

Paraclete under Heloise paid much attention to surgical duties; when we read that Hildegard, abbess of the convent of Rupertsberg, near Bingen-on-the-Rhine, was specially distinguished for her medical learning, which she embodied in a kind of material medica; we know that these particular instances are only examples of a very general rule. In France, at any rate, where women surgeons went under the name of *medicennes*, their position as practitioners seems to have been duly recognized by law; for various ordinances speak of surgeons both in the masculine and in the feminine forms, and provide that female operators as well as male should be made to pass a certain examination before entering upon the public exercise of their functions.

That full recognition was indeed given to women physicians is placed beyond question by the attitude adopted toward them by several of the great universities of the time. At that of Bologna, where the anatomy of the human frame was first systematically studied, women were admitted to the professional chairs and habitually followed the medical course; and the same remarks apply to the famous rival establishment at Padua. But the most noted of all the medical schools of the medical age was the one at Salerno. Here women were well to the front, being engaged in the preparation of drugs and in the practice of medicine among patients of both sexes. One incident which stands recorded in the annals of the school is in itself sufficient to show the position which they then held. A distinguished abbot, who had spent all his life in professional study, and was deeply versed in all the medical wisdom of the day, journeyed to Salerno in 1059 for the express purpose of discussing scientific topics with the savants there assembled. He found, it is said, "no one erudite enough to reply to his propositions, save a certain woman of great learning."

But to realize the extent to which the functions of the physician were then left in feminine hands we must turn, not to these great public establishments, but to the domain of private life. Skilled professional advice was rare and difficult to obtain and the women of the household were therefore accustomed to combine the roles of medical adviser and nurse. The treating of disease according to the rough and oftentimes superstitious methods then in vogue, was in fact regarded as one of the natural and proper duties of their sex, and the education of girls always included a certain training in practical medicine and surgery—particularly in that part of surgery which dealt in the dressing of wounds. Their fathers, brothers, husbands, were then constantly in warfare, or in the scarcely less dangerous exercise of joust and tourney, and it was impossible to tell when or how often the useful knowledge thus acquired might be called into request. Thus they had always to hold themselves ready for emergency and disaster, and the lives of those nearest and dearest to them often enough depended upon their presence of mind, tact and skill.

The poets and romance writers of the time make such frequent mention

of the employment of women in this way, that we could not here find room for a hundredth part of the references which lie ready to our hands. One or two instances will, however, serve our present end. In one of the most popular of the knightly romances, we read how "Gerard de Nevers was wounded and carried into a castle. Then," says the old French narrative, "a maiden of the household took him in charge, and cared for him so well that in a short space he began greatly to mend. Before the month was out he was entirely cured." Similarly in the romance of "Elie de Saint Giles" the fair Rosemonde causes Elie, revulsively wounded, to be carried into her own chamber, where she takes "in her fair white hands precious herbs from the coffer" and "applies them to his wounds." And once again in the famous and beautiful old story of "Aucassin and Nicolette," we find the following account: "Nicolette, alarmed, inquired of him concerning the cause of his sufferings. She probed the shoulder to find out if it were dislocated, and operated so well that she put it again in place. Her hands afterwards applied to the wound certain flowers and sanitary herbs, the virtues whereof were known to her."

It was the gradual development and consolidation of a specialized medical profession, and the changed social conditions which were initiated at the dawn of the modern era which were principally operative in bringing about the disappearance of the women physicians of the earlier days. It is indeed true that long after Europe had passed out of the darkness of the middle ages into that morning twilight which heralded the coming of the day, women were still occasionally to be found devoting themselves to medicine or to other branches of intellectual activity then almost monopolized by men. Italy produced several famous women doctors during the eighteenth century, and England and Germany have continued to furnish casual examples down to quite recent times, but these were only exceptions, noticeable for the very reason of their rarity. It has been left for the present generation to take up the ancient traditions of which we have spoken, by its demand that women should be admitted to medical practice on an equal footing with men—a demand which, Dr. Olcott has well said, will result, not in the introduction of a new order of things, but rather in the restoration of a lost privilege.—*Detroit Free Press*.

#### TERRITORIAL OFFICERS.

The subjoined letter has been mailed by Territorial Auditor Pratt to the various Territorial institutions:

Gentlemen—I observe by sections 15 and 16 of the first volume of the Compiled Laws of Utah, relative to the duties of certain Territorial officers, and my duty in connection therewith as auditor, that the Territorial road commissioner, treasurer, and others specified, as well as all other Territorial officers or agents, having the care, custody, etc., of money or public property, shall on or before the first day of December in each year, report to the auditor an invoice of the property on hand with vouchers for that purchased during the year, and shall also submit an invoice with vouchers for money and

property paid out during each year ending November 30th, and by section 16 the auditor is required to examine all such reports and vouchers, see that the property is suitably cared for and money judiciously expended according to law, and the design of the appropriation, and that for the purpose of ascertaining these facts he is authorized to administer oaths, etc., and he is required to make a condensed report of these several reports and submit the same to the Legislative Assembly, etc.

I have orally called the attention of some of the officers whose duty it is to furnish these reports to the matter; but have not given the same careful attention; and as far as I have learned by inquiry, it seems that these provisions of the law have been generally disregarded. The term "all other Territorial officers" I understand to include your board and the boards of trustees or directors of all other public institutions in the Territory. This seems to me the true meaning of the requirement of the statute, and that your board, being in control of a Territorial institution, would be considered Territorial officers, because the evident design is to have reports made from all officers or agents having the care of public property. These reports should have been made on or before the 1st day of December of last year, but not having been made, I am advised that the obligation to make them still continues; that the time in which they are to be made would probably be construed as directory, the absolute duty being to make the reports, and regularly and ordinarily they should be made within the time specified.

I now request that you make me a report for last year, fully and completely as required by the statute, and shall expect such report at the end of the current year. It is my design, however, to again call your attention to the report for the present year. Please give this matter your prompt attention and forward the report contemplated at the earliest possible date so that I may begin the work of compilation of these reports for the year 1890.

Very respectfully,  
ARTHUR PRATT,  
Territorial Auditor of Public Accounts for Utah.

#### THE SCHOOL TAX DECISION.

At an adjourned session of the Territorial Supreme Court held on Saturday April 18th, Judge Blackburn delivered the following opinion in the case of James Lowe et al., plaintiffs and appellants, vs. L. G. Hardy, tax collector, et al., defendants and respondents.

Up to March 13, 1890, Salt Lake City was divided into twenty-one school districts, each district having its own officers and the power to levy taxes for school purposes. The plaintiffs are taxpayers of District No. 11 as it existed up to and prior to March 13, 1890, and the trustees of said district were authorized to provide funds for the support of public schools in said district under a statute then in force, as follows:

"All school taxes, whether levied by trustees or by a public meeting called for that purpose, shall be computed from the valuation of the county assessment roll, and shall be levied during the month of April, 1886, and during the month of December each year thereafter, and within ten days after said meeting shall have been held the school trustees shall make a certified statement of the per cent of the taxes so levied to the County Clerk, and the County Assessor shall assess therefrom at the same time and same manner that he assesses for terri-