connived for a long time at the grossest violations of the law providing for the safety of buildings in this city. We once more allege:

"That walls have been allowed to be erected of less thickness than the law requires, and that pay has been unlawfully taken for the permission.

"That some men have been compelled to put fire-escapes on their houses, while, for a consideration, other houses of a like character, and occupied by the same number of families, have been allowed to remain without any.

"That if certain men have been employed to do the work, any excuse for a fire-escape would be approved of.

"That for the last three years not *one* tenement house has been built in the city of New York in conformity with the law.

"That nearly every man building a tenement house within that time, has paid from one hundred to five hundred dollars a house for the privilege of violating the law.

"That within the past three years over 5,000 tenement houses have been built, and that for the unlawful privileges accorded the builders, over one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars have been paid.

"And we cite, as an example, a case in which Andrew J. Kerwin was made to pay $1,400 for permission to build thirteen tenement houses in Thirty-ninth street otherwise than as the law required.

"Since we first made these allegations, additional evidence of the incapacity, or something worse, of Mr. McGregor's management of his Department has been given by the dreadful catastrophe in Forty-sixth street on the 27th of last month, in which five human beings lost their lives by the falling of an improperly erected wall, and the more recent, though fortunately bloodless, occurrence of a similar nature in Lafayette place last Friday morning. In this latter case a wall seventy-five feet in length by six stories in height came down, carrying with it a whole section of the building. The Superintendent of Buildings had been notified by an unprofessional observer that the wall was bulging, and sent his deputies to examine it. The deputies reported that all was right, and the work was permitted to go on. Within forty-eight hours the wall was a mass of ruins. Had it fallen during the daytime, fifty lives at least would have been lost. The nature of the accident was such that the Superintendent's men could not possibly have failed to see it to be inevitable, and they should have reported the necessity of taking down the wall immediately. Why they did not we do not undertake to say; but the fact that they did not, under the circumstances, suggests the worst suspicions."

ARCHITECTURE, A WOMAN'S STUDY.

WE have ever been of opinion that the refined taste inherent in woman's very nature, most especially fits her for the æsthetic requirements of architectic study, and we will confess to some surprise that while the gentle sex is in quest of mental occupation, the charms which surround this art of ours should fail to attract them to inquire into its claims to attention, as a something worthy their application.

With such an impression we awaited the, to our mind, certain development of woman's evident destiny, and were not a little pleased to meet in the *Woman's Journal* with the following:

"Why do not some of our bright girls who graduate from High, and Normal Schools, and who are looking for a vocation, study Architecture? It is a profession that pays well, after it is thoroughly learned, and one in which women of a certain kind of talent might excel. An Architect of this city who has skill, reputation, and very remunerative employment, informs us that he would be glad to receive a young woman, possessing the requisite qualifications, into his office, as a pupil—and that after

the first six months she would become self-supporting in her occupation. Is there no young girl who is attracted by this opportunity?"

There are many professional men who would no doubt give females an opportunity of making themselves proficient in drafting, and that they would answer their expectations, we feel that we can judge from what we have seen some accomplish. There is, in fact, no good reason why the delicate nicety of woman's hand, and the perceptive taste so peculiarly her own, should not be productive of admirable drawings and acceptable designs. In literature she has acquired a position which rivals that of man himself. In painting and in sculpture, she commands respect. In music she stands pre-eminent. In all the sciences which are said to complete a polite education, she is ever forward and not infrequently first. Then why should she not add Architecture, with all its lore of history, and its elegant accuracy of science, to her accomplishments? The day is already dawning which shall see woman greatly elevated above her too long existent inequality of mental position; and now that the other professions are gallantly opening ranks to receive her, it is not too soon for architects also to acknowledge her claims, and invite her to a trial of her ability in culling the choicest flowers of beauty to adorn the classic elegancies of design.

We do not propose, or even suppose that the gentler sex will ever assume the ruder and more masculine (so to speak) out-o'-door operations, connected with the practical department of our profession—not at all; but, we do think that in the arrangement of plans, in Domestic Architecture for instance, that woman is the best judge of the convenience and economy of dwellings, for she it is who is the most interested party, and even in the external appearance of our homes who so anxious for the picturesque and the pleasing as she who presides there.

A literary woman is never so intently particular in her work, as when with heartfelt affection she depicts the detailed beauties of the humblest cottage home. Does not this characteristic show that taste, the most natural and refined reigns in her bosom and sways her very imagination. What more is asked than the cultivation of this genuine art-love to make woman devoted to Architecture, with all its graces and attractions so winning, because so kindred to her mind?

By all means, then, let us offer her a liberal welcome, and we shall reap the grateful benefit in the expansion of that patronage we look for so ardently for our profession, and without which, with all its claims to the widest recognition, it will but live on slowly, patronized by the comparatively few, but scarcely recognized by the great majority.

ZINC ROOFING.—A great objection to the use of zinc as a covering for the roofs of houses, in spite of its cheapness and the ease with which the sheets can be applied, is found in the ready oxidation of the metal during wet weather, as well as in the unpleasant glare proceeding from it in sun-light. Both of these difficulties may, however, be obviated by the application of a certain substance, which gives to it a permanent slate color, and at the same time prevents decomposition. This is prepared by heating in a porcelain dish one part, by weight, of copper scales, with a mixture of three parts of hydrochloric acid, and one part of sulphuric acid, and continuing the operation until the red vapors cease to be evolved, and until the copper is dissolved. After this, sixty-four parts of water are to be added to the green solution, and the whole filtered.

THE sculptor Launitz, who made the Guttenberg monument at Frankfort, died recently at the age of 74.