

For High School mistresses, indeed, more talent and further acquirements are demanded. But even here it is probable that original talent, or strong intellectual inclinations, will be a hindrance as much as an advantage. The best teacher will be one whose highest aim and satisfaction it is to be a successful teacher; and whose life, apart from teaching, is pleasantly filled by the ordinary social duties and enjoyments of life. The woman who takes up teaching thinking that its duties will leave her free to live an intellectual life is likely to be sadly disappointed. The duties are far more engrossing and taxing than the uninitiated suppose. "Five

down to the level of children's understandings, perhaps in the very relation of mistress to children. Finer minds may overcome this belittling influence, but it is there. Then there are often harassing differences with committees and interfering parents.

These drawbacks apply to all schools. To these are added, for a country teacher, total want of mental companionship and sympathy, deprivation of many intellectual interests, and often no home comforts. And country appointments are more numerous and easier to get than town ones. A teacher will not be popular unless she mixes with the society of the place. It is evident that an unintellectual person will often find this much easier than an intellectual one.

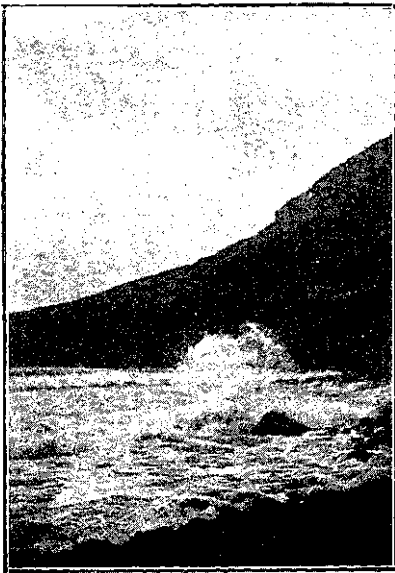
Much more might be said on the intellectual drawbacks of a teacher's life; but we will conclude adding that it might plausibly be urged that a teacher gains by not being, in native ability, too widely separated from her scholars.

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#### CHARITY.

It is popularly believed among men that women are responsible for much of the door-to-door begging that is so large a part of our civilisation. Nor when we think, can we fail to lay some blame at our doors. Too many of us are so prone to believe the story of the man "just out from hospital, with a wife and seven children, and nothing in the house to eat." And it is really a most trying position for an ordinarily sympathetic woman.

I remember once resolving ever to harden my heart against mendicants of every description. I had just been victimised by a man, who had asked for work; and had promised to come next day. I had, by the way, given him a shilling for a meal and a bed. Needless to say, the work still waits for him. However, when the other man came, I believed not his story, though he



Dora Wilcox,

A breaking wave.

Photo.

hours a day for five days in the week," is the formula; and an utterly misleading one. Then the work is taxing, wearing to brain and nerve. Eight or ten hours of light mechanical employment would leave the worker more capable of study or intellectual enjoyment. A shoemaker stands a better chance of becoming an original thinker, or of producing good literary work, than a teacher. Then there is a belittling effect in constantly talking