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8 Mar 65

In the final year of the honours B.Sc. the aim is to produce scientists : that is, people who undertake the responsibility of making independent judgements, of looking for the way forward in a subject, of creating the critical experiment or new line of thought. There must, and does, develop an unusually close relationship between undergraduates and teaching staff. Over a course of three months I formed a high opinion of the mental qualities of Barbara Swatton ; and we were well satisfied with her experimental work. I would judge her able to advance in scientific work and teaching in an university. However, she apparently wishes to teach children . I have not seen her working with children , but she has qualities of patience, resolution, industry, intellectual honesty and quiet charm which promise well. Especially pleasing was her ability to present, clearly and simply, matter that she understood and also that which was not comprehensible to her. It may be noted, in praise of Miss Swatton , that matter incomprehensible to her was almost always either difficult ( that is, I did not understand it either ! ) or stuff over which science itself is at present in disarray.

*A.R. Ness*

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