

**Stephen Robertson**

**There must be moonshine**

Fin de siècle.  
Ethel Sargant, botanist  
(Girton student 1880s)  
builds a lab in her garden  
in Reigate, on her way to  
recognition, fellowships  
(Linnean Society 1904,  
Girton College 1913).

The Reigate lab, of course  
has a source  
of pure water: a still.

Garden shed  
with a still? Local  
excise officer takes to  
dropping by unannounced.  
Catch them at it –  
there must be moonshine.