

theological subject. This might well be imitated in our own universities.

In the Lawrence Scientific School is contained the great museum of comparative zoology, the specimens in which were collected and arranged by the late Professor Agassiz. No such magnificent collection can be found in any British university; and it may indeed be incidentally remarked that large and well-ordered museums are very important features of most American colleges.

In the ordinary undergraduate department, consisting of those who are proceeding to the B.A. degree, the teaching is different from that of the professional schools, "recitations" taking the place of lectures. Each student belongs to a certain "division," and this division is called up every day for an hour's "recitation." The tutor who takes the division has a number of cards, containing the names of the students; and drawing one of these out, he calls on the student whose name it bears to "recite." If the recitation be in Virgil, the student proceeds to read about ten lines, which he translates, and is then called on to answer questions in parsing, derivation, or on incidents mentioned in the text. If the subject be geometry, the student is called on to state and prove a given theorem. There are generally three recitations in different subjects every day.

The university was formerly officially connected with the State of Massachusetts; but in 1866 this connection was dissolved. The governing body is the Corporation, consisting of two houses, the Senate and House of Convocation. Three trustees are also elected from time to time, among the more eminent graduates, whose duty it is to control the finances and guard the property and monetary interest of the university.

The staff of teachers is a large one, consisting of tutors, professors, and assistant professors. The tutors perform the same duties as their English namesakes at Oxford and Cambridge. The number of professors is very large, there being at present about fifty-six, or ten more than at Oxford; and among these are some very eminent men, as Goodwin, the Professor of Greek, and author of a work on Greek Moods, used at Cambridge for the Classical Tripos; Lowell, the poet, essayist, and humorist, Professor of Belles-lettres; Oliver Wendell Holmes, Professor of Anatomy, whose delightful books are so popular in England; J. P. Cooke, author of "The New Chemistry;" Asa Gray, the well-known botanist, and others. The assistant professors resemble the *privat-docenten* of German universities, being distinguished young graduates who hope ere long to sit in the professor's chair. Among these is the eloquent young Everett, who graduated at the English Cambridge, and is the author of that delightful book "On the Cam." All these various grades of teachers are appointed by the Corporation of the university—generally, but not necessarily, from her own graduates. Longfellow, who preceded Lowell in the chair of Belles-lettres, was a graduate of Bowdoin College, in Maine; Agassiz studied at a Swiss university.

Harvard has steadily resisted all attempts to admit women-students within her walls; but within the last three years she has adopted from the mother university at old Cambridge the system of women's examinations.

The total number of students in the university (including the various departments) is at present about 1,200: most of them are from Massachusetts and the other New England States, but there are several from New York and the Central and Western States, and three or four from England.

## LADIES' HOMES.



AMONG the most valuable achievements of a refined and truly Christian benevolence, may safely be reckoned the formation and establishment of those interesting institutions known as Ladies' Homes. The need of such institutions is but too apparent. Various circumstances are at work to bring ladies, properly so called, into a position in which aid of some description is indispensable. The failures that are everywhere occurring, the great and continued rise in the prices of the necessaries of life, the difficulties to the elderly and physically infirm in the way of obtaining employment, and the depreciations which of late years have taken place in the value of money are so many causes, all of which go to swell the sad effect of reducing to comparative indigence those whose social status would seem to demand a happier state of things. Among the inmates of these homes will be found the widows and unmarried daughters of military and naval officers, of clergymen and barristers—of those whose means

were once correctly expressed in the possession of a well-appointed domestic establishment, and the full complement of those normal surroundings of refined and high-class society with which, as a rule, these appendages of comfort will be found to be linked. The alteration in circumstances which induces ladies thus brought up to seek eagerly for admission to the Ladies' Homes, is better imagined than described. The height of the pillar must be allowed to determine in each case the length of the shadow. The intensity of that shadow is perhaps really appreciable by none save those who are the immediate subjects of it. It involves the forced surrender of all that long enjoyment has come to look upon as essential; the exchange of a pleasant dwelling for a dreary lodging in a third-class locality; the laying aside of the luxuries and refinements of former days for the privations and meannesses of impaired fortunes; solitude, becoming year by year more complete, instead of the sparkle and gaiety of happy domestic and social circles; the hourly burden of small anxieties, in lieu of the easy

circumstances that could part with a five or ten-pound note without feeling its loss. To lighten some of these burdens is the aim of Ladies' Homes, which, we should add, are usually aided by voluntary subscriptions, in order to prevent the pecuniary loss which would otherwise be incurred.

