

**THE EDUCATION OF
GIRLS IN THE
UNITED STATES**

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The Education of Girls in the United States by Sara A. Burstall

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UNITED STATES**

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UNITED STATES

BY

SARA A. BURSTALL

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"C'est dans le gouvernement républicain que l'on a besoin
de toute la puissance de l'éducation."

MONTESQUIEU, *Esprit des Loix*.

"America is another word for opportunity."

EMERSON.

"We have no established church; we have established
education."

J. G. CROSSWELL (*Harvard*).

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P R E F A C E

IN view of the growing interest in Secondary Education in the United Kingdom and the important problems awaiting solution, the Gilchrist Trustees decided in the early part of 1893 to send five women teachers to America, for the purpose of studying and reporting upon Secondary Schools for Girls and Training Colleges for Women in different parts of the United States. The Trustees made their intention widely known, and invited the governing bodies of the various women's colleges and associations of teachers to submit to them names of persons specially qualified. Out of the list of able and experienced women teachers thus furnished to them, the Trustees, after careful consideration of the qualifications of the numerous candidates, selected the following five and awarded to each of them a travelling scholarship of £100 to enable them to spend two months in the United States in prosecuting their enquiries:—Miss A. Bramwell, B.Sc. (Lecturer at the Cambridge Training College); Miss S. A. Burstall, B.A. (Mistress at the North London Collegiate School for Girls); Miss H. M. Hughes

(Lecturer on Education at University College, Cardiff); Miss M. H. Page (Head Mistress of the Skinners Company's School for Girls, Stamford Hill); and Miss A. Zimmern (Mistress at the High School for Girls, Tunbridge Wells). The five scholars visited America in the summer of 1893, and submitted to the Trustees carefully prepared reports, one of which—viz. that by Miss Burstall—is presented to the public in this volume. The Trustees have aided in the publication of these reports, because they believe that a knowledge of the educational systems and experiments which have been tried in America cannot fail to be of interest and value to those engaged in teaching in the United Kingdom.

R. D. ROBERTS,

*Secretary to the Gilchrist
Trustees.*

17, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

INTRODUCTION

In the following pages I have attempted to state the results of an enquiry into Secondary Education and Institutions for the training of women, made by me as one of the Gilchrist Travelling Scholars, during a visit of two months to the chief cities of the United States, in April, May and June, 1893. A list of the cities and institutions visited will be found below.

In order to fit myself for this work, I devoted some time to a course of reading in American educational literature. This is abundant, and while travelling in America, I was able, through the kindness of the various school and college authorities, to form a somewhat wide collection of books and pamphlets dealing with the various aspects of the question; a bibliography of these and other works read is given below. I have thus been able, to some extent, to understand the aims of American educators, and check the observations I made in the schools themselves. I have also quoted from reports and other writings of Americans in order to put their views before English readers.

The instructions from the Trustees state that the Report should be framed so as to furnish "information or suggestions that may prove useful to those concerned or interested in similar branches of education in the United Kingdom." To do this properly it has been necessary to follow, as far as possible, the example of Mr. Llewellyn Smith, in his Report to the London County Council, and "cover a somewhat wider ground than per-