

# SCIENCE

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## THE EXTENSION OF THE FULL-TIME PLAN OF TEACHING TO CLINICAL MEDICINE<sup>1</sup>

You have done me the honor to invite me to speak to your graduating class at your commencement exercises. Let me tell you how much I appreciate it, and how glad I am of the opportunity to affirm my profound faith in the special fitness of women for the medical profession. As practising physicians, the large numbers of successful women, of whom your city and your school have had many conspicuous examples, make the question of their value a closed subject. There are perhaps fewer women working on the scientific side of medicine, but no one would now advocate eliminating the work of a Madame Curie, because of a prejudice against the sex of the worker. In relation to education, may I call your attention to the fact that yesterday the Johns Hopkins University honored a woman, Miss M. Carey Thomas, retiring president of Bryn Mawr College, because she is one of the outstanding educators of our day. She has a relation to medical education because her vision and her profound faith in the value of the college training as a preparation for medical education had raised the standards of medical education in this country. Thus it seems to me that the question of giving women a medical training has now been settled, but there is one place where women who are now studying may increase rather than decrease the prejudice against giving women adequate chances for a medical education, namely, if the women who have been adequately trained so lightly give up all use of that training when they marry. English women have been able to carry on the practice of medicine after mar-

<sup>1</sup> Address delivered at the seventieth commencement exercises of the Woman's Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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