

The Love of Labor.

Education is for the benefit of the pupil as an individual, as a coming citizen, and as one link in the chain of life. The powers resulting from it may be applied to the improvement of, (a) the home and its comforts, conveniences, safeguards, and spirit ; (b) the occupation and the security of its opportunities, satisfactions, and remunerations ; and (c) the social relationships, in order that there may be an increase of good-will and co-operation.

Such applications of education would bring about what has been called the rehabilitation of rural life. As a means towards that end, there are required schools in which children work with their hands on tangible things, and can themselves take the initiative in tasks which are mutually helpful to the children and to the relationship of the school to the homes. By means of such schools there would be conserved a love of manual labor, a love of ideas and learning, and a love of one's fellows. These foster and nourish worthy enthusiasm for all good things. It would be well to have in such a school difficulties to be encountered and overcome somewhat similar to those of later life. That may be stated as a good reason for commending manual training, household science, and nature study with the school garden. These lend themselves to the graduation of difficulties, to situations in which children learn from each other, and to experiences which cultivate the imagination and at the same time develop executive ability. After a few centuries of such schools one might expect men and women to be on the average the peers of Tennyson and Florence Nightingale. What would not the peaks of human life be then ? It may not be long before the courses of study in our public schools provide such fair balance for the application of children's activities, that time-tables will be arranged with one-quarter of the whole time devoted to doing things with the tangible, one-quarter to language, literature, and history, and the remainder divided between mathematics and nature sciences.