EIGHTEENTH

ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT

OF THE

Woman's Medical College

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

1867-68.
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ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT

OF THE

WOMAN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

North College Avenue and 22nd Street,

PHILADELPHIA,

FOR THE SESSION OF 1867-68.

PHILADELPHIA:

JAS. B. RODGERS, PRINTER, 52 & 54 NORTH SIXTH STREET.

1867.
CORPORATORS.

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Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence.

ANN PRESTON, M.D., Dean.  EMELINE H. CLEVELAND, M.D., Secretary.

* This chair, now vacated, will be filled before the opening of next session, by a competent Professor.
The Fifteenth Annual Commencement was held at the College on Saturday, March 16th, 1867, when the Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred by the President, T. Morris Perot, Esq., upon the following named ladies:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RESIDENCE</th>
<th>SUBJECT OF THESIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARY E. BLACKMAR</td>
<td>Michigan,</td>
<td>Aural Surgery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUTH A. FRENCH</td>
<td>Pennsylvania,</td>
<td>Uterine Hemorrhage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIZABETH HAYS</td>
<td>Missouri,</td>
<td>The Uterus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. M. ROYS</td>
<td>Rhode Island,</td>
<td>Chronic Diseases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELISE PFEIFFER STONE</td>
<td>California,</td>
<td>Woman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARY L. WADSWORTH</td>
<td>New Hampshire,</td>
<td>Inflammation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The VALEDICTORY ADDRESS to the graduates was delivered by MARY J. SCARLETT, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Histology.
The Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania is but an amended title for the Institution already well known as the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania. The eighteenth annual session of this Institution will open on Wednesday, Oct. 16th, 1867, and continue five months.

In making this Announcement, the Corporators and Faculty take pleasure in assuring the friends of the College of its increasing prosperity. A larger numbers of students attended its last session of lectures than had attended in any previous year, and a greater proportion were women of good preliminary education, and possessed of the determination and the means to make their studies thorough. A spirit of industry and of earnest enthusiasm pervaded the class; not a blind haste to rush through the prescribed routine and win the diploma, but an appreciative interest in every department of the study, and a willingness to go step by step over the broad field.

Twelve of the students resided in the Woman's Hospital, during the whole or a portion of the winter, and assisted in attendance upon obstetrical cases, in the treatment of Dispensary patients, and in the compounding of
medicines and filling prescriptions. Their practical advantages were further extended by their being allowed the care, under appropriate direction, of patients at their homes. Students not boarding in the Hospital were freely admitted to visit in the wards, and to witness the Dispensary practice.

The change in the title of the College, is accompanied with no change in its chartered rights or privileges. It is designed to be a simple recognition of the growing purity of our English tongue, which demands that terms shall be distinctive in their signification; and of an increasing regard for the dignity of woman—the co-worker with man, and his companion in the noblest thoughts and pursuits.

A grateful tribute is here due to the memory of one of the Corporators—Thomas Brainerd, D.D., who has been removed during the year from his connection with earthly organizations. Though he had been prevented by other duties from active co-operation in the care of the College, he had maintained a warm interest in its success, and had given it many benedictions.

We had hoped to note, ere this, some friendly attitude toward our movement on the part of the medical organizations of our own City and State. A spirit of proscription, however, still exists, although many of our most efficient supporters are found in the ranks of the profession. This opposition is, professedly, prompted by regard for the dignity and usefulness of the profession, and the consequent welfare of the community, by respect for the sacredness of
family and maternal relations, and by a concern lest the modesty and delicacy of woman should be injuriously affected.

Far be it from us to treat with the slightest disrespect any sincere conviction, however much opposed to our own deepest sense of what is right and fitting. The intelligence, devotion and high moral tone of those who practice the healing art, contribute in no unimportant degree to the promotion of the public weal; but we repel the insinuation, that the admission to the ranks of medicine of intelligent and pure-minded women—and the admission of such only is contemplated by our movement—should tend to degrade the dignity of the profession, or lessen its hold upon the public esteem. True culture in any department of learning, is refining and ennobling in its influence alike upon man and woman, and we regard it as a libel upon the science of medicine to maintain that it forms an exception to the general rule.

