

lar boy is sent among strangers to be polished and reset, and the impulsive, willing girl is bound down by the restrictions and limits that ignorant fashion prescribes.

A wise foresight would provide a useful vent for the boy's overflowing strength and activity, and an object worthy of the girl's time and thoughts.

Girls are clever, imitative, industrious, quick with their fingers, tasteful, and fond of the beautiful in art and nature. With them, power is wasted for want of a practical education. No greater piece of injustice can be done than to let an accountable being grow up incapable of self-help and self-government. The superficial knowledge acquired at a boarding-school, which has no aim but to kill time, is the groundwork of all future incapacity and folly. The golden hours are spent on a variety of ungenial studies, where all should be devoted to the study of one rational pursuit, for which the student has talent and liking.

The necessity for concentrating all one's energies on a single pursuit, exists as strongly for girls as for boys. Marriage can no longer be regarded as the end of all efforts; and the once miserable position of old-maidhood is past forever. Now the dignity of honest labor is recognized. Women scorn to live on the bounty of brothers and uncles, and learn to use their abilities in their own behalf. The days of petting animals, indulging in small gossip, and sinking into snappish nobodies, are over, at least in the United States. There are honorable work and scope for all women who prefer a single life to a loveless marriage. Teaching, telegraphy, photography, stenography, and many other pursuits, are opening their treasures to the abilities of women. Patient industry and the proper choice of a pursuit, are the only requisites. Good management is the secret of success, and there is no failure where the knowledge is thorough and well applied. What we want is thoroughness, whether in the baking of a loaf, the cutting of a dress, or the study of an art. We have listened long enough to the sneer that men are thorough, and women superficial. Some progressive men in the West have declared that if a woman can do a piece of work as well as a man can, she is entitled to the same pay. So let women rejoice! Here is a great flood of sunshine and hope flowing in upon them. Only think of a woman with \$2,500 a year, enough to support a little family! Such an income is worth years of study, and the thorough knowledge that wins it, is a crown in itself. So, girls, find out what you like, and make it your business to master one at least of the branches of learning. Men do it; why not women? Look about you, and see how a thorough knowledge of one thing pays, and be wise in your generation. Mr. A. is a first-class book-keeper, and supports a family thereby. Mr. B. is a machinist, and does likewise; but, if he were to combine book-keeping and making machines, and do both indifferently, he would not be so successful. Mr. C. is a musician, and has more pupils offered him than he can wait upon, just because he is a first-class musician, perfects his gift, and does not trifle with several. He is a success. Mr. D., with an equal talent for music, has also a taste for painting; instead of devoting himself to one gift, he fritters away his time at both, does neither well, and, with all his ability, never makes ends meet.

This general-utility business is the rock on which girls are wrecked, and those who desire to depend on themselves must avoid it and find their proper groove in the world's machinery.

**Women as Physicians.**—There is a great deal of controversy going on; from time to time, in regard to the advantage to be derived from women acting as physicians. There can be no real question as to the propriety of any man or woman doing that for which they possess a manifest vocation; but the difficulty is, that nine-tenths of the women who take up the profession of medicine—and we use the phrase "take up" advisedly—do it simply and solely because they consider it a more respectable and lucrative method of earning a living than sewing, and easier than learning engraving, drawing, or any species of handicraft.

Three-fourths of the young women who commence the study of medicine, do it without having received even an ordinary thorough English education. They want to do *something*; and parents or friends, ambitious for their advancement, or willing to give them what they call a chance, make efforts and sacrifices to pay their way through the doubtful years of preparatory life, quite incapable of judging of their progress, careless of the inaccuracy and want of thoroughness which they carry into their new calling, and only anxious, like the girls themselves, for returns in the shape of fame and income.

There is quite enough of charlatanry and quackery about the medical profession already, to make the addition of a large class of half-fledged practitioners to its corps a more than doubtful blessing; and we strongly advise young women to chop wood, plant potatoes, or pursue any other honest and healthy mode of obtaining a living, rather than add another to the number of pretenders who rush up to the temple, without knowing the first letter in the true alphabet of science.

It is not women-doctors, after all, that we want, but women who will so live and teach others to live, that we shall have no necessity for doctors. None know better than doctors themselves that drugs do not cure disease; none know better how destitute of all scientific accuracy their system of medicine is. The best doctors we have are those who are honest enough to teach their patients how to get along without them; and it is a curious fact that some of the most honest and thoroughly educated women who have graduated as physicians within the past fifteen years, have relinquished the profession, and in some instances a lucrative practice, because they found it a trade and not a science.

