

OCCUPATIONS OPENED TO WOMEN

BY MARY KENNEY O'SULLIVAN

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Massachusetts has opened up to women more new channels of industry, and encouraged a broader and fuller life in various callings and professions, than any other state in New England. In 1879 the number of occupations open to women was 186, and the number employed

160,001. In 1900 the number of occupations was 241, and the number employed 329,033; increase in the number employed 200,732. The entire number of women employed in New England for the same period was 586,206, of which Massachusetts employed more than one-half.

In professional service in Massachusetts in 1900 there were 23,363 women. This does not include factory workers. Among the number are: Teachers, 15,630; musicians and music teachers, 3433; artists and teachers of art, 889; physicians and surgeons, 729; librarians and assistants, 531; barbers and hairdressers, 350; authors and scientists, 302; clergymen, 188; journalists, 180; lawyers, 48; electricians, 43; dentists, 38; professors in colleges and universities, 38; chemists, assayers and metallurgists, 17; theatrical managers, 8; civil engineers and surveyors, 7.

This great army of workers do credit to America by their adaptability, tenacity and progressiveness. Women bring a sense of moral responsibility into professional life. No woman doctor, for instance, will attend a professional call under the influence of liquor; and the presence in the profession of a large number of those who used to figure only as ignorant patients, while it may have had little effect on the profession itself,

has certainly contributed to the marked increase of hygienic good sense among New England women in general.

Women in industrial trades also bring a sense of moral responsibility. They can be depended upon to be at their posts on Monday morning with a clear head. It must be said to their discredit, however, that they have lowered wages, and from an economic standpoint are in much disgrace in the trades.

The presence of women has led to useful laws regulating conditions in workshops where they are employed. Such is the law prohibiting the locking during work hours of any outside door in any building where two or more are employed—a necessary precaution in case of fire; the law protecting the drums, belting, shafting and gearing in factories, by covering the same, as far as possible, to prevent accidents; the law obliging chairs to be provided for women in stores; the 58-work-hours-a-week law of which few violations, if any, are now known.

The industrial field has been opened to women just as far as they have chosen to occupy it. What once seemed "against human nature" is now accomplished.

We may reasonably hope that within another 30 years women will learn to feel their economic, as well as moral responsibility, and will restore and better the economic conditions of the life they have entered.

Mary Kenney O'Sullivan