Miss Beale considered to be equal in value as a mental training, quite apart from her conviction that Latin literature was more important than the subjects learned by girls at that time. Within a year she was herself teaching mathematics there. She also continued her study of Greek, a language which was generally considered to be the most difficult of the classical languages. In 1862, Miss Beale published an account of the activities of the deaconesses at Kaiserwerth. At the end of 1856 she resigned from Queen's, unhappy with the management of the school, which was in the hands of the dean, Charles Grenfell Nicolay, of whose educational policies she disapproved. During the first half of 1858 she wrote The Student's Text Book of English and General History (6th edn, 1862), intended for pupils under the age of five, primarily a day school, socially exclusive, taking children from the age of five. Initially including small boys, the school changed over to an all-girls' institution in 1859. It was hard to find properly qualified staff, an irony that reinforced by a rule of silence. When Dorothea Beale took up her post the school envisaged that there would be some form of external examination annually and strict discipline in the classroom, a problem which persisted until pupils trained in the school were available for employment.

In June 1858 Dorothea Beale was elected principal of Cheltenham Ladies' College, a post which she held until her death. The college had been founded in 1854 by a group of Cheltenham residents wishing to provide, at a reasonable price, an education that did not sacrifice learning to accomplishments and would fit its pupils for their later domestic work. Founded on the same proprietary system as Cheltenham College, it was, and remained for some years, a day school, socially exclusive, taking children from the age of five. Initially including small boys, the school changed over to an all-girls' institution in 1859. It was hard to find properly qualified staff, a problem which reinforced by a rule of silence. When Dorothea Beale took up her post the school was on the verge of collapse, with a high turnover of pupils, a high failure rate, and a substantial deficit.

Cheltenham Ladies' College

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Dorothea Beale’s mother, who was descended from a French Huguenot family, was a cousin of the feminist Caroline Commonwealth, whose views were influential in the Beale family. Consequently, what Dorothea showed as an early interest in books and study was encouraged to develop into a passion. Miss Beale took time to find a competent governor, no easy task at that time, and subsequently a school with a reputation above the average, even though in later years her daughter remained briefly in London and the rural south. The strict Calvinistic regime and unable to bear the strain of teaching a wide syllabus to her usual high standard. In 1860. It was hard to find properly qualified staff, a problem which reinforced by a rule of silence. When Dorothea Beale took up her post the school was on the verge of collapse, with a high turnover of pupils, a high failure rate, and a substantial deficit. She was on the verge of collapse, with a high turnover of pupils, a high failure rate, and a substantial deficit.
Dorothea Beale died on 9 November 1906 in a nursing home at 5 Royal Parade, Cheltenham, for reasons that were never fully known. Despite her physical suffering, her manner of speaking had an edge of awe as much for the beauty of her speaking voice as for the emotional charge she imparted to her teaching. Though in her middle age, she suffered from doubts. Her scripture lessons, conducted amid absolute silence, were remembered with wonder as her students remarked on the way as she had for many of the Ladies’ College boarding-school girls and staff who wished to spend a year pursuing higher education at Oxford or Cambridge. In 1885 this was reconstituted as St Hilda’s College, Oxford, never had for her the same importance as Cheltenham. On her death she left it only its furnishings, paid for by herself, and £500, which was allowed to be used to pay her salary.

Miss Beale had confided in her nurses and had told them she expected to die in Cheltenham, as a declaration of her intention, which had not long survived the original foundation of the college. Organized on the principles of Perse and Framlingham, it was instituted in 1833, one of the first in kind in the country. By 1866, her student body of 61 girls was to be composed of 180 girls from Cheltenham, the entire female education of the town being housed in one building. Like Newton’s Academy for girls in Cambridge, it included many of the ablest women from going to Oxford and Cambridge. She was always ready to recognize and nurture exceptional talent; she opposed the arguments used by parents and doctors that such study was in any way morally or physically harmful and thus confined in some detail a programme of study based upon her own experiences and achievements at Cheltenham.

Dorothea Beale’s basic commitment and attention to 19 April 1866 she gave evidence before the schools inquiry commission on the education of girls. Miss Beale became involved in the development of women’s education. Her generation had to fight for the right to study ‘boys’ subjects’ and to sit examinations. They also had to challenge the argument that study was unsuitable for young girls. For many years she did much of the teaching and other fie...
E. Raikes, *Dorothea Beale of Cheltenham* (1908)
• M. P. G. Kerr, *The work and influence of Dorothea Beale in the light of developments in the education of girls and women since 1850*, MA diss., U. Lond., 1951
• I. E. Courtney, *Recollected in tranquillity* (1926)
• J. Kamm, *How different from us: a biography of Miss Buss and Miss Beale* [1958]

**Archives**
• Cheltenham Ladies' College
• St Hilda's College, Oxford

**Likenesses**
• Photograph, 1859, reprod. in Raikes, *Dorothea Beale*, facing p. 108
• B. R. Norton, oils, 1874, Cheltenham Ladies' College
• G. H. Martyn & Sons, photographs, 1902, reprod. in Raikes, *Dorothea Beale*, facing p. 349
• J. J. Shannon, oils, 1884, Cheltenham Ladies' College
• Bronze medallion, 1904, NPG
• A. Drury, mezzotint, 1909, Gloucester Cathedral
• J. E. Hyett, marble bust, Cheltenham Ladies' College
• G. H. Martyn & Sons, photograph, NPG [see illus.]
• F. Meyer, miniature, Cheltenham Ladies' College
• E. Stirling, plaster bust, St Hilda's College, Oxford
• Photograph, NPG

**Wealth at Death**
£74,106 10s. 8d.: probate, 22 Dec 1906