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~~The education~~ As one studies the present system of ~~public~~ education for girls in France, the history of their education in the past and the ideas of the few great authorities on women's education such as the Abbé de Fleury Fénelon and Mme de Maintenon he is more & more impressed with the fact that nothing has been taught girls ~~in France~~ except what the practical needs of their lives demanded. That the advances which have come so slowly have only come as the majority became convinced that girls required for their position a little more of their intel[illegible]. The history of the last great step in women's education, in secondary, of the adoption of the law of 1880 by which girls colleges & lycées ~~open~~ were opened by the Rep. is a story of a struggle between two parties, those believing that women ~~had~~ did not have use for higher education & a party who believed she did ~~rather than~~. It was ~~not~~ concession to practical vanity rather than ~~an~~ ~~of~~ generous effort to give her a larger intellectual life for the sake of the joy & development in that life. Among the various practical features which characterize [illegible] which ~~this practical~~ need of rough mathematics & common law to teach a girl how to be wise in money affairs has ~~always~~ been a principle of the French pedagogues. The Abbé Fleury ~~in~~ declared at the end of the 17th century that practical ~~arith~~ arithmetic was as ~~necessary~~ to women as men & it was even more necessary for them to exercise economy. Fénelon demanded for girls enough arithmetic to enable them to keep either the books of ~~their~~ a household or of a farm or to direct the keeping of them and enough knowledge of the terms & ideas of common law to enable them to understand contracts etc. Mme de Maintenon whose ideas of education still exercise an influence used to say to her teachers "Less fine language & more arithmetic" and she insisted that the girls be taught in sewing classes

pedagogues have always held the idea that a girl's [illegible]

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In visiting a private school for French girls I heard a class once of misses of 14 or 15 years of age reading a story. The tale carried a pair of young lovers through the necessities of courtship up to the point of signing the wedding contract. When the pen was given the young woman to sign her name to the document she paused a little over it as if her writing master were there. The girl took the pen and made her mark.

The young man amazed at this proceeding asked "Can't you write?" "No" she replied. "Then" the astonished man replied, "I cannot marry you. I love you but I must have a wife who can keep accounts and understands enough of book-keeping to manage my accounts." And the affair was broken off at once.

This story if read in a class of American girls would have caused fancy have raised a revolt against the young man but the French girls took it solemnly and listened with serious attention to the lecture while she pointed the moral; namely, that they being as a rule from commercial circles and of course pretty destined probably to marry in those circles must exert all their energies to learn well their arithmetic & book-keeping and to skill readily since all of those accomplishments would be needed by them in helping their husbands carry on their business

The story illustrates several things but that which is to the point just now is that the elementary idea of the practical idea which it is to convey the average French girl of the middle classes views as an education which is practical for her future life and that one feature of this education is the emphasis it puts upon her being able to manage the accounts not alone of her private expenses, of her household when she marries but even a future of her husband's business if he needs her.

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One day in visiting a Parisian private school I heard a class of young girls of 14 reading a story in which [illegible] carried a young couple through the vicissitudes of courtship up to the point of signing the wedding contract. When it came the girl's time to sign she handed the pen to one of her relatives & she made her mark. The young man amazed said what does this mean. You can write? No she said. Then he announced without hesitation "I cannot marry you. I love you but I am a business man. My wife must help me keeping my accounts & I cannot marry a woman who cannot write". and the affair was broken off at once.

The young girls took the story with a solemnity which was impressive & listened to the lecture which she drew a[illegible] I fancy the story if read in a class of American girls might raise a revolt against the young man [illegible] saved quite of great practicality - mainly that they should spend all their energies to learn well their arithmetic, book keeping & writing since they came as a rule from the commercial classes & that they would of course marry in their circle & that they would be required to assist their husbands in their shops. The stories illustrate several things but the thing which is to the point just now is that throughout a French girl's training & education she is taught the knowing something of business methods, practice & principles.

The education is practical - point by point - guided as it proves to be necessary - calculated to fit her for what she would do - [illegible] knowledge of arithmetic - history - Fr. [illegible] in all education - not alone arithmetic - drill in [illegible] writing out letters - [illegible] commerce in Paris - [illegible] education today - result - general thing - women in commerce - [illegible] etc. not always [illegible] - independence - [illegible]

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The apartment is over a near the shop, the wife often keeps the accounts - sums as a rule. If a small shop, when the husband goes out she is in charge - while he eats dine looks after the store - Bad thing for family life but frequently the possibility of a family in Paris depends upon the wife's residing in the shop. If the affairs she changes the sign when divorce - Mrs Andrew - & the marriage is unintelligible. no comment - for the business

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Story illustrates a sort of trading which is current in France. especially in the great middle & bourgeois class - the necessity of providing dowries for marriage purposes - to keep their account - to carry in their minds the fundamental principle for getting on in the world - spend less than earn - & economical habits - this is what is given them the world wide reputation of being the queens of economy - of very thrifty - etc - It is a principle which in the training of girl and it illustrates what simplifies one more or less study the French system of education gets. its practicability - it is great - so much as the need to fit people in life handicaps men as a rule. That rule influences the more education of women more or less. The need of commercial education has been evident & insisted upon by all the French authorities in the education of modern Frenchmen - Mme de Maulevrier - etc. - Salomon Reinach - Mme de Senigné - Mme de Witt - Roland. cases of commercial - figures - no of failures - helpfully in shops - etc - photographies - Halles - boulevard shops - trottoir stores - Education does for it = see systems -

Our training of girls is entirely defective in a practical people in this particular - Girls are not taught - at home the regulation of expenses. they are not given accountancy - in our great commercial cities how many women know anything about their husbands affairs - can assist them practically in case of sickness etc - if they die are capable of carrying on the business? how many fathers instruct their daughters into the methods of carrying a business - of even give them an allowance & hold them accountable for it. how many households have a system of books keeping etc - regulate their expenses monthly - There stories are a part of a French woman's education - It is a discredit to her not to be quick in her income. She is trained for it - does actively encourage her to it. We seem in America to proceed confidence that our system of education is the best in the world - as well as many other things - but are we not attaining perfection too soon - & if we would

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[illegible]

money to make dresses but that they be taught to take care of them & to wear them out.

