

1860

Oct. 14th

Th. H. Sunday night

My dear Emily

AL/2909

This has been such a nice day. The Sunday rest was more acceptable than ever as last week was rather more tiring. I did not stay here last night and slept 10 hours at once, without a break. I thought of Jane & wished she could put away fatigue in the same way. Mr. Maurice's sermon was very fine this morning. I have written a few notes of what I can remember of it, which I will enclose in case you would like to look at them. They naturally look much less striking than the spoken words were. Thanks to my friendly spectacles I discovered Mr. Mann among the congregation. We met on leaving & he introduced me to Mr. Mann & I went home with them. I had been hoping to see him for

some days to tell him ~~that~~ I had exchanged
St Thomas for Mr. Plastret and also to give
him the history of the discussion with Mr. De
Morgan. When we reached their house I asked
when I could have ^{some} conversation with him &
he said "at once" so we went in & had a
very cheering discussion for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour. He
approves very cordially of my going to Mr. Plas-
-rett. It is not a required part of the college
course & he says that he has known men
take the M. D. degree without knowing the
simplest drugs by sight. Also till within 2 years
there was no practical examination in anatomy
& men could pass the College of Surgeons without
having dissected a single limb. This is reformed
now, but Mr. Munn seems to agree with Dr.
Fardner that the Coll. of Surgeons' examination
is not a very searching one. It is not necessary

for M. D. to go to it at all. The M. D. degree
can only be given by a university; Oxford,
Cambridge or Edinburgh. I told him I thought
of the latter if I could get educated in England.
He says if the ~~other~~ medical colleges will not
admit me as a student, there remains the
chance whether the University would examine
me without the certificate of having attended
so many lectures &c. It has been proposed
recently that this compulsory attendance
at regular schools should be abolished,
the examination being stricter, but the
students allowed to get the knowledge
privately or publicly as they like. This
is now being done at Oxford & Cambridge
where degrees equal to M. A. are given to non-
-residents. Mr. Munn at first proposed that

The Edinburgh authorities should be asked if they would examine women on this plan, thinking that I should be glad to study privately instead of ⁱⁿ the college, but as I should not be said it would do as a last resort. He does not seem at all against my admission into this school, & is in every way very pleasant in his tone about women. He asked where he could see what Miss Blackwell's views upon the question of women physicians are. I could not remember at the time but since I have thought that her lecture, printed in the E. W. J. would do, do you think it would? He did not know either Dr. Gardner or Dr. J. Nish by name, but he knew the journal & enquired if it were making way. They are going to attend St Peter's now that Mr. Maurice is there. Mrs. Nunn said she enjoyed his sermons very much. Mr. Nunn was so encouraging that

AL 12909 cont

I was emboldened to ask him to take me as private pupil. He said he would, but I do not consider it settled yet as I thought he ought to think about it before deciding. Though it is pretty clear from his manner that he would not refuse to help because I am a woman as Mr. De Morgan hinted he should. He asked me how old I was, and was very much ^{surprised} to hear I was more than 18. I thought of Mademoiselle

D. Willis has just been in for his night visit, he cannot get a definite answer from the Physicians so we think of acting without it, having paid them the respect of asking permission. He thinks I should spend a great deal of time during the next 6 months in these wards studying the new cases, but I feel that I must know more before. I can learn very much alone with patients. He

says a tutor would be of great use to me
to examine me thoroughly in my reading
& direct it. I suppose Mr. Munn wd do
this, but I shall not be with him for 6
months at least & I think he likes the
practical part much better than the books.
He said to-day people often knew less after
they had read a labourious book. How would
it do to ask Dr. Willis to come to Manchester
Sat: one evening (or 2, if he c.) & act as tutor.
I should not think he would be annoyed
at my asking, at least, as it is not very
unusual for people to take pupils. I think
he is a safe person both as to right feeling &
sound education, but I should not like to
let my friends or the people here gossiping
& you cannot trust to their understanding it
simply. Please tell me what you think.

Yours affectionately
E. Lavett

Love to Jane & Annie.