FEMALE PHYSICIANS.

It is admitted on all sides that one of the greatest social problems of the day is the enlargement of the bounds of remunerative employment for women. This is defined as that lies at the bottom of all the agitation with regard to woman's rights, and that gives the agitators any hold whatever upon the regards of the public. In spite of the many absurdities by which the world-boomers make themselves and their cause ridiculous, they have undoubtedly done much good if only by directing attention to this point. Those who have absolutely considered the subject, however, have almost unanimously come to the opinion that the disabilities of women under the law are few and unimportant, and that if any reform is effected, or the status of women improved, it must be by their own practical and earnest labors to prove that they are capable of conducting successfully those employments that have hitherto been monopolized by men, and in this manner bringing about such changes in public opinion that they will receive the hearty co-operation of all candid and fair-minded men and disarm the prejudices of those conservatives who are so apt to mistake the wolf for the lamb. They have shown that manly ideals and public spirit are not confined to male effort, but that women have the same virtues and the same abilities, and indeed the ambition to enlarge their sphere of action. It is true, as one of the foremost advocates of this cause, Dr. John H. Vincent, says, "will be in harmony with nature, health, and with the moral and divine law. It will drive out follies as well as fevers; it will foster pure, simple tastes; and it will find its model of beauty in form and drapery, not in the vulgar devices by which fashion-able mantua-making distorts and burlesques human proportions, but in the grace and simplicity of nature, and the corresponding fitness of clothing." These are the ideas that lie at the very foundation of any reform that may be attempted in the condition of women, and they are in complete agreement with the whole of the hideousness that some female reformers affect in their semi-masculine costumes as they are of the "irrational" dress of the girl of the period, that is properly an object of censure on aesthetic as well as on hygienic grounds. The address alludes in terms of congratulation to the progress that women are making in the study and practice of medical science in various parts of the world, and to the fitness that many female physicians have shown for their calling. It reminds women that in some parts of medical work they must expect to be surpassed by men, but that, in other parts, they have qualities that ought to give them a pre-eminence. It insists upon the necessary business habits and the importance of mental tenacity in the medical art, not only in its practical, but in its literary and general knowledge, and it reminds female practitioners of medicine that the standard of moral virtue is higher for women than it is for men, and that the world desems any disregard of it worse for her than for him.

The whole address is admirably suited not only to improve the gents of the Woman's Medical College with a proper idea of the
importance of the vocation they have chosen, but to give the public a right understanding of the exact position of women with regard to the profession and practice of medicine, and to advance the real interests of women in other remunerative fields of labor. The idea of Professor Ann Preston are well worthy of the study of those who are anxious to improve the position of women and to gain for them the right to work for wages that will represent the value of the work performed; and we recommend it to all those who are interested in the subject of woman's rights as a practical demonstration as to how those rights may be obtained and secured by women themselves if they have the disposition to go the right way about it.

**BRIDGES AND BOTANY.**

A strong desire has been expressed, of late, by many persons, especially by ladies, whose leisure and means enable them to command facilities for something beyond the mere rudiments of education, that some competent individual would undertake the delivery of a summer course of lectures on the delightful science of Botany, in Camden. This community is as yet too small, if not too young, to present the combination of competent wealth, taste and cultivation which is essential to the proper support of really valuable courses. Its means are still compelled to content themselves chiefly with occasional shows and oratorical displays, very pleasant and amusing it may be, to all who would while away an idle hour, and well calculated to inflate that gaseous reputation which furnishes the most ready road to notoriety in this great Logocracy.

Fortunately, the symptoms of a nobler development are perceptible amongst us, and the agitations of a great revolution having stirred up the human mind, with us, as it does everywhere and always, Camden, the village is about to commence its career in good faith as Camden, the city, and it befits it to develop on every hand, the advantages that surround it. Intellectually, we have hitherto made but little use of our proximity to a great capital—the very centre of science in this country. "...the Hub of the Universe" claims to be of literature, except to avail themselves, in a somewhat literal way, of the gravitational, if not unquestionable advantages of the Philadelphia Public Schools. But the world "does move nevertheless," and I venture to prophecy that, within five years, at farthest, the barrier to intercourse presented by the Delaware river will be rendered almost unimportant by the construction of bridges—bridges that will not embarrass navigation or oblige the wayfarer to mount into the clouds, to overtop the masts;—bridges which we shall owe to the genius of one of our fellow citizens;—bridges that will enable us to smile at the obstructions and the mazes, and to be conveyed with which stern old winter annually surrounds us. And when this is effected, Camden will be to Philadelphia what Jersey City now is to New York, and what New York in fifty years will be to Jersey City. Then, indeed, we shall have literary and scientific institutions of our own, and the few among our youth of either sex who wait for the advent of that period, neglectful of the more slender opportunities that are even now on their command, though they may hold, at present, a prominent position in one or other of the narrow circles that exist in our sparse but rapidly consuming population, will find themselves thrown into painful shadow, by the influx of elements that really constitute Society.

You may shake your ebony locks at this "my gentle public" as the dream of an enthusiast; but it is true.

"For thus I read thy destiny. And cannot be mistaken."

These remarks are called forth by the chance presentation of a card, announcing a series of Lectures on Botany, to be delivered at the new Lecture Room of Polytechnic College, Market above Seventeenth street, Philadelphia, by Miss Bodley, Professor of Chemistry in Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, to commence on Thursday, April 2d.