

The other grand requisite of enthusiasm is Reading. I have already spoken of the necessity for professional reading and high scholarship. I now mean more than this. I mean wide and varied reading. "Reading maketh a full man." Out of your abundance you will have a wealth of resource and of illustration that cannot fail to give life and freshness to your daily task. Only thus, too, can you surely broaden your sympathies and avoid that narrowness of mental vision which doth so easily beset us. Books are, indeed, a pool of Bethesda whose waters the Angel of Desire may continually trouble. Here there need be no limitation. The last will be healed as well as the first. Here the strong will be made stronger, and here our impotent folk—the blind, the halt, and the withered—will be made whole of whatsoever disease they may have. Nay, more:

"Books, we know,
Are a substantial world, both pure and good.
Round these, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,
Our pastime and our happiness will grow."