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 sights.

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 incalculables? 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 woman being a man's, and a man's sanctified by the wife?" Where the man who has been careless and irreproachable 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 not a whit the purer, as through the whole town. The children were gladder that pulled at her gown."

We cannot help thinking that the great reason why 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 preparing for 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 fail. 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 sends a fair wind, we think that the fair wind will never cease blowing.

NEW AND SECOND-HAND.

If thou wouldst tides understand Take them not at second-hand.

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE CAT.—

People also have a strong tendency to cat, 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. Lawes.

A GREAT INFLUENCE.

Chemists tell us that a single grain of saline 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.
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 pure and 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's work shall be perfect
In Our Father's home above.

OLIVE HAWTHORNE (aged 15).

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 helper in 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 been created that which they were created to do; not languidly occupied upon trifles, not censured 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 Chocow Indians I held a consultation with one of their chiefs respecting the success of their progress in the arts of civilized 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, but they married uneducated and uncivilized wives, and the uniform result was the children were all like their mothers. The father soon lost 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 that a woman cannot be equal in her own right, but 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 incapaibles. I infer from "M. P. S." that he considers all women's reasoning faculties are 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 entire 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.," she 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).