

knowledge and achievement is ever widening, it becomes as the decades pass more and more apparent that all trades and professions tend to sub-division into specialties, and it therefore becomes the more necessary that workers should be trained for the special work they have in view.

But the idea of sub-division implies the pre-existing entity. The specialist must have a broad foundation of liberal education upon which to rear his special structure, in order that he may have all the use of his mental faculties, and be able intelligently to utilize the opportunities at his command. This may not be absolutely necessary for the occasional geniuses who flash the wonders of their achievements upon the world, but it undoubtedly is so for the majority of mankind.

Fortunate indeed are those to whom has come the opportunity of acquiring the liberal training afforded by a university course as the basis of the special preparation for the work of their lives, but this is beyond the reach of many, and it becomes therefore a matter of paramount importance that elementary education, including that furnished by what are commonly called preparatory schools—the education afforded by the public schools of the country—should be, in all respects, the best, the most thorough, the most comprehensive, that intelligent effort and wise expenditure can make it. In a majority of cases it affords the only equipment attainable for the battle of life, and even though followed by special training it is equally important, as without it development on special lines is unbalanced development and to a great extent fruitless effort.

Absolute competency, ultimate superiority cannot be attained by special training, unless there exists that broad foundation of true education which draws out and develops the mental faculties and enables the man to apply his strength intelligently and effectively.

Elementary training again depends largely and principally upon the thoroughness of the *initial steps*, and the recognition of this fact is an encouraging feature of the educational problem at the present. The time has happily passed when it was thought that any teacher was good enough for little children, and the truth is now universally recognised that the best and most thoroughly trained teachers and the wisest heads should be chosen for that work.

A chain is not stronger than its weakest link. The increasing demand for the highest results in the shortest time, forced upon us by the accelerated pace of modern life, makes it necessary that equal attention and care should be expended at every step