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AC 0298

BOX 1 FOLDER 1

General Summary of Women's Laboratory, 1867-1879

AC-0298

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1867 Lowell Free Lectures in Chemistry
open to both sexes. First year of Inst.

1868 Lowell Free Laboratory Exercises
in Inst. - continued every
year until 1873. again in '74

1869 ^{to '77 inclusive} Mass. College gave Liberty Institute
about 1870 the Laboratory was put in
working order at the Girl's High School
West Newton St.

From 1868 to 1873 the introduction of
Laboratory instruction made rapid
advances in New England aided very
largely by the publication of Eliot & Slater's
Manual. About 15 women teachers
availed themselves of the Lowell Course
each year. many coming for two
successive years.

The winter of 1872-3 an intermission of
the Lowell Course in Chemistry occurred
and a young woman from Vermont,
who had received some instruction in
a woman's Medical College, came to Boston
to obtain some instruction in analysis.
She applied at the Inst. but there was
no convenient way of accommodating her
Prof. Croft's room was full and while

She sympathized with her wish he did not see his way clear to giving her the instruction ^{at the Univ.} He however interested himself in the matter and with the cooperation of Dr. Samuel Eliot ~~then~~ ^{the Head of the School} obtained leave of the City to use the well equipped Laboratory of the Girls High School for a short course in Qualitative Analysis.

This instruction was given by Miss Copen ~~on the part of High School and~~ by myself ~~as the delegate~~ under the direction of Prof. Crafts. through the interest of Dr. Eliot the Womans Education Association furnished the funds necessary and thus began their interest in this branch of Womans Education. This class numbered 16 - The Lowell Course in Chemistry was resumed the next winter and ~~there was no occasion of continuing that of the High School~~ ~~continued~~ as the interest in the Science increased Prof. Nichols endeavored to meet the needs of the teachers and others by offering a course in Quantitative Analysis to a few who had taken both the elementary courses in previous years. In 1875, 5 women took this course with marked success.

At this period Harvard opened its 3
summer school for teachers and
the general interest increased so
much that the attention of many
people was called to the fact that
many women wished instruction in
Chemistry and related subjects especially
Mineralogy. Applications were being
made frequently for instruction for
a special end and within a limited
time. For instance a teacher was offered
a situation if she could fit herself
in one particular in which alone she
was deficient. Most of these applications came
summer school in the fall and winter when the
the winter of 1876 ^{of the} ^{year} 1876 ^{of the} ^{year} 1876
applications for Quantitative Analysis that
it was thought best to separate it from
the Lowell course and changes were
made in the Professor's private laboratory
and places for 8 students -
These were all women who had proved
their ability previously. Thus the Professors
of the Institute have shown themselves
ready to meet the demands of the
time as far as the circumstances
would admit.

but it became evident to all that the demands were increasing so fast & that they could not be properly met in the Inst. Building.

and while ~~the~~ it was a laudable thing to aid a teacher to fit herself in one or two months to take a position for which she was not qualified without this aid - yet all true educators felt that such make shift instruction ought to be superseded by a regular course of instruction which should make the woman who took a position as a teacher of Science a fully qualified well balanced instructor.

at this juncture there was a revival of the project for a separate building for the Chemical Department of the Inst. and some members of the woman's Education Association who had kept themselves ~~well informed~~ ^{informed} proposed to the Association to ascertain what the intentions of the authorities were in regard to providing for this need of advanced ^{instruction in} Chemistry. A committee was chosen and

The increased space involved increased expense
& in 1877 the W. E. A. contributed \$300

In November 1877 the Woman's Lab-
was opened to Students. It has already
the reputation of being as pleasant and convenient
of five rooms, three of which are for
as any in the country.
Women Exclusively, viz the Chemical
Laboratory, the Library & Weighing room
combined and the Reception Room.

The Industrial and Optical
Laboratories are shared with
the Institute Students although
the Instruments belong to the Woman's
~~Laboratory~~ Department.

In the two years of its existence
this department has furnished
instruction for a longer or shorter
time to 43 women, about $\frac{2}{3}$ have
been teachers or fitting for teachers -
5 married women have been students.

and conferences were held at various 3-
times - the details of which it is not
necessary to describe. While the new
building was postponed to the indefinite
future the claims of women were not so
postponed and a proposition made by
President Rumble that a space should be
fitted up in the ~~Gymnasium Building~~ was
accepted and the Association issued
a circular asking just \$2000 to provide
instruments and apparatus for a Laboratory
for women which should offer instruction
in advanced Chemistry, in Mineralogy, in
Botany, Industrial Chemistry, and
Chemistry as applied to vegetables & animal
Physiology. The money was raised
within three weeks from the issue of
the circular, that is in May 1876. O
During the summer the School of ~~Practical~~
Mechanic Arts was decided upon and
the space for the Woman's Laboratory
was taken in the special building.