

Those schools for young children, in which instructive diversions, object-lessons, and healthful games are prominent features have their use as a protest if not of fulfilment. Froebel was right in his attempt to give to children employment suited to their years and nature, to strengthen their bodies, exercise their senses, employ the waking mind, make them acquainted with nature, cultivate especially the heart and temper, and lead them to the foundation of all living,—unity with themselves. But in time the garden of children was transformed into a school-room where an immature woman presides over such employment as plaiting straw and singing about the bluebird on the branch. The technical training of which so much is heard is already falling to a similar level. A grown boy is set to making a rolling-pin; and if he shows unusual aptitude for the task, his product is bedecked with a ribbon and suspended in the family sitting-room.

The master mechanics have given us a hint; but being actuated not by philanthropy but by business they cannot take boys at a sufficiently early age or give to them the consideration proper to tender years. If the public funds which are now bestowed upon schools were handed over to railway corporations or other bodies of men equally intelligent, they could receive boys of eight years of age, train their bodies not for one work but for all work, and by training their bodies train their minds. Books are composed of words, and words are a poor substitute for things. A boy who really masters a proposition about angles in Euclid has learned to think straight. With a saw and a mitre-box he learns to think straight, to do straight, and he learns about angles besides. He acquires self-control and mastery by striving with material wood to convert square into round by means of cutting tools, by subduing iron with fire and file, and by compelling the earth to yield fruit after its kind. By converting ugliness into beauty with colour and form he has learned the first lesson in art. All boys would then be trained muscularly, intellectually, and æsthetically up to the limit of the capacity of the individual. The law of natural selection would have free play, and from