THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649568994

The Education of Women by Marion Talbot

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MARION TALBOT

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By

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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Published April 1910 Second Impression August 1911

Composed and Printed By The University of Chicago Press Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. TO MY FRIEND AND ASSOCIATE OF FIFTEEN YEARS
SOPHONISBA PRESTON BEECKINRIDGE
WHOSE SUGGESTION LED TO THE MAKING OF THIS BOOK
AND WHOSE GENEROUS SYMPATHY AND WISE COUNSEL
HAVE BEEN MY UNFAILING SUPPORT IN THIS
AS IN ALL MY UNDERTAKINGS



PREFATORY NOTE

The present study is presented in the belief that current discussion of educational aims and methods does not adequately take into account the needs of girls and women. There is undoubtedly some truth in both of the opposing views, on the one hand, that education of women should be determined principally by their function in perpetuating the life of the race, and, on the other hand, that as the laws of mind are identical for the two sexes the education of women should be the same as that of men.

It is true that in the past the activities of women have been chiefly concerned with the provision of food and clothing and with the comfort and daily well-being of the young of the group within the home. Such duties now require, not simply sound physical life and strong sex impulse, but large capacity for administration, the ability and the knowledge to enter the industrial and business life of the group, and the power to utilize governmental agencies for constructive purposes of well-being. It is also true that the educational system as now devised for boys and men is properly

PREFATORY NOTE

affected by considerations of a social, economic, and commercial kind as well as by the acknowledged principles of psychology. So far then as the social and economic arrangements of society allot to men and women different tasks, so far must the educational machinery be developed differently for the two sexes. That both shall be treated according to sound psychological principles, while to each is given the opportunity for being trained for such social tasks as await the well-equipped member of a modern democratic community, is the ideal to be sought.

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