Manuscript: What Women Have Invented

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http://hdl.handle.net/10456/39290

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Women as Inventors.

Note: 1891; see page 3.
What women have endured.

The recent centennial of the United States Patent System, briefly enough recognized no sex in inventions. Probably if the questions had been put most of the delegates to the Convention and most of their auditors would have recognized but one sex in invention, so vague and imperfect in this knowledge concerning women are we.

If "necessity is the mother of invention," women ought to figure conspicuously. The life of the majority of the sex does not completely involve the trying of that claim. womanhood is such that the nurseries are a harm and peril in women. But it is directed to the needs of the household mainly, to house containing a family, spirit, wardrobe, from the demands of patent springs, to furnishing great chambers from various kinds, red, calicoes, and white, plush clothes, to planning dinners from cold pieces, and to preventing Christmas gifts.
to a hundred friends in an allowance of not much more than that; number of medals. It is not confined to those private lines, however. It has appeared in public and, creditably, a member of Lime.

The kindly and cheerful disposition of the inventor Hall of the Patent Office, Mr. J. C. Bell, has made it possible for me to know the exact extent to which women have figured as a patentee. Mr. Bell has compiled a complete record of her and male patentees from the earliest days of the Patent Office. In 1866, the record was first published, complete up to July 1st of that year. In addition to this printed list, I have, thanks to the courtesy of Mr. Bell, a manuscript list of patents women out by women from June 31, 1846, to Dec 31, 1890.

There is nothing surprising about the number of the list. All with the patience granted women from the time when Mary Jane May 6, 1809, obtained the full novelty with a device for weaving straw with silk, instead of that close of the record, in 1849.
The growth is in harmony with the increase in population and the opening of public life to women. Since 1838 (only 30 patents had been granted before that date) no year had been without entries. The largest number of any one date was in 1873, 187. In 1840-1840 were granted. Last year, 1890, the number fell to 128. In nearly all cases the patents are Americans. Just fifty foreign women have protected inventions in one country in the past 100 years. Some stated recently in the newspapers that the first American woman to take a patent was Agdalena Goodman of Florida in 1849. This is an error. All can one of the patents previous to 1849 were American, the first—Mary Hicks, born from Connecticut. The patents undoubtedly arose from the fact that Mr. Giff's first record did not contain the addresses of the early patentees and that one who wrote up the subject from the printed list—refused foreign residence when some was given. Though Ada of the early patentees have been obtained
Though this record contains only brief facts, the names and addresses of the patentees with the names of the patentees patented by the date, it is by no means dull reading to me interested in the progress made by the means of the improvements. I think of the patentees named at least two eminent living Boston, Mr. A. D. R. Whitney and Nathaniel Morse. Mr. Whitney's patent for a alphabet blocks. The principle in which they are constructed has been warmly welcomed by parents and teachers, but invention is never been pushed, for lack" Mr. Whitney wrote me, "of any channel of profit. I am too busy to follow it up with expenditure of time and money, but it is sure to remain until called for." Mr. Morse's patent is on an artificial marble.

The great majority of the patents are for improvements in articles of dress or for household contrivances. The court has been a summary of the various cases heard before it. The second patent given by the U.S. is a woman named...
coast and the grant has been repeated
with astonishing frequency ever since. If a rough outside of the styles of the last
80 years could easily be made
from this record. The decline of
the loop shirt is distinctly marked.
The inflation and collapse of the tou-
rit can be traced without difficulty.
The reign of that form of dress decora-
tion known as plaiting is indicated
indicated by the rise and fall of
plaiting machines. The day of smug-
ified crafts can be told by the growing
jute pennant. The flight of long
shirts is just as marked by
shirt-adjoining and elevation.

All sorts of shaping and band,
supporters and garters figure in the
palette. It makes a woman clad in
the modern sensible style - combination
undergarments and suspension fillet-
and cosset, lace garters, and all
that - detectible banner of middle mone-
mony and confined domestic groan
will pity to read the bill. In their
efforts to obtain care women can be
linked for trousers isappaage available
only for fallen ladies.
There is an irreparable pattern in the household list: Such persistent efforts to conquer dishwashing! In spite of all the many devices nothing equal the hands and cloth. Spoke and time have been futile annihilated by iron tin, but dishes remain as firm unconquerable.

Housewives likewise unit in this effort to make dining delightful. But the tin and board still rule.

In many minor household matters the motto of woman has been more successful. The first ice cream freezer was a woman's idea. Many of the best graters, egg-beaters, and dust pans are still contrivances. All of the small time-consuming matters of the household have engaged their care; those among them that will be found in a kitchen: a strawberry blander, a cake scraper, an apple corer, an implement for splitting and joining oranges, an attachment for carrying off vapors and odors from white flour, from cooking broils.
and a convenience for holding papers or
papers in the room.

The necessity of the making the most
of the space in a small house has
resulted in many peculiar
combinations: a bath tub combined with
a desk bureau, a book-case with a bed,

bedstead, a single bed with a water-closet,

a chair table, a stool in one piece, a desk

or table and cabinet in another, a window

cleaning and a fire-escape. The fire-escap

eme my peculiar device makes an escape
from a bed spring. It is not alone from
that trait—stee-feminine ingenuity

that sought deliverance, but from those

from sea drowning and from burn.

To sewing machines,

school public appliances, sewing machines

and of management—be theirs of such room

combined, patience, medicines, are among

the virtues to the feminine virtues

faculty. Indeed, any occupation in which

women engage shows that they have taxed

their ingenuity to overcome its difficulties a
witness its dominance.

And are many prominent and successful

inventing utility within the range

of woman's natural talents. The table
pump which Mary Walton invented and declaimed... sound in the elevated rage the blue bag met in a familiar example Mary direction paper bag have brought into market a fortunate. Mary Bradley who can fashion out patient in a variety of articles have been especially fortunate with a barrel-making machine. These are here built patient taken out for a snow plow, a mine tender, a smoke conserving for locomotive, for a marine telescope, for railroad car brakes, kings alarm, cigar, step in car better and for a Condon man to present me willing from a bulk apparatus for raising drunken needle, radio, high and many many more articles which have proved successful are not in common time. The opera glass which we can change from the prisoners of seeing by dropping a quarter in the slot, is a woman convenience. An ingenious and useful machine for feeding animals in the train has been denoted by a woman docked the lid from behind a question that is only partially ask...
to use it. His record ought to be elimin-
ating. It gives ample proof that the
sex place inhabits generally. The large
success which has resulted from some
of the raising and the moderate-
success while less attended a maj-
ity show that when a woman takes a
Good thing, it pays to take advantage
of it.

Housekeeping is a legitimate business.
There are few things so perfectly done
that they cannot be improved upon.
The woman who finds an easier,
cheaper, safer way for doing any
branch of household work, who makes
an improvement in her own or her
children's garments, who devises an
entertaining toy, a new school article,
a device which is useful in any
machine, in any undertaking, in any
work, is in duty bound to give her
discovery to the world. The fact of her
being a woman in no way relieves
her obligation; it in no way hindues
her opportunity.

If she is sensible, she will
keep her idea to herself until she is
sure that she is really taking part in a patent for it. She will take out her patent in her own name. If she is able to manufacture and sell the article, she will have the satisfaction of doing a good thing for herself and being helpful to others.

I. M. Dickell