GYMNASTICS OF THE BRAIN.

power, McLaren, of Oxford, has established a gymnasium, upon the entry of which a close and careful examination is made and a systematic method of training is adopted, sufficient to meet the growing requirements of the system. Glasgow University has also its gymnasium, and although not compulsory, its necessity is daily attracting closer enquiry. McGill College is also adopting the same principle. The gymnastics of brain or body should not conflict with each other, and in the growth and development of power the results to be achieved will certainly be greater than by cramming, under a system of hot house vegetation, through which both physical and intenectual vigor become warped, and practical usefulness for the varied spheres of life, considerably lessened. Hospital statistics point out that the principal mortality in children has passed between the seventh and eighth year, which strengthens the argument very considerably, as to the best time to enter school. Parents should not be anxious to convert schools into nurseries, and this point, I feel assured has not escaped the attention of those under whose immediate supervision the whole subject of school life is placed in our Dominion. To the ordinary observer, it must be apparent that the period between childhood and boyhood is one surrounded by constant anxiety and requiring more than ordinary care and watchfulness. For children under seven years of age the greater proportion of the teaching should be conducted or conveyed as play; not as a play upon words, but a play in the development process of germinal intellectual power. It is in these years of childhood that education should not in any way conflict with health. Short hours of study, vigorous digestion, kept up by ample physical exercise, will assuredly bring about better results than the over-stimulation of young people, by competitive examinations, inducing a degree of mental high pressure, which may make bright pupils in childhood; first in every class; laden with prizes, but oftentimes sapped as to the requisite physical power for the varied callings of after-life. Those who require to live by muscular power chiefly, must develop the power early. In the cultivation of brain power, direction should as soon as possible be given to the practical usefulness of the future. Thus preserved, child power in time becomes good man power, and in the march of intellectual progress affords strength and endurance to the future of

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