

BEDFORD COLLEGE, LONDON.

INSTRUCTION IN HYGIENE, AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

At the present time there is an opening for useful and remunerative employment for ladies, who have been trained in sanitary science, and who possess some Diploma or Certificate in Hygiene, as Sanitary or Workshops Inspectors under Local Boards of Health and Town Councils, and as Factory Inspectors under the Home Office.

There is also now arising a very considerable and increasing demand by County Councils for lady lecturers on Hygiene and Domestic Economy as part of the system of municipally aided Technical Education, which is now so widespread over the country.

At the various Polytechnics and Technical Schools now being established in the larger centres of population, there is a demand for lady superintendents of technical classes, and for lecturers and teachers of Hygiene and Domestic Economy.

Considerable numbers of ladies are every year candidates for the examinations of the Sanitary Institute ; and the Sanitary Institute and the National Health Society have for some years established courses of lectures and demonstrations to enable students to acquire the knowledge necessary to pass their examinations.

The examinations of these two Societies and of the Science & Art Department (certificate in Hygiene) are at present the only examinations in Hygiene and Public Health to which ladies are eligible. The examinations for Public Health Diplomas of the Universities and great Medical Corporations are restricted to their Graduates in Medicine or to registered medical practitioners.

If a course of Hygiene is instituted at Bedford College, the students attending it should be required to have previously attended the lectures on Physics and Chemistry, and possibly that on Animal Biology as well, as without a knowledge of these subjects as a ground-work, Hygiene cannot be usefully taught.

The course of Hygiene should consist of not less than ten lectures including practical demonstrations at the Parkes Museum of Hygiene, and demonstrations in the Chemical and Physical Laboratories of the College. There should be a Class examination at the end of the term. In some respects it would be better to have the course extend over the academical year, and consist of at least twenty-five lectures and demonstrations. The longer course would be the most suitable for those who look to become lecturers and teachers on the subject, or who hope to gain official appointments. The shorter course would be sufficient for those who take up the subject as a part of a general system of education. A special laboratory for hygienic analysis would not be necessary as except for the higher examinations of the Medical Public Health Diplomas, the knowledge of the analysis of water, foods, air etc. is not required. No doubt sufficient knowledge of this subject could be imparted in the existing Chemical and Physical laboratories. It might however be desirable to extend the subject of animal Biology as taught in the college, so as to include an elementary acquaintance with Bacteriology, as this is a subject rather intimately connected with the modern science of Hygiene.

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