The friends of woman's education do not propose for her a usurpation of the field of medicine. They know full well that the designs of nature in setting men and women in families, impose obligations upon the latter, which they have neither the liberty nor the inclination to disregard. They know, however, that in every community, numbers of women remain unmarried, in plain fulfilment of providential indications; that early widowhood throws many a noble woman upon her own slender resources for her daily bread, and that of the children whom God has given her; and that, in not a few instances, the strong arm, which
should have been the support of the wife, has proved but a broken reed. It is estimated that, in our enlightened and refined community, fully one-half of all the women are obliged to earn their own livelihood. They are found in many avenues of labor—in stores, workshops, counting-houses, and as active proprietors of business which taxes their mental and physical energies in the same measure as those of men are taxed. The teacher’s desk, in our public and private schools, is largely occupied by them. The sewing-machine plies its busy needle almost entirely at their bidding, yet still leaves thousands unrelieved from the necessity of stitching from early dawn to the small hours of the night. Many other laborious avocations, find their chief support, and their only gains, in the necessities of poor women, who must day after day, leave their humble homes, and their heart-treasures, dear to them as the children of princes, that the pittance earned may satisfy their most pressing wants. When these facts are remembered, we may be pardoned our non-appreciation of that pseudo-generosity, that would shield women from the strain of body and mind, the fatigues and mental anxieties incident to the study and practice of medicine.

Women are charged, on the other hand, with being prompted to the pursuit of medicine by no higher motive than the feeling that it is respectable, less confining, and more remunerative than any of the ordinary avocations open to them. We claim for medical women no immunity from the infirmities of our common nature, but admit their liability to influences such as may be supposed
to govern the purest and best of men; but what man, we would ask, with the talent for a noble profession, and with opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of its principles, and of becoming expert in its practice, would choose rather to plod on in the round of the day-laborer, with remuneration barely sufficient to supply his most imperative necessities?

Exception has been taken, in the discussions of learned bodies, to the attainments of women in general literature and science, as preparatory to their medical course. That this exception has been, in some instances, well founded, we do not deny. Avenues of learning have not been open to women as to men; but with literary colleges, as Oberlin and Antioch, now sending out every year a class of women as thoroughly instructed in every department of a liberal education as any of their male graduates, with Michigan on the eve of granting equal facilities to men and women in every department of her noble University, with Vassar founding its course of study upon the most substantial elements of collegiate learning, and with many other schools and colleges advancing in the same direction, we believe the occasion for unfavorable comparison will not long exist.

We do not claim for our college, facilities in the way of apparatus and preparations, equal to those possessed by long established and larger medical schools. Our museum is, however, well supplied with models, and other means for illustration; and it has been the object with each Professor, to make the course of lectures in the different de-
partments, as comprehensive and thorough as the time embraced in the lecture season would allow. The curriculum of study, and the requirements for graduation, we believe to be in all respects as high as those of the best medical schools in this country.

We regard with satisfaction the proposed inauguration of a movement for securing more thorough and extended attainments to the graduates of medical schools; and our college, we believe, will not fall behind its honored co-workers, in its endeavors to provide facilities, whereby its students may be enabled to go forth furnished unto every good work.
Regulations for Graduation.

The candidate must be not less than twenty-one years of age, and must possess respectable literary attainments. She must have been engaged in the study of Medicine three years, one of which must have been passed in some hospital, or two of which must have been spent under the supervision of some respectable practitioner of Medicine. She must have attended two courses of lectures on each of the following subjects:

Chemistry and Toxicology.
Anatomy and Histology.
Materia Medica and General Therapeutics.
Physiology and Hygiene.
Principles and Practice of Medicine.
Principles and Practice of Surgery.
Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

She must also have taken two courses of instruction in Practical Anatomy.

The two courses of Lectures must have been attended in different years, and one at least in this College.

The application for the degree must be made at least six weeks before the close of the session.

The candidate at the time of application must exhibit to the Dean evidence of having complied with the above requisitions. She must also present the graduation fee and a thesis on some medical subject, of her own composition and penmanship.

In addition to the above requirements, the Faculty claim the
right to refuse examination to a candidate on the ground of what they deem to be moral or mental unfitness for the profession.

