

a poor chance of ever accumulating enough wealth for our daily necessities. In saying that the race for wealth is not culture, my correspondent insinuates that I said it was, and in so doing she does me an injustice, and misrepresents my statements.

My fair critic claims that I am going to an extreme when I say that the highest reason for which knowledge should be acquired is its power of useful application—am I? I ask the unprejudiced reader is the mind not as truly disciplined by the study of those subjects which are capable of useful application as by those which are not? I certainly agree with the adherents of the traditional system of education in so far as to say that “mental discipline” is one of the objects of a higher education—a most important one too—but should it be the sole object? Cannot the mind be perfectly trained and disciplined by the study of sciences, which, in addition, gives to the student a knowledge of facts which will be found useful and applicable during his whole subsequent life? As I said when treating this subject before, if it be held desirable merely to task the memory by a dead pull at arbitrary facts, then it is only necessary to use the innumerable facts of science without regard to order; but when we take into consideration the immense importance of methodizing mental acquisition and utilizing the principle of natural association among the elements of knowledge, the immeasurable superiority of the sciences for this purpose becomes at once apparent.

No, the classical student cannot be called exactly a hermit, yet if he does justice to his classical course he will have little, if any time, for anything else. It is true that he dwells in modern society, but his thoughts and sympathies, being influenced by his classical reading, are ancient. For be it known that during the last two years at least of his classical course he reads practically nothing but Latin and Greek, and so much of these two languages does the curriculum set down for his perusal, that if, as I said before, he does justice to his work, he has

no time for modern thought or modern reading. Professor Vaughan says: “There is no study that could prove more successful in producing often thorough idleness and vacancy of mind, parrot-like repetition and sing-song knowledge to the abeyance and destruction of the intellectual powers, as well as to the loss and paralysis of the outward senses than our traditional study and idolatry of language.” It is well known that in numerous cases the after success of the student may be directly traced to neglect of his regular college studies, and his indulgence in other lines of thought, and it is equally notorious that in numberless other cases where the student has surrendered himself to college influences and conquered his curriculum, exactly in proportion to his fidelity has been his defeat. He has mastered a disqualifying culture. “O that I had some knowledge of those imminent questions that are urging themselves on public attention in place of my ‘college lumber’” is a stereotyped exclamation in these cases.

When my correspondent says: “The writer is on shifting sand when he takes the stand that where no perceived result comes from the acquiring of certain subjects time has been irretrievably lost and power irrecoverably wasted,” she appears to me to be laboring under a delusion. She apparently thinks that the mental capacity of the human brain is illimitable. In this she is greatly mistaken. Some brains can take in and retain more than others, but there is a limit to the mental capabilities of each brain. Thought usually goes on so quietly and seems so far removed from bodily exertion that we are easily betrayed into the notion that it is carried on in a region of pure spirit; but this is far from being the truth. The changes of states of consciousness, the course of thought and all the processes of the understanding are carried on by a constant succession of nerve-excitements and nerve-discharges. The brain is not a chaos of parts thrown together at random, but consists of hundreds of millions of cells