

A WOMAN WHO IS THE PIONEER IN ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECTURE is a profession which it seems would especially appeal to women, and it is somewhat surprising that it has not been adopted by a larger number. This may be partly due to the fact that women are not generally supposed to have the inherent taste and talent, and partly because of the great amount of preparation necessary be-



THE ARCHITECT'S BEST WORK
MRS. MINERVA PARKER NICHOLS AND CHILDREN

fore one can begin the practical work. It offers an unlimited field for creative genius and the expression of beauty, so unquestionably a part of woman's sphere. Domestic architecture particularly calls for woman's skill, as no one else understands so well the requirements of a convenient home. The present census shows more than forty practicing women architects in the United States, while a much greater number are employed in offices as draftsmen and assistants.

Miss Mary Louise Hale of Columbia, Mo., will furnish the plans and specifications for the feeble-minded. She also designed and supervised the erection of the Episcopal Church and the Christian College of Columbia. The Women's Building of the Atlanta Exposition, which received universal praise, was the work of Miss Elise Mercier of Pennsylvania, who also designed and superintended the building of a college in that State. The Florence Sanatorium in San Francisco, and the country residence of Frank L. Johnson of California, designed after one of the Casspales, are from the plans of two young women, Miss Alice J. Hands and Miss Mary Nevins Gannon of New York. They are now giving special attention to the building of model tenement houses. Mrs. Louise Bethune of Buffalo, N. Y., is meeting with much success. A number of other women architects in the East and the West are coming into prominence in this profession within the last fifteen years.

The first public recognition of women in architecture occurred when they were invited to compete for the furnishing of plans for the Women's Building at the World's Fair in 1893. It was feared that no woman would be competent to respond to this invitation, but when the examining committee saw twenty-two admirable plans were submitted for their inspection. That of Miss Sophie G. Hayden of Boston was accepted, and the second prize was awarded to Miss Louise H. H. H. of Cambridge, both graduates of the Boston School of Architecture. Her material came from twelve states, the largest proportion from New York and Massachusetts. Previous to this competition the plans of Miss Minerva Parker Nichols had been accepted for the Queen Isabella Pavilion, a large, handsome Spanish-Moorish building, but this project was afterward abandoned in favor of the one planned by Miss Hayden.

Mrs. Minerva Parker Nichols must be recognized as the pioneer woman in architecture, although no more than 27 years of age. She is a descendant of John Doane, who landed in Plymouth in 1620 and took an active part in the government of the colony. Her maternal grandfather, Seth A. Doane, an architect and designer, had a number of emigrant westward two generations ago and purchased a tract of land in Chicago now stands. Her mother was a descendant of a prominent family in that city, where the subject of this sketch was born. Her father, a rising young lawyer, raised a regiment of soldiers for the Civil War and was killed on the field of battle.

which the public now accepts for the lack of distinct perception. One of Mrs. Nichols' conspicuous successes is seen in the New Century Clubhouse of Philadelphia, among the most beautiful structures of that city, four stories in height, Italian Renaissance in style, with spacious auditorium, elegant drawing-rooms, oyster parlor and

Staircase Hall in the residence of J. A. Patterson, architect.

every requirement of the modern woman's club. Another striking example of her skill is found in the New Century Clubhouse of Wilmington, Del., built at a cost of about \$40,000. It is brick and stone, colonial style, and equipped with every convenience. The contractor paid Mrs. Nichols the compliment of saying that in all his experience he had never dealt with an architect who was so pleasant to work with, and who had so more intelligent knowledge of all features of the mechanical part of a building. A contractor on another building observed: "She's the most particular and knowing person to work for that I ever met." She knows every trick and just where it comes in. There's no cheating her by smuggling in a knot lumber and leaving the joints sticking out into the chimney. She knows not only her own business, but mine also.

The large, handsome stone dwelling built at A. Patterson at Overbrook, Pa., are among Mrs. Nichols' best work. Another masterpiece is the elegant three-story stone residence of Mrs. T. Brooks at Radnor, noted for its great reception hall with oak rafters and paneling and stone fireplace. At Germantown, Lansdowne, Berwyn and Philadelphia are seen fine specimens of her architectural ability; while within the

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HOUSE AT CYNWYD PA.
MRS. NICHOLS ARCHITECT

NEW CENTURY CLUB, DESIGNED BY MRS. NICHOLS

new century club, designed by Mrs. Nichols, showing a large building with a prominent tower and classical architectural details.

city are a big five-story macaroni factory and various blocks of dwelling-houses, showing the scope of her power. Her two years she designed a commodious schoolhouse for Cambridge, Mass.; last year a church for Gouverneur, N. Y., and an addition to Hackley Hall, at Yarrington, while she has also designed a number of private houses, which she makes a specialty of. Mrs. Nichols holds firmly to the view that women who desire to enter any business must put themselves under the most rigid training and education, must be willing to submit their work to the same standards by which men's work is judged and ask no indulgence on the score of sex. "As my mother," she says, "my relations with the men in this line have always been of the most pleasant character. There has seemed to be an entire absence of that professional jealousy which sometimes shows to women who are entering them for the first time." Continuing she said: "I have never met a man who is somewhat exceptional, as in any way, but a serious drawback in our way handicapped me. On the contrary, the words of encouragement and good-fellowship have been extended by me and by my fellow-architects. The build-

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MADAME HYGEIA'S LETTER BOX

O MARY has written to me and complained of the itching pruritus in the formula for orange-flower skin food, given a few Sundays ago, that I have decided to repeat the recipe to-day. And will every one who does the formula now, or is likely to at some future time,

To this add one tablespoonful of alcohol, fifteen drops of benzoin and a few drops of rose water. Wash the face and hands at night. When the skin is dry, rub it with the cream. The effect will be a healthy, clear complexion. This is an excellent one for the face. It is so good that you should use it for every day. It is so good that you should use it for every day. It is so good that you should use it for every day.

GLADY—I am under the impression that your first letter reached me before that I had looked over the corresponding article in your issue. I am sorry that I was so late in getting it. My dear little girl, you are so full of life and energy, and it is a lovely thing to see you before the awakening to existence as if, in some way, you were not. Do not let a red nose or anything of that sort bother you. It is probably caused by indigestion or defective circulation. The latter, especially by being out of doors a few days, and keeping the face and hands clean, accompanied by taking a bath with a fresh brush, and adding a little of the medicine to your hair, and the itching will be gone. It is so good that you should use it for every day.

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