Homes have been opened in various parts of the country. The space at our command limits us, however, to the notice of those in or near London, which we may broadly divide into two classes, the first providing rooms only, and the second both board and lodging. The plans adopted in the organisation of these Homes are, as a rule, pretty much the same, the variations consisting chiefly in the limitations or otherwise of class and creed, and the amount of income of which the inmates may be the possessors. In some the residents are the widows and unmarried daughters of deceased clergymen only. Others offer their benefits freely to all. The inmates of the Clergy Ladies' Homes must be communicants. In the Kensington, Bayswater, and Wandsworth Homes, professed membership of the Church of England, or of some other Protestant denomination, suffices. In all the above-mentioned Homes the rule is compulsory that requires the ladies to furnish their own rooms, provide their own meals, and pay a small weekly sum for attendance. The Homes will invariably be found in some respectable suburb—in streets or terraces in which persons of a respectable class only are likely to take up their abode. Great care is exercised in the admission of candidates. Recommendations are sometimes insisted on from clergymen only. Here and there a medical man and a lady must add their testimonies to those of the clergymen. One great conclusion may, however, be drawn from all these preliminary precautions, which is this—that residence in the Homes is equivalent to a well-grounded, strongly-worded certificate of respectability, alike of moral character and previous social position. Should it subsequently turn out that the conduct of an inmate belies in any respect the assurance thus given, expulsion is certain to follow. The moral tone, indeed, of these institutions is exceptionally high. Proof appears on every hand that the Homes are neither asylums for the indolent nor shelters for persons of doubtful character, but calm, safe, and respectable retreats for virtuous but adversity-buffed ladies, in which they may find sure anchorage for the rest of their days. The notice of this first class of Homes may very properly end with the names and addresses of their respective founders and managers:—Miss Shepherd, 27, Ossington Street, or Hereford Road, Bayswater—the originator of the Homes in which annuitants only are received, and the success of which is best seen in the constant additions to those already opened. Miss Reid, 13, Southwick Street, Hyde Park, the lady to whose kind exertions the widows and unmarried daughters of the clergy are indebted for the handsome residences thus secured to them in Formosa Street, Maida Hill, W., and in 19, Westmoreland Road, Westbourne Park, W. Miss Jessie Lee, 2, Lansdowne Terrace, Wand-

worth. These ladies are the commanders-in-chief, so to speak, of forces and auxiliaries, whose valuable services deserve public approval and support. The self-imposed task is an arduous one. Responsibilities for expenses incurred constitute but a portion of the list that doing good unrolls before the eyes of those who labour therein. The ladies who can manage such institutions well must be generals, chancellors of exchequer, and judges rolled into one.

We now come to another class of Ladies' Homes, those namely in which board is added to lodging. A small sum is paid weekly by each lady, which enables her to obtain these necessaries of existence at half the price elsewhere demanded for them. The Institution in Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, is in all likelihood the highest of existing boarding-house Homes, in or out of London. The terms are high, from fourteen to sixteen shillings a week, with the unusual requirement of a full three months' prepayment. Each lady finds her own bed-linen, dinner-napkins, knife, fork, and spoon. Each, too, has a sleeping chamber appropriated wholly to her own use. The daily life is pursued, however, in one room common to all. It may appear that terms such as these offer no advantages, direct or indirect; that for the sum of £40 per annum board and lodging can be obtained, either in respectable private houses or ladies' schools; and that the three months' payment in advance, together with some minor stipulations, as regards "notice" for instance, indicate privileges on the Home side, for which private houses would sigh in vain. But if we contrast the actualities of so-called "genteel" board and residence in a private family, or select establishment for young ladies, with the well-spread board of a first-class Ladies' Home, we shall see that even at £40 per annum, with a three months' prepayment, the gain is decidedly with the inmates of the Home. True, there is here what may be termed public boarding-house life, in opposition to the privacy most persons who have attained to middle age find essential to comfort. But on the other side are the incalculable benefits derived from residence in large, airy rooms, the provisions of a really good table, and the efficient services of well-trained domestics.

A less costly Home, of the boarding class, exists at Uxbridge. The charge here is the extremely moderate one of half-a-guinea per week.

The Homes really to be depended on are those which make their appeals for subscriptions openly, and have annual reports, through which to acknowledge the amount of pecuniary help received, and make known the details connected with their expenditure. Homes otherwise conducted have an aptitude for subsiding at a moment's notice. The former class repudiates a reputation for benevolence, and prosperity, and liberality of provision, gained at the expense of a careless and injudicious employment of the funds entrusted to its use; while the latter seems to gather poor ladies under one roof, to entertain them awhile with unreasonably good accommodations, only to turn them adrift at a period perhaps of their lives when change of residence is equivalent to the pronouncement of the death-warrant.