

for or can be overcome by diligence and perseverance on the part of any aspiring youth. It would be wrong to underestimate the value of industry and high aspiration, but these, while they can improve all and can render mediocrity respectable, can never supply the place of genius. While it is impossible to create genius by any system of training, it is almost impossible to repress it altogether by any carelessness or neglect.

“That many mute inglorious Miltons lie buried in our churchyards, I venture to doubt: the fire of a Burns is not easily hidden under a bushel, but some smaller lights may be quenched, and the best of such men, like Burns himself, may be thwarted and broken in heart.” (*Dr. Allbutt.*)

Other things being equal, the child who, from infancy, is trained to think and to reason correctly and to express its thoughts clearly, will be more likely to attain eminence in mature life in all pursuits of an intellectual character than the child not so trained; indeed, skilful training in early life is essential to success in persons of average natural capacity, and is of unquestionable importance to all.

The efforts to establish and to maintain an efficient system of education in this country are worthy the highest commendation, but the task is a difficult one and there is danger of enthusiastic legislators over-stepping the mark and making our sons and daughters mere receptacles of knowledge instead of creators of knowledge by failing to recognise that it is vastly more important that a man should think and reason correctly than that he be the possessor of multitudes of facts and definitions. Physicians, with such questionable elementary training, are like the artificer well supplied with the tools of his craft but lacking the skill to use them. It is not to such that we may look hopefully for real progress in our science; they make up the great army of routine practitioners who trouble themselves little with profundities and are like Dr. Sangrado, who felt quite sure that those of his patients who, under the care of his pupil Gil Blas, died from excessive bleeding and the copious drinking of warm water, did so because this his panacea was not applied with sufficient vigor and determination. It is probably not incorrect