Graduates of more than five years standing of other Medical Schools, approved by this, will be admitted to the Lectures free of expense, except the cost of the matriculation ticket, unless they should desire to graduate, in which case they will be expected to comply with the terms required of second course students.

TERMS.

The fees are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First Year</th>
<th>Second Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matriculation Ticket</td>
<td>$5 00</td>
<td>$0 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professors' Tickets, each $15 00</td>
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<td>105 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Anatomy</td>
<td>8 00</td>
<td>8 00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation Fee</td>
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<td>30 00</td>
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</table>

No fee for lectures after the Second Session.
Whole cost for two or more courses of Lectures and Graduation... $261 00

Each student must exhibit her tickets to the Dean within six weeks from the commencement of the Session.

For the encouragement of capable and well-educated women whose means will not allow of the usual expenditure, six students will be admitted annually, on the payment of twenty dollars for the session—exclusive of the demonstrator's and graduation fees. Such arrangements will be strictly confidential, and no distinction will be made in point of courtesy between the beneficiary and other students.

Ladies wishing to be received on this basis, must forward to the Dean, at least thirty days before the opening of the Session, applications in their own hand-writing, accompanied by satisfactory testimonials as to character, age, qualifications, and want of means.
The applicant must be not less than twenty nor more than thirty-five years of age. The successful candidate will be duly notified.

Any lady who does not incline to become a physician, yet desires instruction in some of the branches taught in a Medical College, as a part of a liberal education, may take the tickets, and attend the Lectures of any one or more of the Professors.

Board can be obtained either at the Hospital, or in some other place convenient to the College.

Communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the Faculty,

MRS. E. II. CLEVELAND, M.D.,
Woman's Hospital, North College Avenue, Philadelphia.
The following are recommended by the Faculty, as Text Books and Works of Reference:

*Chemistry.*—Fowne's Chemistry, Regnault's Chemistry, Bowman's Practical Chemistry; Taylor's Toxicology.

*Practice of Medicine.*—Wood, Flint, Watson, Da Costa's Medical Diagnosis.

*Physiology.*—Carpenter, Dalton, Draper, Todd and Bowman.

*Anatomy.*—Sharpey & Quain, Grey, Leidy.

*Obstetrics.*—Cazaux, Bedford, Hodge.

*Diseases of Women.*—Scanzoni, West.

*Diseases of Children.*—West, Meigs.

*Surgery.*—Miller's Principles and Practice, Smith's Surgery.

*Materia Medica and Therapeutics.*—United States Dispensatory, Pereira's, or Dunglison's Materia Medica.
### STUDENTS.—SESSION OF 1866-7.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RESIDENCE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armour, Mary</td>
<td>Canada West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackmar, Mary E.</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blinn, Odelia</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brink, Phila A.</td>
<td>District of Columbia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cole, Rebecca J.</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conklin, Endell S.</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coon, Sarah A.</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croasdale, Hanna T.</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Ford, Marie M.</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dickey, Rachel A.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ewing, Emma C.</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>French, Ruth A.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Greene, Mary E.</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hays, Elizabeth</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
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<td>Hutchings, Martha E.</td>
<td>Indiana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson, Agnes M.</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mead, Euthanasia, S.</td>
<td>California</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCall, Margaret L.</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nivison, Annie T.</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oliver, Phoebe A.</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul, Jennie A.</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petrie, Eliza F.</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phelps, Eliza B.</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
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<td>Porter, Francena E.</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
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<td>Pratt, Mary</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowand, Sophia G.</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roys, E. M.</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanders, Lizzie A.</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith, Lettie A.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith, Esther</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smith, Nancy C.</td>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, Lizzie H.</td>
<td>West Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone, Elise Pfeiffer</td>
<td>California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>RESIDENCE</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Stevens, Ella T.,</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swain, Clara,</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Towsley, Matilda L.,</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wadsworth, Mary L.,</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webster, Melissa M.,</td>
<td>New Jersey</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**LADIES ATTENDING PARTICULAR COURSES OF LECTURES.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Residence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeanes, Mary</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longshore, Lucretia W.,</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myers, Julia A.,</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogers, Sarah,</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, Sarah W.,</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkley, Caroline,</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
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</table>
WOMEN AS PHYSICIANS.

