

and its carking cares, holds prepared a scourge which such sensitive natures are ill prepared to endure. These are like delicately-balanced watches which the least rude jar disorders, yet these are mankind's chronometers. When I see the 'compensating balance'—the joyous springtime of youth—rudely torn away, I tremble for their mature years. When I see between a mere lad's eyebrows those deep perpendicular lines which are the sure sign of anxious thought—the proper burden of age—I cannot help thinking, 'Surely an enemy hath done this!' Premature failure of sight, rooted despondency, incurable pessimism, or suicide, is the fate of some of those in whom the natural buoyancy and spring is destroyed by being overtired before their time. I grant that the world is not a playground but a treadmill. I grant that the child must be gradually prepared for the burdens of life. I grant that to allow a child to make endless holiday of youth, and then suddenly put a man's full burden on him, is crueller than to gradually wean him from fun to fret. But there is a medium in all things. To grind young children five hours a day in school, two hours at special classes, and two hours at night, is a crime. The child is wearied of life before he has well begun it; and though highly cultured, does little in life because his heart has been crushed out of him, and his spirit broken. He has no desire left to reap the world's prize; for the zest of life is gone, and they turn to Dead Sea fruit in his mouth."

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There is a teacher in Dunedin, New Zealand, who has reported to the *Schoolmaster* of that colony the evolution of gymnasiums in his city. "A few school committees have bazaars in full swing," he says, "with the object of raising funds for the erection

of gymnasiums. I am of opinion very few more of the latter will be erected in our district for some time to come. Some months ago I mentioned the Board would probably refuse grants for this purpose on account of the vast inroads made upon the building fund. That was done at the last meeting, when resolution refusing further grants in this direction till March of next year was passed. Really the thing has been overdone. I am fully alive to the importance of physical education, and heartily support gymnastic training. At the same time I am of opinion schools should be satisfied with modest buildings for the purpose. The gymnastic building craze, I may term it, originated in one of our schools noted for fads. Then resulted an exhibition of follow the leader until the demands well nigh exhausted a fund which might have been more advantageously used in needful repairs and additions absolutely required to the schools and teachers' residences throughout the district. Really it has resolved itself into a question of each school committee grabbing for a grant of money in order to keep level on the score of attractiveness with the schools of their neighbors." The colony of New Zealand is evidently not yet given altogether up to the new cult, that there is nothing good but hockey. The gymnasium in Canada is but a mild and legitimate form of the craze that there is nothing in a young man to be made anything of by our newspapers than muscle.

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Our Canadian teachers will read the following with great interest, as it gives them a peep into a new world of pedagogy that perhaps they had never dreamed of:

The *Queensland Educational Journal* says, "We desire to call particular attention to the fact that