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# DEACONESSES ;

OR

THE OFFICIAL HELP OF WOMEN IN PAROCHIAL WORK  
AND IN CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

AN ESSAY

REPRINTED, WITH LARGE ADDITIONS, FROM THE QUARTERLY REVIEW, SEPT. 1860.

BY

THE REV. J. S. HOWSON, D.D.

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*Εἰς πολλὰς χρειὰς γυναικὸς χρῆζομεν διακόνου.—Apost. Const. iii. 15.*

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## PREFACE.

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THIS Essay is reprinted, with additions, in the hope that something may thus be contributed towards the useful discussion of a very important subject. The present volume is by no means a mere reprint of the article which was published in the *Quarterly Review* for September 1860. The article itself is much enlarged,\* and Appendices are annexed. Whether these additions are of value, the reader must judge; but they are considerable in amount, and they relate to very various topics.

The convictions expressed in this volume are of long standing. I should find it very difficult to say when I began to feel sure that some supplementary organization of female help is

\* Its general form, however, is unaltered. I mention this to excuse the "we," which has a pedantic appearance, except in anonymous writing.