

without seeing a fossil or handling a mineral. The milky-way has been skimmed from Astronomy; a few star-names committed to memory; and, if the book is an old one, you will be assured that the sun is ninety-five millions of miles from the earth. Lead the class to historical subjects. Atila, Mahomet, Czar Paul, and Paul Jones, are names in mind; but there is no associated idea of their respective places in the cycles of history, or their possessors' relative importance as factors in the development of the race. The amount of show knowledge they possess is wonderful; and not less wonderful is their lack of real knowledge.

This is on the day of graduation. After one, or two, or three years' occupation of the teacher's chair, they will be little better prepared to pass a practical examination. Young lady teachers, after six hours' confinement in the school-room, betake themselves to tattling, or light reading, for diversion, rather than to hard thinking and study for improvement.

Longfellow said years ago—that the country is press-ridden rather than priest-ridden. There is a Caxtonian madness among us, and books—text-books especially—are crushing out individuality, and cramming the memory to the detriment of thought. They are the door through which creep these half-fledged teachers; through them comes our children's distaste for school and study. And one series follows another, until the mind of teacher, as well as pupil, is, like a dictionary, barren of all save definitions.

The American girl's mind is in a chaotic state when she receives her diploma. It is by no means empty. It has been crammed with knowledge—or, more correctly, the word-signs of knowledge—but so rapidly that perception could not keep pace with acquisition. Half comprehended facts have been received in abundance, but never labelled and shelved, so as to be produced at sudden call. Yet she is under the delusion that she is educated, and competent to educate others. And as a teacher, she arrogates to herself a respectability superior to the milliners or the mill-girls, forgetting that her fitness for the teacher's desk alone determines whether it is to her a position, or only a situation—whether she has a vocation or merely an employment. At present it is too often the latter. And the weaver or spinner, who does her work well, is more worthy of honor than one who, unqualified by judgment, self-discipline, and scholarship, essays to develop and instruct young minds.

That the lady teacher's ambition is almost universally limited by the assumption of school-room authority, is sadly evident. In one of our most popular and widely known schools for young ladies—one which sends forth scores of teachers for this and for heathen lands—a principal boasted that she had not been absent from the institution but one Sunday for thirteen years! This was her sheaf, the proof of her faithfulness. Thus shut out from the world, how could she gain that varied knowledge of the world's needs essential to prepare those in her charge for their future missions? In constant contact with learners who look up to her as the embodiment of wisdom, seldom listening to her own superior in what passes for knowledge, brightened by no intellectual friction, and only *hearing* of the world and its ways and progress until the actual life beyond her view, and into which her pupils were to go, had become but a theory—how could she keep pace with the requirements of the nineteenth century? Could she be other than she was—hard in her decrees, clinging to old methods, grinding out a certain amount of mental and manual labor indiscriminately from the rugged and the delicate? But the school has a name. Mothers keep it well supplied with misses—and, as a physician once remarked, "subjects for him!"—F. A. D. Hammond, in *Iowa School Journal*.

5. BY-PATHS TO PROSPERITY.

With patience, success in a retail business devoted to a single article is almost certain in a large city. Thus, let a man sell nothing but dolls' heads, keeping his prices well down, and remaining in the same store for years, and although, perhaps, for a long while unnoticed, and strongly tempted to expand his business into a toy-shop or a variety store, if persistent in the one idea, he will eventually attract an exclusive trade, and draw customers for dolls' heads from distant quarters; for it is alike the observation of buyers, and sellers that the best place to buy an article is that where only that article is dealt in. But if the dealer in the case supposed were to include the bodies, the garments, and the furniture of dolls, he might procure a larger business in the first few years, but with no such prospect of ultimate increase or permanency.

