford Place, while the work of rebuilding went on. The enormous outlay which all this involved exhausted the reserve fund of the College, and although its friends came forward liberally to its assistance (the list being headed by the Queen and the Princess of Wales), it has been left with a debt of over £2,000, which for some time to come will more or less cripple its action. It speaks well, we think, for those on whom the chief responsibility of action fell at this time of trial, that they did not lose heart and hope under the pressure of such adverse circumstances. They felt that this was more than ever the time to perfect whatever was lacking in their organisation, and to raise the standard of the education given by them to the highest attainable efficiency. With this view they obtained the sanction of the Crown to an alteration in their charter, by which six ladies, representing the body of Lady Visitors, were added to the Committee, which up to this time had consisted exclusively of professors, and thus secured the advantage of an independent judgment, and the co-operation of ladies specially interested in promoting the higher culture of their own sex. Among those who have been elected under this new law we note, as commanding the confidence and respect of the public, the names of Lady Montague, the Dowager Lady Stanley of Alderley, Mrs. Hensleigh Wedgwood, and Miss Anna Swanwick.

For the first time also in the October of last year they established a systematic examination for all candidates for admission, so that those who were found competent might be placed according to their abilities, and those whose previous training had been too imperfect to qualify them to attend the class teaching of the College with advantage, might be sent to the more elementary education of the school. Happily this has had the desired effect, without leading to any diminution in the number of pupils; and as the subjects of the examination are announced beforehand, the candidates for admission know what to work for, and are thus brought in some measure under the influence of the college system even before they enter.

The Committee have also returned to the plan—which had for three or four years been intermitted—of submitting their work at the close of each academic year to the inspection of independent examiners, appointed by the Syndicate of the University of Cambridge. The result has proved in a very high degree satisfactory. The work of examining was undertaken by the Rev. John Bell, late Fellow of Clare College;

Thomas W. Levin, M.A., Fellow of St. Catherine's College; and H. W. Bowler, of the South Kensington School of Art. The following extracts from their reports will show the estimate which they formed of the teaching received by the pupils:—

"It is evident that the method of conveying instruction at Queen's College is efficient and successful. The general average of marks is high, and in most of the subjects the percentage of failures is small. Modern languages have been learnt with the mind as well as the tongue, and in all cases the knowledge of grammar displayed is extensive and accurate."

The manner of the pupils examined orally is described as "uniformly courteous and intelligent, the result evidently of good discipline as well as good teaching."

German, Latin, theology, English literature, geometry, and natural philosophy are mentioned as subjects in which the work of most of the pupils examined was specially satisfactory.

The report of the art-teaching of the College, while it suggests some modification of the course now pursued, speaks of "the remarkable uniformity of success" in the work done by the students of landscape-drawing, and of those in figure-drawing as being "effectively trained so as to seize with considerable power the general character and aspect of their examples."

The lists of the Oxford Local Examinations just published confirm the favourable impression produced by these statements, one pupil being placed in the second division of the junior candidates, four in

the third division of the senior, and three in that of the junior. One pupil occupies the second place out of candidates from all England in German, and is bracketed with another in the same honourable position for knowledge of music.

Such is the brief story of the changes and chances through which the institution of which we have undertaken to give a brief account has passed. Few will question that it has done a useful work in the past. Most of our readers will, we believe, join in the hope that the future may bring with it yet larger opportunities and a fuller measure of success. If it no longer stands, as it once did, almost alone, and has to compete with institutions of a like character, this, it may be hoped, will only serve to stir up those who are engaged in its management to more resolute efforts to maintain its character. That which has been its aim throughout, as defined by the great teacher whom we have spoken of as its founder, has been not to give a narrow or professional training, still less one merely brilliant and superficial, stimulated by prizes and an excessive competition, or tending to revolutionise society by asserting the rights of women in this or that direction. It has been content to do what lay within its reach to develop to the uttermost the capacities of women, in the belief that this would best enable them to discharge the duties which, under the existing social organisation of our country, actually devolve on them, and that this in its turn would lead in due time to the recognition of any new rights which might be the correlative and complement of those duties.

---

## THE GATHERER.

### New Homes for the Working Classes.

Any movement for the improvement of the dwellings of the working classes in large towns is deserving of consideration. They have been ill-housed too long. The results of deficient accommodation and the absence of all comfort we have frequently dwelt on. Those who are led by professional duty or philanthropic interest to visit the homes of the industrious poor know how much—in the shape of disease, vice, and misery—the deplorable state of the houses is answerable for. It is certain that if the humbler working class were properly lodged in clean, healthy, and respectable tenements, drunkenness and immorality, with the consequent pauperism and crime, would be greatly diminished.

From time to time philanthropic associations have been formed to provide better accommodation and improved dwellings. But the evil is so gigantic that during thirty years not more than a tenth of the existing requirements of the metropolis alone has been supplied. More vigorous efforts and associations on a larger scale than ever are needed, ere all can be comfortably and conveniently housed. An Act passed

last session by Parliament "for facilitating the Improvement of the Dwellings of the Working Classes," will do much to aid the movement; and to give practical effect to the objects of this Act, associations of sufficient magnitude have recently been started.

One of these, the National Dwellings Society, has for its object the purchasing of houses now occupied by the poor in the overcrowded parishes of London, in order to have them thoroughly repaired, drained, and, as far as possible, supplied with a constant service of water. Large and small blocks of houses are also to be built on the most approved principles, special care being given to sanitary arrangements.

We note, as a matter of curiosity, that the philanthropy of the society is in a business spirit, and that the shareholders hope to get a reasonable return for their money. No class of house property yields such large profits as houses let off to working people, the average returns being from ten to twenty per cent. upon the capital outlay. The National Dwellings Society, however, is restricted by its articles to six per cent. as the maximum dividend; should more be made, those who derive benefit will be the working class tenants.