

**THE HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
OF WOMEN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649282777

The higher education of women by Emily Davies

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**EMILY DAVIES**

**THE HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
OF WOMEN**



*A. P. Brown,*

THE HIGHER EDUCATION  
OF WOMEN

ALEXANDER STRAHAN, PUBLISHER

LONDON, . . . . . 148 Strand  
NEW YORK, . . . . . 178 Grand Street

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By EMILY DAVIES



ALEXANDER STRAHAN, PUBLISHER  
LONDON AND NEW YORK

1866

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## CHAPTER I.

### INTRODUCTORY.

**I**N any inquiry of a practical nature, intended to lead to some definite course of action, it is obviously necessary to start with a tolerably clear idea of the end in view—the object for which it is proposed to provide. In the case of education, definitions more or less satisfactory have already so

often been given, that it might seem superfluous to go into the question again. As a matter of practice, however, it is found that, when it is attempted to apply the received definitions of the general objects of education to the case of women, they are usually questioned or modified, if not altogether set aside. When, for instance, Mr Maurice tells us that 'the end of education itself is, as it has always been considered, to form a nation of living, orderly men,' the definition will be accepted, with the tacit reservation that it applies only to men, in the exclusive sense of the word, and has nothing to do with the education of women. Again, when Milton, in his treatise on Education, lays down that the end of learning is 'to

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repair the ruin of our first parents by regaining to know God aright, and out of that knowledge to love Him, to imitate Him, to be like Him,' the language might be taken in a general sense ; and when he goes on to define a complete and generous education as 'that which fits a man to perform justly, skilfully, and magnanimously all the offices, both private and public, of peace and war,' the words might still, perhaps, bear a common interpretation ; but as soon as he comes to describing in detail, 'how all this may be done between twelve and one-and-twenty,' it becomes evident that he is thinking of boys only. In the most recent writers, the tendency to regard general theories of education as applying