The specialties of scientific knowledge give occupation to men possessed of thorough knowledge of peculiar departments. To enumerate these special callings is but to give the designations appropriate to the divisions of science. The professions are similarly pursued in individual lines; and we have patent lawyers and divorce lawyers, cancer doctors and chiropodists. Of the last there

was one who went travelling from house to house, before the days when citizens hired a "corn-doctor" by the year to operate monthly, whose reputation was founded upon an alleged capacity for extracting the roots of corns. After nicely trimming the afflicted feet, he would affect to pull out the said roots with tweezers. He bored a small hole in the corn, and his legerdemain was very neat; but a gentleman on whom he operated kept a "root," and examined it under a microscope. It was a piece of a fish-bone.

With special reference to human frailty, there is a business reduced to a system in Paris, employing a number of discreet deputies, who go around to liquor shops and places of public resort at night, and accompany, or otherwise assist to their homes, for a consideration, inebriated gentlemen, who would otherwise fall into the hands of the police. In that city there is also, at almost every alternate street corner, that most valuable of messengers, the *com-missionnaire*. Licensed, and amenable to strictly enforced penalties if he overcharges, defaults, or even blunders, he is yet your servant for the occasion, capable for a reasonable compensation per hour, of the greatest variety of service. He can procure for you a ball-ticket; order your dinner, and summon your company; ascertain the whereabouts of a book in the public libraries or the shops; perhaps even collect a bill, or prepare the preliminaries of an *affaire du cœur*. He is frequently employed by a jealous husband or wife to follow and report upon the movements of the suspected party; and occasionally the same agent is hired by both the partners in a domestic infelicity.

A business has grown into formidable dimensions within a few years in London which it is impossible to regard with complacency. The nearest approach to it in this country is the Association for the Suppression of Gambling, which, with a worthier motive, adopts somewhat similar means. "Private Inquiry" offices are an invention to the credit of which England is perfectly welcome; and we devoutly hope that nobody on this side of the water will either copy or infringe upon their peculiarities. Employing great numbers of young men and women apparently engaged in other pursuits, as house-servants, clerks, etc., to collect and communicate to a central office all the gossip, scandal, and personalities that they can pick up and acquire in the families or firms where they have such opportunities, these establishments obtain information in vast quantities which is carefully recorded and tabulated. This information, these family secrets obtained by infamous bribery and espionage, are for sale. To these offices a husband or wife proceeds in search of evidence when thinking of applying for a divorce. Thither, also, go morbid wretches in search of food for jealousy; partners who doubt each other; employers who suspect their agents. And so widely spread are the ramifications by which this institution has penetrated the privacy of British households, that it is said that an applicant rarely calls at an office without finding that there are at least some details already "booked" respecting the object of his inquiries. But no profit which may accrue to employers or employed can compensate for the utter loss of self-respect involved in such an occupation.—WILLIAM C. WYCOFF, in *Harpers' Magazine* for August.

6. THE WRONG AND THE RIGHT WAY.

We learn more frequently by illustration than theory. The following exemplifies two methods more clearly than any discussion:

We once went into a room of little ones, not over six and a half years of age, and found about seventy pairs of bright little eyes, and met a young lady of little experience, as their teacher, and the principal of the school. A class stood on the floor, to whom the teacher was giving a lesson on the five senses. She began by having the first one repeat something like this: "There are five senses—hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting and feeling." Several repeated promptly; but presently one little fellow faltered, tried again to follow the teacher, but failed; tried again, but again failed. At last he gave up and began to cry, and was sent to his seat. The principal then called him to the platform and asked him how he knew he was talking to him. His face brightened a little, and the tears were checked, and he replied, "I can hear you talk." "What am I doing, then, when you hear me?" said the principal. "Talking," said the little boy. "What are you doing when I talk?" "Hearing." "Well," said the principal, "that is one sense. Now, let us find another. How do you know I am sitting here?" "I can see you," said the boy, his face shining and his tears gone. "What sense is that?" "Seeing," said he. And thus the boy was taken through the lesson, and thoroughly understood it, and was sent to his class happy with the knowledge he had obtained, and feeling that it was his own, by reason of the action of his mind in obtaining it. The first method we call cramming; the latter, development.—*Chicago Schoolmaster*.