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DEACONESSES ;

OR

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

AN ESSAY

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BY

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

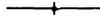
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PREFACE.



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.