

## WOMEN UNDER THE LAW.

"Dowry," sometimes called the "widow's encumbrance," means, generally, a certain estate of the wife in the *lands* of her husband, but has been held to cover a share in personal property as well. A "dower" is usually one-third share of the real estate after the debts are paid, while a "curtesy" is the income for life of the husband of one-half the wife's whole estate, after superior to the claims of the creditors.

The inequality of giving the husband one-half of the whole estate and the wife one-third of the real estate is most unjust, for the wife, more frequently than the husband, needs the greater support. There is an old saying, "No one can tell how rich a man is until his estate is settled." Unfortunately it often happens the estate is so covered with debts that when they are paid there is little left to be divided by three, while a wife's property is usually unencumbered. This law was so manifestly unjust that within the past few years several states have had it altered and made the division equal, so that the widow, as well as the widower, takes one-half the entire estate.

New York allows the widow a homestead to the value of \$1,000. The widow may remain in the husband's house forty days without paying rent. The widow is entitled to burial in the cemetery lot, but can not claim ownership in that property unless so specially stated in the will. A widow is given an month to choose between the provisions made by the will or her dower right. This should be carefully considered. It is a short time in which to decide, for the estate may prove unexpectedly large or prove insolvent, and the value received be much affected by the decision. No widower is given to such a choice, for his curtesy in the estate is complete.—*Cornelia E. Hood, in Business Women's Journal.*

## THE WOMEN'S BUILDING.

The women's building at the world's fair will be built from designs prepared by Miss Sophia G. Hayden, of Boston. A prize competition for designs was invited, and Miss Hayden carried off the first prize of \$1,000, over twelve others who entered the contest. Miss Lou L. Howe, of Boston, was awarded the second prize of \$500, and Miss Laura Hayes, of Chicago, the third of \$250. Mrs. Finner Palmer, president of the board of lady managers, made the awards, after the different designs had been carefully examined and discussed by Chief of Construction Burnham, and other members of the board of architects.

Miss Hayden's design provides for a building 200,000 feet in dimensions, of Italian renaissance style, with colonades broken by center and end pavilions. It will be constructed chiefly of iron and steel, and show but little ornamentation except at the main entrance. It will stand on one of the most conspicuous sites in Jackson park, being opposite the eastern end of Midway Plaisance, and close to the main lagoon. The building will cost \$200,000. By reason of the use to which it will be put, the women's building will certainly be one of the most notable structures at the exposition. As soon as Miss Hayden's design was selected, Chief of Construction Burnham telegraphed her to come to Chicago at once, and elaborate it so that specifications could be prepared for the erection of the building. She will receive her expenses and be paid for her work while in Chicago. Miss Hayden graduated with honors from a four years' course at the Massachusetts institute of technology, and has since done some excellent work in the employ of Boston architects.

## WOMEN HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Chicago has five women health inspectors: Mrs. Byford Leonard, daughter of the late Dr. Byford, Mrs. Clara M. Doolittle, Mrs. Mary Owens, Mrs. Mary Glennon and Dr. Rachel Hickey. Their salary is \$1,000 a year, the same as paid to gentlemen for the same work. Their special duties are to inspect places where women and children are at work, and if unsanitary conditions are discovered they are empowered to order necessary changes. In many places the conditions they find are sickening and demonstrate the wisdom of the Woman's alliance, on whose petition they were appointed. These ladies are clothed with police power, and if necessary, enforce their recommendations by pointing to their star, which is usually concealed. Already great good has come from the work of these inspectors. Abuses have been discovered and put in the way of being remedied or altered. Often the terrible conditions surrounding working women in shops and factories seem due to ignorance on the part of employers and employed, and are greatly improved by carrying out the directions of the inspectors.

## WOMEN AS VOTERS.

In the Kansas towns, says a recent writer on municipal corruption, women have taken an interest in municipal affairs, and some of them have been elected to city councils. They scrutinize carefully the moral character of every man who presents himself as a candidate. If it is not satisfactory it is useless for him to come before the nominating convention, for the women have delegates at the nominating convention, too. The result has been a revolution in municipal politics in these towns. The occupation of hedges, bumper and the man who makes his living by politics is gone. Good order, clean streets and first class schools appeal peculiarly to women.—*Brooklyn Citizen.*

## HONORS TO FRENCH WOMEN.

M. Bordeau has caused a list to be made of the number of degrees that have been taken by women at the schools of the faculties of the College of France since 1866, when women were first admitted. The total number is 200: this includes thirty-five in medicine, sixty-one in mathematics and other sciences, sixty-seven in classics and *belles-lettres*, sixteen in both classics and sciences, one in pharmacy, and one has obtained the degree of LL.D. As a record of only twenty-four years, this is admirable.

Meritorious women are slowly gaining due recognition. One of the best evidences of this is the recent appointment of Miss Alice C. Fletcher to the Shaw fellowship in Peabody institute, the archeological institute connected with Harvard university. Miss Fletcher has spent the last ten years among various tribes of Indians, studying their traditions and customs. Recently she has been in the employ of the United States government, and has allowed lands in severalty among the members of certain tribes. She is now in Washington preparing a report of her official labors; she has still some work to do in Idaho, before she can enter into the enjoyment of her fellowship.

With a bad cold, incurred while acting as pallbearer, Chauncey M. Depey said lately: "Do you know I think pallbearing is a more fatal disease than typhoid or diphtheria? You have to come out, minus your hat, from a room heated to seventy degrees into a street where the thermometer stands at twenty degrees—but you mustn't put your hat on. It's risky business, and the custom should be changed. I believe it is a system got up by the undertakers to help business, for I remember when six pallbearers used to be considered enough, and now our first-class undertakers are not satisfied with less than twenty."

The war of words is waging warm in Ireland. Maurice Healy, in a speech at Sligo the other day, said that the recent speeches of Parnell proved him to be "a coward and a swab in addition to a libertine and a liar." But the factions are not content to fight with tongue and pen; wherever they meet they try upon each other the persuasive and forcible argument of fists, clubs, brickbats, etc., and in some places, but for the presence of the police and soldiers, there would be pitched battles. They are struggling for home rule with a vengeance.

Prof. Charles A. Young, astronomer, when asked, "What is to you the most wonderful and startling fact of astronomy?" replied: The fact that the great Lick telescope reveals about 100,000,000 of stars, and that every one of them is a sun, theoretically and by analogy giving light and heat to his planets. You know the Lick telescope reveals stars so small that it would require 30,000 of them to be visible to the naked eye.

We are too ready to say that it has only lately become possible for women to venture alone on long journeys, for the recently published life of Miss Dorotha Dix reminds us that nearly forty years ago she traveled thousands of miles without escort in this country and in Europe, visiting hospitals in Constantinople, even, in her zeal for improving the condition of the insane.—*Home-Maker.*

It is a noteworthy fact that, while the English people are extremely rigid in their views of the offenses of women, they can not easily be surpassed in the leniency with which they regard the vices of men.