The Architectural Review and American Builders' Journal. [June, 1870.]

ARCHITECTURE, A WOMAN'S STUDY.

W e have ever been of opinion that the refined taste inherent in woman's very nature, most especially fits her for the aesthetic requirements of architectic study, and we will confess to some surprise that while the gentle sex is in quest of mental occupation, the charms which surround this art of ours should fail to attract them to inquire into its claims to attention, as a something worthy their application.

With such an impression we awaited, to our mind, certain development of woman's evident destiny, and were not a little pleased to meet in the Woman's Journal with the following:

"Why do not some of our bright girls who graduate from High, and Normal Schools, and who are looking for a vocation, study Architecture? It is a profession that pays well, after it is thoroughly learned, and one in which women of a certain kind of talent might excel. An Architect of this city who has skill, reputation, and very remunerative employment, informs us that he would be glad to receive a young woman, possessing the requisite qualifications, into his office, as a pupil—and that after the first six months she would become self-supporting in her occupation. Is there no young girl who is attracted by this opportunity?"

There are many professional men who would not doubt give females an opportunity of making themselves proficient in drafting, and that they would answer their expectations, we feel that we can judge from what we have seen some accomplish. There is, in fact, no good reason why the delicate nicety of woman's hand, and the perceptive taste so peculiarly her own, should not be productive of admirable drawings and acceptable designs. In literature she has acquired a position which rivals that of man himself. In painting and in sculpture, she commands respect. In music she stands pre-eminent. In all the sciences which are said to complete a polite education, she is ever forward and not infrequently first. Then why should she not add Architecture, with all its lore of history, and its elegant accuracy of science, to her accomplishments? The day is already dawning which shall see woman greatly elevated above her too long existing inequality of mental position; and now that the other professions are gallantly opening ranks to receive her, it is not too soon for architects also to acknowledge her claims, and invite her to a trial of her ability in cultivating the choicest flowers of beauty to adorn the classic elegancies of design.

We do not propose, or even suppose that the gentler sex will ever assume the rude and more masculine (so to speak) out-of-door operations, connected with the practical department of our profession—not at all; but, we do think that in the arrangement of plans, in Domestic Architecture for instance, that woman is the best judge of the convenience and economy of dwellings, for she it is who is the most interested party, and even in the external appearance of our homes who so anxiously for the picturesque and the pleasing as she who presides there.

A literary woman is never so intently particular in her work, as when with heartfelt affection she depicts the detailed beauties of the humblest cottage home. Does not this characteristic show that taste, the most natural and refined reigns in her bosom and aways her very imagination. What more is asked than the cultivation of this genuine art-love to make woman devoted to Architecture, with all its graces and attractions so winning, because so kindred to her mind?

By all means, then, let us offer her a liberal welcome, and we shall reap the grateful benefit in the expansion of that patronage we look for so ardently for our profession, and without which, with all its claims to the widest recognition, it will but live on slowly, petrified by the comparatively few, but scarcely recognized by the great majority.

ZINC ROOFING.—A great objection to the use of zinc as a covering for the roofs of houses, in spite of its cheapness and the ease with which the sheets can be applied, is found in the ready oxidation of the metal during wet weather, as well as in the unpleasant glare proceeding from it in sunshine. Both of these difficulties may, however, be obviated by the application of a certain substance, which gives to it a permanent slate color, and at the same time prevents decomposition. This is prepared by heating in a porcelain dish one part, by weight, of copper scales, with a mixture of three parts of hydrochloric acid, and one part of sulphuric acid, and continuing the operation until the red vapor cease to be evolved, and until the copper is dissolved. After this, sixty-four parts of water are to be added to the green solution, and the whole filtered.

The sculptor Lamiitz, who made the Gutenberg monument at Frankfurt, died recently at the age of 74.