

develop in function, education must largely consist in hints, in the suggestions of knowledge. It should be here a little and there a little when the brain is getting large. It is the time when the imagination rather than the exactness of facts meets the child's instincts.

The great danger in our schools, however, arises from imperfect health. I presume there have been 100 special books upon the single subject of children's health. It has become the custom in some countries that in some of the best and most progressive city wards there are young doctors who are paid a small sum to examine every child in the lower grades of the schools. There is a little health book kept of every child. These doctors examine the child's complexion, his muscles, his circulation, his respiration. Are the muscles strong? Eyes bright? Appetite good? etc. According to circumstances may come this direction: Put this child on a milk diet; or, Keep this child out of school for four weeks; or, Take this child to the oculist, or to the dentist, as the case may be. All kinds of suggestions are recorded in this book to which the parents have access, but which the teachers keep. What would you and I not give if we had a medical examination every six months of our school life? The results of all these examinations which have been made I can't give in detail, but I will say that 42 to 60 per cent. of the children in the upper grades were found to be suffering from defective eyesight and that this per cent. of poor eyesight had increased every year from the sixth year up. In regard to the ear of course the defect was a great deal less, and it was much more difficult to detect. In the case of some children who were thought to be dull or stupid it was found that their minds were all right, and if they were placed in the front seat perhaps they would prove to be among the brightest. So spinal curvature and other diseases were found to be connected with certain work or habits in school.

But the great result of it all is this: that the modern school seems to be a force tending to physical degeneracy. It is very hard for a child to sit four or five or six hours a day during eight or ten months in a rather imperfect air, in a rather unphysiological seat, with the strain thrown upon the little muscles which wag the tongue. Nature has made it very hard for a healthy child to sit still; and when we consider that children the civilized world over, and in countries lately civilized, all go to school, we see what a tremendous danger there is that the race will be imperfectly developed. How sad