

AL/1809

3 Melbury Terrace. N.W.

March 30th 1887

Dear Mr. Fawcett

It has occurred to me that you may like to see the list of alternatives to the little go given on p. 4 of the enclosed circular. Which I will not trouble you to return. You will see that the point at issue is that of

subjects, not of the Little-go
itself, as an Exam. -

Since I saw you, I have been
told that Mr. Sidgwick's
objection to the requirements
of Classics arises partly
from the fear that adding
these subjects to what girl
will in any case take up,
will cause over-pressure.

It does not seem to me that
there is real ground for anxiety
on this account. People adapt
themselves to the course laid

down, & I think it would
be found that women who have
taken the Little-go compare
favourably as regard health
with other students who have
taken the women's substitutes.

As to the educational effect,
it would be difficult to
produce conclusive evidence
on either side. So far as one
may judge from places in
Tribunes, the Little-go seems
to have been rather salutary.
Of the six women who have

been chosen as Wranglers,
those who took the highest
places had passed the tests.
In Natural Science, the two
who are I believe considered
the best, Miss Greenwood &
Miss Freund, took it, & their
cases are specially strong, as
Miss Greenwood had learned
no Latin or Greek before she
came up & Miss Freund had
only learned Latin for about
six weeks. In Moral Science
& History, those who have
taken the undergraduate course

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do not show up so well,
but these Triposes are
scarcely available for
comparison, as only a small
number of Examiners have
taken them. Up to last
June, only 12 had been
placed in Moral Science
& 9 in History, as against
40 in Classics, 32 in
Mathematics, & 21 in
Natural Science. Even
supposing however some small

educational gain in some cases, from doing something else instead of the Latin & Greek, it cannot surely be so considerable as to make it worth while to incur the grievous disadvantage of laying down separate regulations for women as such, thus forming them into a class by themselves, instead of treating them simply as human beings, as

is done in the London & other Universities. The Little go has already been modified by the addition of the alternatives of French or German for the "Additional" Mathematics. It is said that the abolition of the requirement of Greek is only a question of time. Perhaps it would come all the sooner, if those who feel strongly about it could see

their way to joining in
trying to get Degrees as
they are, to begin with,
looking forward to having the
help of women graduates
in working for improvements
afterward.

Yours very truly

G. Davies.