Eleanor colouring, "but I am sure it was never so with Anna. If she wanted to have her acquirements patented it was that she might be more successful as a teacher."

"Yes, we see in her case how even a landable ambition, if it is pushed beyond its just limits, may defeat its own object. If Anna had allowed her parents to have judged for her she would not so mercilessly have abridged her hours of sleep. The thought of what her mother would say must have interdicted the cold water experiment. Besides our health is a talent for the abuse of which we are responsible to God. I remind her last holidays, as now I would remind you, of what a good man once said to an oil-consuming student. 'Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost, and we have no right either to sap the foundation or to injure the walls.'"

"I am sure I ought to be very thankful that I wasn't allowed my own way in these matters," said Evelyn. "I rebelled against interference at the time, but I didn't lose through it in the long run."

"No; slow and steady won the race for you, when if you had been suffered to keep up the pace you started at you must have failed from the inevitable reaction. I approve of the higher education of women. I do not want to discourage them from entering Girton and Newnham, or to throw cold water on the intellectual aspirations of young girls. But it is the feverish excitement, the over anxiety, the forgetting all relative and domestic claims in a passion for scholastic distinctions that I deplore. It is the outcome of an ambition inordinate enough to quench holier fires, that God has lighted on the altar of the heart."

"I wish you would give us a Bible lesson on ambition, Mr. Oldfield," said Eleanor, looking down through a mist of tears.

"I will, my dear, but not immediately. It might pain the Fitzons if they thought that Anna's illness had suggested it."  

Evelyn handed her papa the gloves she had bought on Saturday, and the summons to tea ended the conversation.  

(To be continued.)
THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER.

Now, to come to the question of training; and this is indeed a wide and important side of my subject. It has indeed been the point of view worked by, and naturally fell, though I am glad to see each day is carrying us on in the right direction, and opening the eyes of women to its importance. We must always be working in it, more or less, but in our case it means more, far more, girls wishing to work, than there are openings for them. Thus the best qualified, as a matter of common sense, go to the work. As a rule those who can supply what is really required, meet with those who will purchase their merchandise. It is inferior workers whose labour brings in the profit," says an experienced writer upon the question of work, and her remarks are as true of literary as of any other branch of work.

Pursues boys set themselves to learn a business, the same writer remarks, they hew all their energies to the accomplishment of the end they have in view. In all other matters, the girls are made the victims of temptation. But girls imagine they can take up an occupation without any sort of special training. Is it any wonder that women's work is regarded from quite a different standpoint, that the many underestenated often beyond its just value? Another writer says:—"Partial training has been the ruin of many attempts to gain new employment for women. There is no token of a desire that they should do 'a little work,' but 'the little' which is meant to apply to the matter of quantity is transferred to that of quality, and it is the way women catch success. It is very undesirable to see a lowered standard for women's work, and yet what reason is there to expect the attainment of a standard of a higher one in the same amount of time and labour given by young men?" Another writer says:—"After an experience of life, neither very small nor very large, I feel my mind sufficiently to confess that my difficulty in thinking I need. My own age has not been so much to find work as workers—women who can be relied upon, first, to know how really to do what they profess, and next to have conscientiousness and persistency in doing it.

It is needless to multiply examples. All those who can possibly consider the subject have arrived at the same conclusion—that the want of training is a principal cause of want of success by women-workers.

In the course of their work, how is each training to be effected, supposing, for instance, that the girl's education is considered finished before the idea of writing has occurred to her? In the first place, she must be very well qualified in that direction, she ought persistently to follow up the study of composition, which can so easily do with the aid of such books as are to be had, if she has ordinary intelligence. In the next place, she must read widely and observantly good standard literature, in order that she may obtain command of language. She must acquire the habit of looking at a subject from diverse points of view, and form an enlightened opinion upon men and things, for we are all of us somewhat the most original minds, generally influenced and educated by the thoughts of the great men and women who have gone before us. If, for instance, an author of some reputation once told me, 'Nothing displays the true or your own ignorance more vividly than writing,' I was quite overwhelmed with my own ignorance when I began to write. I was continually finding that I knew less, until finally, as it were, upon subjects of which I felt I was too ignorant to speak with authority, and in the midst of a book on a particular topic, I would find my thoughts carried me along to sidetracks, necessary to be considered, but which I was obliged to stop and carefully study before I could write accurately."

Does not every girl reader perceive how this literary aspirant was giving herself the very training she required?

The girl's own point in magazine writing is to be able to say what you have to say in a given space. It is excellent practice to choose a subject, and allow yourself a certain number of lines, and work as far within the limit as you can. The idea is to adhere to the space assigned, while at the same time endeavouring to state the whole matter clearly, concisely, fully, and attractively. If the article falls in any one of these points, the author should regard it as she would an ill-worked problem in Euclid—only fit to be destroyed—and set herself to work out the problem over again. Does this seem very discouraging? Without such patient labour, no success can he hoped for.

And when our girl author has conquered the difficulties of composition, has acquired the art of expressing herself clearly and fluently, and has by a diligent course of reading acquainted herself with the views of distinguished thinkers upon all sorts of subjects, and learned more over to think out a subject clearly and logically for herself, what more is required of her before she may attempt to send an article to an acknowledged journal of renumeration? Why, the practical application of the qualifications she already possesses to the subject she has in hand.

And to explain more fully what I mean: it will be best to glance at the principal reasons why articles and stories intended for magazines meet with rejection, even when they are carefully and thoughtfully written. One great reason is inappropriateness of subject, or a treatment foreign to the expressed or understood policy and lines of the journal; and another, equally less important, is the matter of length, most amateur papers being written with an utter disregard to the nice balancing of articles and stories in a periodical journal which may be almost termed the alphabet of editorial work.

Here it is that the powers of observation and discrimination must come in. The magazine writer must be able to observe what are the tendencies and scope of the journal she hopes to write for, and about what space is allotted to the kind of paper she proposes to write. In the above quoted letter, while being sufficiently original, still, she believes, be one likely to fall in with the editor's ideas of suitability, and everything depends upon her knack in hitting this point. It is not so much what best pleases her as what is most likely to please that particular portion of the community for whose dedication the journal exists. This quick perception of the fitness of things is as indispensable as it is indispensable to a successful magazine writer.

So far I have confined myself to the consideration of magazine writing, because this field of literature is not only one of the widest and most diversified, but also because a yeld yields the quickest return for a certain amount of labour. There are, I should say, few literary aspirants who would be so rash as to attempt the gigantic task of writing a complete novel with an eye on the publisher or on your own ignorance more vividly than writing. I was quite overwhelmed with my own ignorance when I began to write. I was continually finding that I knew less, until finally, as it were, upon subjects of which I felt I was too ignorant to speak with authority, and in the midst of a book on a particular topic, I would find my thoughts carried me along to sidetracks, necessary to be considered, but which I was obliged to stop and carefully study before I could write accurately."