

heart, and conclude you are a failure as a teacher, either then or after you get home. . . . You are in conditions you cannot analyze, my dear young teacher, when the clouds gather from all points of the compass—and don't try it. Just hold yourself with all the calmness that is possible, and be as patient with yourself as you must be with the children. Perhaps you, yourself, through that subtle action of mind over mind, are practically responsible for the complicated condition of things. That is hard consolation, but not at all unlikely to be true."

Not unlikely to be true! Far from it. It is most likely to be the very essence of the truth. On any doctrine of probabilities it is far more reasonable to suppose, when one mind comes into disagreeable contact with fifty, that the jutting angles which produce the collision have been suddenly developed in the one, rather than simultaneously in the fifty. In nineteen cases out of twenty, we make bold to say, the origin of the troublous times is in the teacher, not in the pupils. The causes are many and various, a slight attack of indigestion, too little fresh air and exercise, want of congenial surroundings, social or business disappointments. Any one of these, or of a dozen other influences, emanating from our own neglect, and—shall I say—selfishness, may be sufficient to work out for ourselves and our pupils a day of wretchedness.

But there are other causes arising likewise from a mental condition of the teacher which is, in itself, not only not discreditable, but praiseworthy, but no less harmful in its immediate effect. Mrs. Kellogg, in the article above alluded to, deals with some of these causes so forcibly that we close by commending a thoughtful study of her words:

"Perhaps there is no greater cause for the dark days of young, normal-trained teachers than in the inability to work out the ideal plans that had grown to be a part of daily thought. Bristling individualities spring up at every step, and stand like bayonets to prevent an approach. Every child calls for separate tactics, and in the confusion of disappointed hopes the heart sinks, the head is lost, and a mild panic is threatened.

"Let me suggest the unwisdom of attempting to force any up-hill course at this juncture. There is too much demoralization to attempt any re-organization of plans on the spot. Turn the attention in another direction, and manage