In a recent discussion before the Philadelphia County Medical Society, upon the Status of Women Practitioners of Medicine, the following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted:

Looking to the usefulness and dignity of the profession, which are inseparably connected with the welfare of the community, we are not without very grave objections to women taking on themselves the heavy duties and responsibilities of the practice of medicine. Their success in the walks of general literature, and even in some instances of science, which allow them a choice of time and season for intellectual labor, cannot be adduced as arguments in favor of their ability to bear up under the bodily and mental strain to which they would be ceaselessly subjected in this new vocation. The physiological peculiarities of woman even in single life, and the disorders consequent upon them, cannot fail frequently to interfere with the regular discharge of her duties as physician in constant attendance on the sick. How much greater must be the interruption to her duties if she enters the marriage state, and becomes a mother and nurse. The delicate organization and predominance of the nervous system render her particularly susceptible to suffer, if not to sink, under the fatigue and mental shocks which she must encounter in her professional round. Man, with his robust frame and trained self-command, is often barely equal to the task. The home influence of woman is one of the greatest benefits growing out of Christian civilization. More especially is this manifest when we look at her as the head of the household, a helpmate to her husband, and the confidante, guide, instructor, and loving friend of her children, whose future happiness and respectability so much depend on her tuition and example. What would be the state of the household, what the present condition, what the future prospects of the children, devoted to a considerable extent of their natural talent, who would be engaged all day, and secure against calls in the night, in the service of the sick? Nor when at home, can the mother, worried and fretted and anxious about her patients, give healthy milk to her infant, or be in a fit frame of mind to interchange endearments with her beloved little ones, to receive their confidences and offer advice.

Once embarked in the practice of medicine, a female physician will not long confine herself to attendance on persons of her own sex. Curiosity, caprice, the novelty of the thing, would induce some men to ask the professional advice of a woman doctor. It is sufficient to allude merely to the embarrassments which would be encountered on both sides, in her visiting and prescribing for persons of the opposite sex. If her services be restricted to the female portion of the family, then must there be a male physician to attend on the males, and thus there will be constantly two physicians in the regular service of a family, with all the chances of counter-prescriptions and advice, and breach of ethics, misunderstandings and heartburnings, by each one passing the lines of the other. If a female physician once received in full standing and profession, intercourse by consultation or at other times, with a physician of our sex be allowed, the greatest latitude will be taken and given in the statement of the case of disease, whatever it may be, its symptoms and causes, and questions of treatment therapeutical and psychical. Will woman gain by ceasing to blush while discussing every topic as it comes up with philosophic coolness, and man be improved in the delicate reserve with which he is accustomed to address women in the sick room? The bounds of modesty once passed in this professional intercourse, will the additional freedom of speech and manner thus acquired, impart grace or dignity to a woman in her new character?
Could women be induced to see the true line of duty in relation to medical study, it would be to learn preventive medicine and acquire a suitable knowledge of physiology and hygiene, so as to be able to preserve their own health and that of their children, and to inculcate on the latter the close connection between the physical and mental well being of our nature. The field is large, and its cultivation would richly repay the laborers in it.

In no other country than our own, is a body of women authorized to engage in the general practice of medicine. The specialty of midwifery practice in France is hedged in by regulations which call for the assistance of medical men in any case of difficulty or doubt.

Moved by these considerations, be it therefore

Resolved, That, in conformity with what they believe to be due to the profession, the community in general and the female portion of it in particular, the members of this Society cannot offer any encouragement to women becoming practitioners of medicine, nor, on these grounds, can they consent to meet in consultation such practitioners.

REPLY.

The following communication appeared in the "Medical and Surgical Reporter," of May 4th, 1867:

Editor Medical and Surgical Reporter:

I have read with surprise the preamble and resolution adopted by the Philadelphia County Medical Society, and published in the Medical and Surgical Reporter of the 6th ult., in reference to the status of women-physicians; and as a subscriber to the Reporter, and one personally interested in the bearing of that decision, I trust I may be permitted, through the same channel, to examine the arguments which support the resolution.

Although shrinking from all controversy, and seeking the quiet path of duty, the time has come when fidelity to a great cause seems to demand that I should speak for myself and for the women with whom I am associated in this movement, and give a reason for the course we are pursuing.