The "lucrative" part of it, however, is by no means certain. The successful women-doctors can be counted upon the fingers, and the incomes of these are either greatly exaggerated, or increased by special and fortuitous circumstances not generally known; but of the army of women who begin and break down, who fall back upon marriage or other resources, or die and make no sign, nothing is known.

It is, we believe, however, safe to assert that, so far, three dollars have been spent for one obtained in legitimate practice by lady physicians. We therefore advise young women to expend whatever means they have in securing a good, sound education, which they can put to use in some practical way, and not to study the trade of medicine unless their fitness for it presents itself as an unanswerable argument.

**WIDE POPULARITY.**—Whenever we find a man who enjoys a wide popularity, we may be assured, however bad his reputation may be, that he has some good qualities in an eminent degree.

#### SKIPPING-ROPE FOR A GIRL.

TAKE a rope about 80 inches long and fasten at eight inches from one end of it two red cords wound up in balls; let one of these lie on each side of the rope, and taking that on the left hand pass it across the rope, then place the right-hand cord over the left-hand cord, underneath the rope, and through the loop, and draw both cords tight. Repeat this the whole length of the rope, leaving eight inches uncovered at the other end. Make the handles by covering a tube of cardboard with wadding and red cashmere winding rows of twine lengthwise over it, and working over the middle with red wool. Slip these handles on to the ends of the rope, adding a woolen ball at each end.

**SHORT ROAD TO MISERY.**—Begin by fancying that no one cares for you, that you are not of use to anybody—a sort of nonentity in the household, where your place would not be missed, but easily supplied. Reflect on your want of beauty, and lead yourself to believe that no one can love a plain face, or think you agreeable because there are others more charming. Fancy that every one who looks upon you makes a mental comparison which militates against you in favor of some one else. Imagine that every word said in jest is only meant to cover a deeper and more painful meaning—that every article of wearing apparel you don, is criticised and ridiculed. Do all this, and your tendency to morbidity of feeling will so increase that in a very short time you will become one of the most miserable of human beings.

**HOW TO WASH FLANNELS.**—Cold, soft water, well lathered with hard soap, and also rub soap on the flannels as they are being washed in the two first waters, but do not rub any soap on them in the third, which is also the last water; but have the water well lathered, the same as the two first; wring the flannels well, and then shake them from all four sides; then hang them out to dry in the sun; but if the weather is cloudy or stormy, dry them indoors. By adopting this mode of washing flannels, they will be soft, white, and retain their primeval shape. Colored woolen goods, such as dresses, etc., pick them to pieces, then wash them in the same way as white flannels are washed, but in one water only, that must be clean, and only one dress washed in the same water; then wring it out dry; take a clean and dry sheet, and spread out the dress in the sheet, then fold it all up, and

let it remain two or three hours; by that time the dress will be dry enough to be ironed; it must be ironed on the wrong side; if washed and ironed in this way, the best cassimere will look as good as new.

**A GOLDEN THOUGHT.**—Nature will be reported. All things are engaged in writing their history. The planet, the pebble, goes attended by its shadow. The rolling rock leaves its scratches on the mountain, the river its channels in the soil, the animal its bones in the stratum, the fern and the leaf their modest epitaph in the coal. The falling drop makes its sculpture in the sand or stone; not a foot steps into the snow, or along the ground, but prints, in characters more or less lasting, a map of its march; every act of the man inscribes itself in the memories of his fellows, and in his own face. The air is full of sounds, the sky of tokens; the ground is all memoranda and signatures, and every object is covered over with hints, which speak to the intelligent.

#### SALT.

If we look in the chemistry we shall find the term salt applied to a very large class of compounds—consisting of an acid united with an alkali, earth, or metallic oxide. They are arranged in groups according to their component parts. They are named neutral, acid, or alkaline according to the way in which they affect test paper.

It would seem that people resemble these classes of salts—some folks being acidulous, others inert, some caustic and bitter, and others shining and sterling.

Among the lists of salts are those denominated "incompatible salts"—those which cannot coexist in solution without decomposition. These salts may be compared to the unhappy people who are held in distasteful bonds of matrimony, which solution of life is destructive to happiness and individuality. In the classification of salts, the Greek prefixes indicate the number of equivalents of acid and base. Sometimes two or more salts combine, and are known as double and triple salts. One triple salt is named microcosmic because it was first found in one of man's secretions.

We are familiar with these salts with common as well as chemical names, as alum, soda, epsom, magnesia, etc., etc.

Amongst these various salts we