

nor prided himself in having a university degree. Many self-made men are truly educated, and have more capacious brains and fertile minds than have many a graduate who has had the high opportunity of a scholastic training. I classify the educated by the standard of healthy brain work and mental scope. The operations of the mind are bounded by capacity of the organ, and we can no more elicit mental operations of a great power from a defective or limited brain than can a musician bring eight octaves of music out of a six octave instrument.

It is not, I repeat, the more highly organized brain which suffers the most in the mental struggle for mastery in the school; it is the weak organization, which breaks down first in the abnormal effort to keep up to an unreasonable demand made upon it. There is as much difference in brains as there is between iron and steel, and to attempt to manifest the elasticity of the former to the same extent as may be done with safety to the latter is only to show the weakness of the material and its lack of spring to regain its former position. To attempt to work up a 15 horse-power engine to that of a 25 horse-power engine means ruin to the machine by extra pressure, wear and tear. Applying this principle of mechanics to the equally mechanical brain, which is only a working organ of the mind, and we are demanding of it in its chemical, vital and physical operations more than nature intended it to do. The uniformity of standard of work for every brain means the same demand on brain dynamics, irrespective of capacity. You might as well expect to be able to put a quart of water into a pint measure, as to attempt to cram into or eliminate from any brain more knowledge or mentality than its capability will allow.

The attempt to get out of a Clyde horse the swiftness which is in a thoroughbred racer would be extremely ridiculous. On the other hand, to put the same load upon a swift runner which is put upon a draft horse would be equally futile. Each excels according to its kind and capacity. So to expect uniformity, capacity and mental power equally in any two human brains is very absurd to any one who has given the matter even ordinary consideration. There never have been, nor are there now, any two of the sons and daughters of Adam counterparts of one another in physical conformation or mental construction, and no two can bear worry, emotion and general fighting against all the untoward circumstances of life in exactly the same ratio. This is a truism which is of daily experience in all our lives. Yet in the face of this appeal to ourselves we