

THE SHAME OF VASSAR.—We set before our readers, yesterday, the remarkable and noteworthy results of the experiment in girls' education that is being worked out at Vassar college, calling especial attention to the careful and wise system of physical culture which is perhaps its greatest merit. Yet this institution, otherwise so deserving of praise, is disgraced by one failure which is simply shameful. In plain words, while it is stocking the minds of its pupils with knowledge, and developing them into healthy women, it is compelling every one of those pupils to run the risk of losing her eyesight. Our information on this point is direct and conclusive. The rooms are lighted with gas, but the supply is so small—no larger now than it was when the college was in its infancy—that there is almost never a generous flame, while quite often it fades into that flickering yellow jet which is such a terrible trial to the eyes. The lack of a sufficient supply is recognized by the teachers, and used by them as an argument for the utmost economy in its use, but, with all such economy, there is scarcely ever "head" enough to furnish light that one can use with any approach to safety. The consequences are just what might be expected. Near-sightedness is fearfully prevalent; the girl who finds herself growing healthier under the systematic training of the college is very apt to find at the same time her eyesight growing weaker under the villainous gas which she is forced to use if she studies or even reads in the evening. Instances of more serious results than near-sightedness are by no means rare; cases yearly occur where the almost utter ruin of the eyes is plainly traceable to this cause. It is this that we style the Shame of Vassar. We do not know whether the funds of the institution are so tied up that there is no money available to supply this shameful neglect. If the college has the money, it is scandalous that it does not apply it; if it has not, it will be scarcely less scandalous if some one of its wealthy patrons does not furnish the sum it needs before the holiday season is over.