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BOX 1 FOLDER 3

"Paper Read by Mrs. E. H. Richards before the Women's Education Association," winter 1875-1876

PAPER READ BY MRS. E.H.RICHARDS

BEFORE THE WOMAN,S EDUCATION ASSOCIATION .Winter of 1875 -73

A Special Laboratory for Women,in connection with The Institute

I bring this subject before you not because I think it above all others an importance, but because it is an actual need and one that can be met by practicable means and in which a little aid and sympathy given at the right moment will accomplish a great deal. That this need has come so soon is largely due to your own previous action

When you gave a small sum of money for a Class in Chemistry at the Girl's High School three years ago, you doubtless did not anticipate these results. But that Class demonstrated more fully than any previous one, the ability and interest of women in this Science. It was on that account doubtless that the Lowell Classes were resumed at the Institute. A very capable working class assembled there the following winter. The next summer Harvard opened a Teacher, s vacation class. Last winter five ladies of the Lowell class were put upon Quantitative work as an experiment. They acquitted themselves so creditably, that it is no longer said to me (as an unanswerable argument) "You are an exception! You are only one!"

Last summer the teachers at Harvard also receive instruction in Quantitative Analysis. When Miss Capen received her Appointment last spring, she felt the need of more more practice in advanced work and through the kindness of Prof. Nichols, who gave up to her his own desk, she spent considerable time with us, and still retains her desk for two days in a week. This opened the way, so that when there proved to be more applicants for quantitative work than could be accommodated in this year's Lowell Class, a special effort was made for these especially, as among them were several teachers, who were in immediate need of instruction, in order that they might keep ahead of their classes.