The "very grave objections to women taking on themselves the heavy duties and responsibilities of the profession" appear to be based, in the first place, upon the assumption that they do not possess the "ability to bear up under the bodily and mental strain to which they would be unceasingly subjected in this new occupation;" in the second, upon the presumed incompatibility of professional practice with the best home influence of the woman and the duties of the mother; in the third place, upon the collision and practical difficulties that might arise if different members of the same family should employ two physicians—a man and a woman; and lastly, the objections are made upon the ground of the equivocal effect of medical consultations upon the modesty and delicacy of feeling of those who may thus meet; and also upon the fact, that "in no other country but our own is a body of women authorized to engage in the general practice of medicine."

In regard to the first difficulty, few words need be expended. Pasning merely to allude to the fact, that in barbarous communities woman is pre-eminently the laborious drudge, and that in civilized society she is the nurse, keeping her unceasingly at the cradle of infancy, but by every bed of sickness and suffering, with a power of sustained endurance that man does not even claim to possess; that her life is as long, and her power of surmounting its painful vicissitudes not inferior to his, we come to the open, undeniable fact, that women do practice medicine, that they are able "to bear up under the bodily and mental strain" that this practice imposes, and that "natural obstacles" have not obstructed their way.

There are in this city women who have been engaged in the practice of medicine a dozen years, who to-day have more vigor and power of endurance than they possessed in the beginning of their career; and the fact of "their state organization and predominance of the nervous system," combined with their "train
self-command," is the very reason that, in some cases, their counsel has been preferred to that of the more robust man.

The second objection, bearing upon the home influence of woman, has certainly another side. Probably more than half the women of this city and country are under the stern necessity of supporting themselves by their own exertions. Some mothers leave their young children day by day and go out to labor, in order to be able to bring them bread at night; others sew away their strength for the pittance which barely keeps famine from their doors; and, exhausted with their labors, they are indeed not in "a fit frame of mind to interchange endearments with their beloved little ones," nor can they, even with the price of life itself, surround them with the home influences and comforts needful to their healthful and harmonious development.

If the woman who has studied medicine should be surrounded by a family of young children, we should surely regard it as a misfortune if the same overpowering necessity should compel her to follow an active practice during the period that these heavy maternal claims were pressing upon her; although even then, her duties would be less exhausting, and her task less continuously occupied than those who supports her family by sewing or washing.

But although the mother may not actively exercise her profession, the knowledge of preventive medicine which she possesses will surely aid her in training her children in accordance with those hygienic rules which are now so sadly neglected in families, and will not detract from that pure, sweet, "home influence" which is the safeguard of the happiness and integrity of society.

We know of quite a number of medical women, who, in consequence of the renumerations of their practice, have been able to make themselves the centres of happy homes, and during the period of their highest mental and physical powers, and they have been enabled to pursue a course which so richly satisfies their womanly sympathies and affections, as well as gives scope to their intellectual cravings and powers.

The third objection, in regard to collisions and "heart-burnings," could scarcely apply to heightened physicians who know what belongs to the proprieties of their position. The danger would seem to be equally imminent if the medical advisers were both of the same sex, and yet we all know it is quite common in this city; for more than one practitioner to attend the different members of the same family—one being preferred for his supposed skill in one class of cases, another for his superior reputation in another class; and the have yet to learn that injurious results follow this proximity of practitioners.

The natural tendency would seem to be, to foster care and research; and if mutual observation of the results of treatment should occasionally suggest improved methods on either party, and break up old, sluggish routine, the profession and the community will surely be gainers by this mutual stimulus.

The objection upon the ground of the invasion of delicacy in examining questions of disease and treatment is indeed an astonishing one, to come from a body of scientific and right-minded physicians. Who are the patients treated by these men? Often women—the sensitive and refined. The whole nature of the malady must be investigated, and the means of recovery enforced. If, as frequently happens, to save the shrinking sensitiveness of the young woman, some tender, experienced mother or elder friend informs the physician of the symptoms and conveys to the patient his conclusions, she, for the time, performs the part of the attending physician in reference to the consulting one; yet who will dare assert that her womanly modesty is compromised, or that "the delicate reserve with which" a man "is accustomed to address woman in the sick-room," is injuriously affected by this necessary and humane intervention?

