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Whatever Shines Should Be Observed: Quicquid Nitet Notandum

By Susan M. P. McKenna-Lawlor

Springer. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 158 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.4in. It is good to mark the new Millennium by looking back as well as forward. *Whatever Shines Should Be Observed* looks to the nineteenth century to celebrate the achievements of five distinguished women, four of whom were born in Ireland while the fifth married into an Irish family, who made pioneering contributions to photography, microscopy, astronomy and astrophysics. The women featured came from either aristocratic or professional families. Thus, at first sight, they had many material advantages among their peers. In the ranks of the aristocracy there was often a great passion for learning, and the mansions in which these families lived contained libraries, technical equipment (microscopes and telescopes) and collections from the world of nature. More modest professional households of the time were rich in books, while activities such as observing the stars, collecting plants etc. typically formed an integral part of the childrens education. To balance this it was the prevailing philosophy that boys could learn, in addition to basic subjects, mathematics, mechanics, physics, chemistry and classical languages, while girls were channelled into polite subjects like music and needlework. This arrangement allowed boys to progress...



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