

5. Why is co-operation in the lesson to be expected at this period?

LESSON IX.

THE SENIORS (AGE 16 TO 21).

General Characteristics.—The main characteristics of the preceding age still prevail. Physical, intellectual, emotional and volitional energy all manifest themselves in new but somewhat sobered forms. There is less impatience and sensitiveness, less desire to assert authority and to fight it out. Though doubts and fears still exist, they are not so irrational. Gradually self-consciousness disappears, and with it that secretiveness which marked life in the earlier period. The ambitions and aspirations are more modest. The reading of the yellow novel gives way to the reading of history and romance. Life becomes in every way more settled. From now on, the young man begins to think of himself as a contributor to racial achievement. He has to readjust all his views and bring them into line with this conception. He becomes more sedate, although by no means tame, for his dominant characteristic is still his readiness to assert his individuality. Though he is not certain of himself, he is less certain of others. He is, therefore, critical in the highest degree. He has not yet conquered his impetuosity. He speaks before he has reached a definite decision, and his pride prevents him from retracting his opinion. He is strongly partisan in everything, and this because there is within him a power urging him to action. To live is to achieve, to leave an impression, to bring the world to reason. And everything must be done without delay.

Physical Characteristics.—There is something beautiful in the physical strength and determination of young men at this time. Never can they accomplish more than in the years between 16 and 21. They take a delight in manifesting