

COLLEGE WOMEN AND RACE SUICIDE.

It is not because they are so well educated that the marriage rate of college women is low and their children are few. It is simply because they have come from classes among whom marriages and births are comparatively less frequent. Births vary inversely with the educational ambitions of the parents, just as they vary inversely with their industrial and social ambitions. It costs \$800 to \$8,000 to put a girl through college, and only the well-to-do—the class convicted of chronic race suicide—can afford to do this. The fact that the college woman often selects a college man for a husband may advance the age at marriage somewhat, since she must wait during his extra years of training for a profession. But Prof. C. F. EMERICH of Smith College, says in the current Political Science Quarterly that statistics fail to show her matrimonial chances to be slimmer than those of her less educated sisters.

The era of the prim and scholarly old maid is past. The first young women who went to college back in the sixties were doubtless a select few, distinguished by intellectual gifts and opposed to husbands, some of them, on principle. But twenty years have elapsed since a professor in a woman's college complained that the girls were "too confoundedly in earnest." They are there now not altogether because of their studies, but for the sake of the general college life and its liberal influences, and because it is socially the fashion. The A. B. degree does not mean that the young woman bearing it is to spend her life in an independent career; rather, it is regarded as an additional distinction for the prospective bride. In lieu of the test of scholarship, Prof. EMERICH says, "the one more commonly applied to-day is the contribution to the efficiency of the woman in the home."

It is probable, therefore, that college women are nowadays thought to make the most desirable wives, and that their chances of marriage are better than the average. Sir FRANCIS BACON said that "the care of posterity is most in them that have no posterity," since such have sought to "express the images of their minds where those of their bodies have failed." If the women who blazed the way to college are now childless, it may at least be said of them that they helped establish an institution of benefit to the young women of future generations.