

DRAWING IN GENERAL EDUCATION.

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LANGUAGE and number have heretofore been the beginning and end of education in the common schools.

Language is here taken as the general name for reading, spelling and grammar, and number for mathematics. These two studies have been pursued with a persistence which has led to the popular belief that they were all in all, and that nothing more was needed to lay the foundation of a well rounded and complete educational training.

But modern education has kept pace with modern thought and ideas, until to-day training along these two lines alone is found to be insufficient; that with these two for a foundation the superstructure is one-sided and incomplete; that if the end sought is a harmonious and well rounded education, the foundation must be made broader and stronger.

Modern education recognizes three grand divisions of educational training; body training, mind training and soul training. The harmonious development of these three is the sum total of education. Of these mind training receives the most attention in the common schools. Four studies are at the basis of mind training. They are *number, language, drawing and music*.

Drawing here is taken in the widest sense as representing the elements of both form and colour. It is the mental process by which ideas are represented both pictorially and in solid form.

Of these four studies drawing alone seems to be viewed by the masses with suspicion. Because it was not taught in their day, and they do not feel the need of it, they pronounce

against it. By the same argument, the successful business man who has had no schooling in his early days, pronounces all scholastic study humbug. It may be said of any department of knowledge, that one does not understand its importance until he enters into its domain himself, or sees another put it to practical use in the affairs of life. So those who have not learned drawing, do not, in their own experience, know what they have lost,

But if number, language, drawing and music are the fundamental studies, then all others are but branches, and these four studies are the elements of which they are composed. This is even so, for without a knowledge of these studies, it would be difficult to acquire a knowledge of other branches. For example, the elements that enter into the study of geography are number, language and drawing. In other words, in order to understand geography one must have a knowledge of mathematics, language and form, because these are the elements on which it is based.

In the same manner number, language and drawing are the foundational aids in acquiring such branches as physiology, physics, geology, etc. The trades are almost entirely based on these three studies.

In proportion to the knowledge of and ability to use these four elements, the branches become easy and the time for their mastery is shortened.

Drawing is largely the basis of the trades. The stone cutter cuts a capital out of marble with chisels, the draughtsman draws it on paper with pencil; the manual process differs, but the mental process is the same. The blacksmith draws a horseshoe