Among the motives which have contributed to the support of this movement, that of shielding the sensibilities of shrinking woman has not been the least. Men opposed to the medical education of women have, in some cases, changed their views when the subject has been brought home to their feelings in the person of some beloved member of their own families, and they have appreciated the mental suffering which the dread of medical investigation has caused. Physicians, too,—the father, husband, and brother,—have asked our counsel in the cases of those dearest to them; and they have asked it because we are women, and as such, they believed we might elicit the cause of suffering, and apply the means of relief, as they had not been successful in doing.

But leaving these special points, there are broad, general grounds upon which, as physicians and as women, we stand, and appeal from the resolution of the Philadelphia County Society to the better judgment of true-hearted professional men.

When once it is admitted that women have souls, and that they are accountable to God for the uses of the powers which He has given them, then the exercise of their own judgment and conscience in reference to these uses, becomes a thing which they cannot, rightly, yield to any human tribunal.

As responsible beings, who must abide by the consequences of our course for time and eternity, we have decided for ourselves the study and practice of medicine are proper.
We shall scarcely be charged with presumption in supposing that our instincts may be as pure, our intuitions as clear, our sense of what is right and fitting for ourselves as reliable, as are those of the men who condemn our course.

We are sustained by the approval and sympathy of the best men and women—by the moral sentiment of the general community. We feel, and society feels, that we are not usurping the place of men, but taking a position in the broad field of medicine which appropriately belongs to women; and that we shall enlarge the sphere of professional usefulness, and contribute to the knowledge which shall bless the race.

The names of those who support our Hospital and College are largely the names of those of whom Philadelphia is justly proud, as representatives of her intelligence, respectability, and moral worth.

That we have not had the facilities for acquiring medical information is a charge that, it seems to us, should hardly come from those who have systematically closed hospitals and colleges against our applications for admission, and who have endeavored to prevent the members of their fraternity from assisting us in our struggle for knowledge.

That we have stemmed this tide of opposition, and found opportunities for obtaining medical instruction—some in other cities and across the ocean, some by persevering and long-continued efforts in various ways at home; that we have found noble men in the profession to assist us, and that we have been able to found hospitals and open various channels for practical education, is due to the inherent vitality of our cause, and its strong hold upon the sympathies and convictions of the community.

That we have not yet all the facilities for instruction that are needed, we are fully aware.

That "there are female graduates who are a disgrace to the medical profession," we also know too well; for the sake of humanity we would that we could truly add, that the graduates who disgrace the profession are found only among women!

From the nature of the relation of physicians to society, not more than one man in hundreds allows medicine as a profession, and the proportion of women, under the most favoring circumstances, will probably not be greater; but the systematic training, and the knowledge of physiological functions and hygienic conditions involved in a thorough medical education for the few, will, we believe, be reflected in many homes, and be one of the means of radically changing that mistaken plan of education, and those destructive social customs and habits, which are now undermining the health, and darkening the lives of so many of the women of this country.

If it be true that "in no other country but our own is a body of women authorized to engage in the general practice of medicine;" the fact is no more an argument against its propriety than is the fact that in no other country are the rights of the people so acknowledged and secured, an argument against the propriety of republican institutions.

We regard this movement as belonging to the advancing civilization of the age—as the inevitable result of that progressive spirit which is unfolding human capabilities in many directions, and which has perceived that it is the condition of the highest health and happiness for women, that she, also, should exercise the powers with which she has been endowed in accordance with her own convictions and feelings, and in harmony with her nature and organization.

That our position is womanly—that that this work is established in the fitness of things and in the necessities of society, and that the movement belongs to the "revolutions which never go backward," we have no shadow of doubt.

For us it is the post of restful duty—the place assigned to us, as we believe, in the order of Providence, and we can do no other than maintain it.

But on behalf of a little band of true-hearted young women who are just entering the profession, and from whose pathway we fear would see impediments and annoyances removed, we must protest, in the sacred name of our common humanity, against the injustice which places difficulties in our way,—not because we are ignorant, or pretentious, or incompetent, or unmindful of the code of medical or Christian ethics, but because we are women.

Ann Preston, M. D.

Philadelphia, April 22, 1867.