more tolerant of the abbreviated cycle skirt, even though it be a little more abbreviated than our conscience can allow us to sanction readily. And if we must have one of the two, it is infinitely to be preferred to the trailer."

One cannot but admire the pluck recently displayed by the board of school inspectors in one of our large cities. They had the audacity, or good sense, whichever you choose to call it, to attempt to regulate the length of the teacher's dress. They recommended and insisted that it be made to clear the floor a certain number of inches. It is needless to say there was no small stir in pedagogical circles.

The objection raised was on the point of principle rather than good sense. She would object quite seriously should the janitor attempt to perform his labors in her school room while school was in session. Whenever she goes on duty in a trailing gown, she is guilty of the same breach of judgment, that of starting up unnecessary dust, and keeping the air laden with poison-germs. The result cannot be otherwise, when the room is filled with a never-too-particular lot of little folks, and the floor an uncarpeted one.

Let us hope the intimidation is true, that the trailing skirt and skin-tight sleeve are on the wane.

WOMAN AS AN INVENTOR.
LOULA KENDALL ROGERS.

BEFORE the age of woman's independence, it was considered a reproach for her to be associated in any manner with business affairs. If her ingenuity and mechanistic talent contrived something new, she very delicately, and without the least particle of jealousy, passed it over to some progressive man of her acquaintance, and allowed it to obtain a patent under his name.

The indispensable cotton gin was invented by Mrs. Catherine Green, widow of General Green of historic fame. Previous to that time, human hands were used for separating cotton from the seed, and often when our grandmothers went out to spend the day with a friend, the left arm was decorated with a cotton basket, instead of a diamond bracelet, while the right hand dextrously removed the seed, even when strolling along the byway. In this way, thousands of pounds of cotton were made ready for the spindle and the loom. To the discredit of those days, Mrs. Green feared a reflection on her social standing if it were known that she had invented a machine for removing cotton seed, and she instructed Eli Whitney in reference to her plans, so he took out the patent in his own name. Thus the credit was given to him, and history will pass his name down to future generations, while the real inventor is "unknown to fortune and to fame."

The first patent ever taken out by a woman was one for weaving straw with silk or cotton thread, by Mary Kees, in 1808. The high born dames of that year wore very large hats, and many humorous songs were written about the partiality of horses for those straw hats.

"Woman as Inventor," n.d. Loula Kendall Rogers collection. Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University. 0696-017.tif
saving the owner sometimes minus her plumes and gay ribbons. In the summer of 1899, almost a century after, we find that Mrs. Cusach of Atchison, has woven a beautiful corn husk bonnet for Mrs. McKinley, wife of our President, trimming it with American Beauty roses and black plumes. Being a native of Ireland, and at one time a subject of Queen Victoria, she has also sent one to Her Majesty, of a Marie Stuart shape, in a rich shade of royal purple, trimmed with passion flowers.

The Burden horse-shoe machine, saving $30,000,000 annually to the people of the United States, is the invention of a woman. That boon, also, of tired mothers—a perambulator for babies—was the thought of a poor little weary body, who had perhaps walked a ceaseless round with ten little fretful ‘olive branches,’ and when the eleventh came, she manufactured a soft pillowéd carriage for his afternoon airing, drawn by the older children, who not only relieved their mother of much fatigue, but heartily enjoyed the fun of it. If men would only think of the walking, tossing, dosing, and the strain on the nerves that their wives are freed from by this little palace car, giving fresh air and amusement to the tiny occupant, they would stand with heads uncovered before woman’s inventive genius.

The paper sack, so useful to merchants, came from the fertile brain of a young lady clerk who was tired of wrapping and tying goods into such refractory packages that, in spite of her pains, would frequently break through.

From 1859 to 1884 the number of inventions patented by women rose to one thousand, five hundred and three. Whenever a widow takes her husband’s place on the farm, in the press, or manufactory, where the work is slow and difficult, some easier invention is sure to follow. In agricultural implements she has brought out many changes, and even in the locomotive, woman’s touch has made useful improvements. All of the hospitals show that her sympathetic nature has invented much to relieve pain and render wounded or feverish patients more comfortable.

Sloyd and manual training are now developing her ingenuity, and during the twelve years from 1884 to 1896 women have taken out three thousand nine hundred and five patents. At that rate she will add much to the world in the next quarter of a century.

Figures furnished by the United States Bureau of Statistics show that there are more than 3,500,000 women wage-earners in this country, and the number is steadily increasing. The lady manager of a California Insurance Company is credited with the largest salary ever paid to a woman, $10,000 a year. The chamber of commerce in Cincinnati has a restaurant run by three Scotch women and they clear about $15,000 a year, although their rental amounts to $5,000. Buffalo has a woman contractor, who is also a quarry owner, and she is the only female member of the Building Exchange.

These facts and figures prove the capability of woman in any avenue that may be open to her; yet she is still discriminated against because she is a woman, and not because she is inferior to man in any of the industries in which she has entered. Let us hope the time is coming when she may receive equal compensation for her labor, and prove to the world that it is not always strength that conquers, but the power of a mighty will and spirit.