

1/25/96

Dear Laura,

You might be interested in a book that I have been reading about someone who was in the Emerson circle. It is Minerva and The Muse, A life of Margaret Fuller by Joan Von Mehren (Belmont Library 818.3 Fuller M/VON)

She was a transcendentalist, encouraged Bronson Alcott when parents withdrew their children from the Alcott School on account of the presence of a black child. She instituted women's discussion groups so that women might make use of knowledge which they had learned in school, never had occasion to present. She investigated and wrote about prisons, factories and was part of Mazzini's revolutionary movements.

Incidentally the book provides many interesting glimpses of the medical problems of living and bringing up children. The use of wet-nurses is touched upon several times and I noticed that in the circle of Fuller's acquaintances at least one mother who could not nurse her baby, took the child to a friend who nursed both her own and the neighbor child. Not all wet nurses did away with their own babies as was

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Suggested by that book about motherhood.