

and fibres organized into symmetrical order, so as to produce innumerable connections, crossings, and junctions of exquisite delicacy. The mental associations are formed by combinations of currents in the brain and are made permanent by the growth and modification of cells at the point of union. When an impression is made upon the brain a change is produced and an effect remains in the brain substance. If it be repeated the change is deepened and the effect becomes more lasting. Intellectual capacity is therefore at bottom an affair of physical impossibility and is subjected to limitations.

The writer of "Objections" then proceeds to make the remark that "Nothing once acquired is ever lost." Mr. Bain says: "Excitable brains that can command a very great concentration of force upon a subject will be proportionately improved for the time being. By drawing upon the strength of the future we are able to fix temporarily a great variety of impressions during the exaltation of cerebral power that the excitement gives. The occasion past, the brain must be idle for a corresponding length of time, while a large portion of the excited impressions will gradually perish away." The brain should be carefully trained and husbanded. We must bear in mind that in "life's short span" we cannot learn everything, for while we are endeavoring to master one course of study, the previous mental impressions will of necessity be crowded out to make room for those we are now loading the brain with. So that it behooves us to use careful judgment in choosing those lines of thought which will be of the greatest use to us throughout life, and which we can see exemplified in our daily surroundings. If we do this our conceptions, instead of fading away, will be strengthened and stimulated, and we will be capable of deeper thought and clearer perception.

My correspondent says: "We have no great names on our records who have left gems of thought to the world, but we find that their souls were roused by the writings of past thinkers." It is to be

regretted that she has never heard the thrilling names of Newton, Watt, Stephenson and Edison, and many other equally illustrious names, and, in all sincerity, I would advise that she diligently search till she comes across them, and that she read the early lives of these men, and it is the humble opinion of the writer that she will find they have become famous, not by reading "the writings of past thinkers," but by careful observation and indefatigable study of the natural phenomena presented by every-day life.

In conclusion I wish to express the hope that I am not transgressing to too great an extent on the time of the Editors of the "Portfolio," and that the length of this reply will not be considered an imposition on good nature.

BLUFF.

✦ Salutory. ✦

PLEASURES OF SCIENCE.

LENAH A. W. SUTCLIFFE.

FRRIENDS and acquaintances! I bid you to-night in behalf of Class 'go a hearty welcome! You have come to show us by your sympathy and kindly feeling that you are interested in us, and we are grateful for it. To-night we are entering upon another life, new cares and new joys are opening before us, and we resolutely turn our faces from the past with its joys and sorrows so inextricably mingled, and put our forces to our new work, hoping that the future will show our efforts have not been in vain. We are to separate—different callings, aspirations and circumstances, will make our paths through life diverge, but the chain of friendship will not be broken—it is too firmly welded by association and by our mutual experiences of joy and sorrow for absence to sever. It is with sadness that we will say farewell, but we look with pleasure to the future when we hope to fulfill the expectations of our teachers, and prove that the lessons learned while here have not been in vain.

The actual benefits which humanity has reaped from the developments of