In the course of education in the girls schools of France today whether it be convent, private or public school these principals prevail. In the girls colleges supported by the state there is in the fifth and last year an obligatory course ~~explanatory~~ of an hour a week on the most important points in common law especially as it applied to women. It includes ~~the~~ a study of the complicated marriage laws — the relation before the law of father & daughter — the relation of husband & wife, of maternal guardianship — inheritance — on contracts & accounts — questions of ~~[illegible]~~ etc etc. In the 2nd & 3rd years of the course there is obligatory instruction in domestic affairs including household accounts, the proper times to buy things useless & useful expenses and the like. All the normal school graduates of France receive beside their instruction practical experience in the schools it being required that they assist in the management & direction of the establishment.

These ideas are not only in the schools of course they are put into existence in the households. The reputation which the French woman has the world over for economy in household matters in dress is not unmerited. It would be folly to say all French women are economical or that all are trained to economy. It cannot be said that all of them receive allowances as young girls or that all of them are mistresses of the household or that all assist their husbands but them [illegible] in commerce assist their common share. It is true that [illegible] of the great importance. It is [illegible] in any other country of the great importance. This thing [illegible] position in commerce is on the part of the [illegible]. In the great majority of the small shops of Paris the wives assist their husbands! For example

in a small photographic shop where 2 are at home and where the proprietor's business does not justify a clerk the wife attends the shop while her husband eats his meals & takes his exercise & goes out on errands she keeps his accounts, hears his expenses & his receipts & in great number of the groceries small shops the money drawer is attended by the wife of the proprietor Grocery women thus trained & left widows almost invariably carry on the business The number of times when one sees the name of Widow on business cards & signs is astonishing Frequent stories are told of the successful women whose men by their vices Which were left to them in Wretched condition But the faculty of a French woman for taking a ragged fortune & by economy & good management building it up again is wonderful. Did not Mme Lenormand do it- Still am told which had had to stand the wear & tear of a dissipated husband. Did not Mme de Maintenon out of future from the Revolution & Mme Roland know how to save at least enough to keep herself ~~alive from her small dot~~ & pay her father's debts When after her mother's death M. Phelipeaux took to bad ways[2]

Some of the women who have gone into business in Paris have made more than moderate success The fame of that establishment so well-known to American women is largely due to a woman, Mme Boucicaut. M. died in 1887 & the rest of

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her life Irma B. gave to studying the world & carrying on her Rumbaude plans the Cook.

There is another sort of establishment in Paris almost as well known & American tourists as the Bon Marché. The Dural restaurants - a chain for several years after the death of the senior Dural were largely looked after by Mme Vve Dural. Her mornings found a inspection of kitchen, cellar, wine closet, dining rooms & were well known by all persons acquainted with the system. The elaborate arrangements introduced by her ways of doing things which endeared her to greatly enlarged the number of places until it day many spit on emplacements corners in all the chief quarters of Paris.

Another woman of fortune in Paris for her business ability is Mme Dym Allemand but talking is her hobby & she is best known to the outside world as one of the two first-named. In spite of the fact that the commercial place of women in France is completely recognized and that they all doing a large per cent of the business of Paris they do not receive fees provided in the Commercial Code. Law. See chapter [illegible] Parliament important report So important is this place that the
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It is undoubtedly [illegible] only a question of [illegible] a few months [illegible] [illegible] will be required [illegible]

The business training & business ability of the average American girl & woman does not compare with that of the average American girl. For a practical people we are singularly deficient in economical ideas and our system of girls education does not accord regards that matter. In how many schools of any sort in America is the necessity of economy taught & spend & keep track of money taught? In how few girls who receive the best of education & purely for practical purposes too, that they may support themselves are trained to keep their accounts even or even hear a definition of the money value there is in laboring down to [illegible] care of yourself & how to waste them out. How wrong!

It is not only a rare thing for a father to teach his daughter care of money but only a small percent practice that most useful habit - giving an allowance & requiring a strict account of each penny spent. It is not by any means the rule in America for women to keep a set of books where matters of expenditure are exactly noted but it is done frequently in the best households. Women, [illegible] They are the How many American women whose husbands are in business know anything of how his affairs are really going or are able to audit his bills and how many in case of his death is the widow able to carry on the establishment? The women in American not only by habit of having at home & school are incapable of managing affairs but frequently from their very ignorance they had a [illegible] incapacity & utter want of feeling that it is dreadful

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theme to add in this matter. It is a serious mistake in our training and the quicker we correct it - & adopt the French principal in both the home & the school training of our girls the quicker we shall add to efficiency effectiveness & their good sense.

A Practical Point in the Education of French Girls. title

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Commercial Education of Girls - points on the course taught in Girls Lyceum common law - domestic matters etc.

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