

his system may function at its best. The teacher who occasionally sits down may accomplish more than the one who continues standing throughout the entire day; and Crepillon was, perhaps, in a certain sense, not so far astray when he said, "Inattention is the salvation of our children."

WHAT THE TEACHER CAN DO.

To one interested in such study and results as those to which I have briefly referred, the question naturally arises, "What can the teacher in an ordinary school-room do to aid in such an investigation?"

It must be admitted that much of such work can be properly undertaken only by parents, that the professional training school is *specially* fitted for it, that experimentation is usually costly, and that the conditions are such as in many cases to render any scientific investigation of the phenomena of child life almost an impossibility. And yet I think it will be found that every teacher can and should give a certain amount of attention to child study.

Probably the greatest advantage which has accrued from the movement thus far is, that it has caused teachers to look childward; and as they have begun to understand the attitude of the child, many difficulties in discipline and method have vanished.

The most elementary form of child study is to observe the pupil and privately note the phenomena, the object being simply to learn to understand the child. The teacher who takes the trouble to record such observations from day to day will find not only that she learns to adapt her work more readily to the needs of her pupil, but also that teaching is invested with a new charm for her. Another form of child study is that which involves a certain amount of measuring and tabulating, and is applied more particularly to hygienic conditions. For example, the teacher makes a careful test of the defective vision of pupils, and utilizes the results in seating the pupils in a proper position in relation to blackboard, etc. She may go farther, and keep a record and make a report of such cases. These, and other elementary forms of study, can be taken with advantage in every school.

There is a higher kind of child study, which may be said to be more scientific, in which a certain definite course of investigation is taken up and prosecuted so thoroughly as to furnish data which may serve as a basis for important educational conclusions.