

**SHORT ADDRESSES
GIVEN AT A MOTHERS'
MEETING, PP. 10-63**

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Short addresses given at a mothers' meeting, pp. 10-63 by Anonymous

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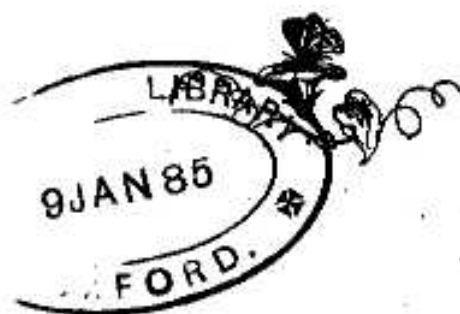
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TO THE MOTHERS

WHOSE KIND APPRECIATION OF

THESE ADDRESSES

HAS INDUCED ME, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISH OF

OTHER FRIENDS, TO HAVE THEM PUBLISHED.

ALPHA.

think treacle, being sweet and sticky, would suffice; and no doubt you think it better, as I do, that your boys should have nothing to do with beer.

We have been speaking of natural beauties, and the means of seeing them.

For beauty arranged with art, it is easy for you to go sometimes to the Natural History Museum in the University Buildings, admission free, where there are birds and butterflies more beautiful than any that live about here, carefully preserved and arranged.

For beauty produced by art, it is easy for you to go to the Castle Museum, where you will see downstairs rare and beautiful things in china and glass, in gold and precious stones; also, what will be specially interesting to some of you, pieces of old hand-made lace, of delicate and intricate patterns, as they were worn by nobles and dignitaries hundreds of years ago.

You will see a pair of iron gates, three hundred years old, which will not only excite your admiration by the beauty of the working of the garlands of fruits and leaves in hammered iron, but will make you proud to know that they were the work of a Nottingham man.

It is for you to see that your children, who will some of them be Nottingham men some day, shall grow up with a desire to work as well, if not in the same kind of way, as he did.

Up-stairs there are galleries of pictures. These have been changed lately.

There are always pictures that show you the sea, with its blue waters flowing gently over golden sands, or a storm, with the crested waves breaking

in foam, and the boats tossing sorely; pictures that show the Highland heather, till you think you can smell the honey-like scent and hear the hum of the bees; pictures that show the beautiful cathedrals of our own and other countries with wonderful sculpture on the grey stone of the outside. Of the inside there are pictures of high arches, pillars, and dim light, till you almost think you hear the deep tones of the organ pealing through.

There are pictures of sheep with wool so long and soft one wishes to touch it; there are cows so natural that it would be no surprise to see the milkmaid come away with foaming pail.

There are woodland scenes and rivers, dogs, cats, and children, all natural and yet beautified.

II. How can we cultivate beauty so as to have more of it in our surroundings?

Let us think first how we can have more of it in our own homes.

As beauty gives pleasure; we desire, not only for our own sakes but for the sake of those around us—husband and children—to gather as much about us as we can.

It is not always that a pretty thing is more expensive than an ugly one. Both for furniture and dress, it is true that the thing which is best adapted to the use for which it is intended is the most beautiful. Any curves in a chair that weaken the firmness with which it stands take away from its beauty.

It may be a beautiful thing for a lady to go to an evening party in a white dress and thin shoes, knowing that she will tread only on the soft mat of the carriage or the softer carpet of her friends; but to see the same lady in the street in the thin dress

or the thin shoes would be unsuitable and therefore ugly.

It is always ugly—tell this to your girls—to see a girl with waist pinched in by tight lacing, because it is unnatural. Tell them, too, that the statue of the Venus de Medici in Florence, which is considered the perfection of grace and beauty, is twenty-eight inches round the waist.

In the arrangement of colours much may be done to beautify a room.

You may brighten a dark one, with colours light or warm; and take off the bare look of a too light one, with a deep colour like maroon. In getting cushions, covers, or counterpanes, just think whether you want the room warming with scarlet, or lightening with white.

When you have your ceilings and rooms colour-washed, you will find it costs very little if any more to have a tinge of pink or French grey instead of the ordinary bluish whitewash. Some of you have sons or husbands who would be clever enough to stencil a pattern round of a deeper shade of the same colour. This costs less than paper, and is very pretty.

As to the arrangement of colours in dress, the chief thing out of doors is to have nothing conspicuous. Nothing that seems designed to attract attention is beautiful. A warm serviceable woollen dress and strong boots are, for the winter, the perfection of beauty. Still in the house, perhaps, on Sunday your girls may like to add a bright and pretty bow of soft, deep-coloured ribbon, which you will look at with pleasure.

I must not altogether pass over personal beauty.