

school-work ; and scant courtesy was given to any suggestion which by any chance seemed to run away from what we are all agreed upon as the true function of the school, namely, the development of the whole being of a boy or girl to the point of being able to take charge of himself or herself, when called upon to assume the responsibilities of life while entering upon any phase of labour or upon the stage of the after self-education.

I think that we, the members of this association, may also take some credit to ourselves that our discussions have not, to any serious extent, run away from this first principle. We have come to be suspicious of the apples of Sodom that the opportunist is ever ready to offer us, for the sake of a little vain-glory in the shape of innovations of the Volapuk or Herbartian kind ; and here I have to publicly thank the teachers of my inspectorate for the spirit of co-operation they have always shown in adopting any plan for the improvement of their schools, when once they have come to understand that such a plan sinned against no sound pedagogic principle. Through this co-operation, we have been able to approach the elemental laws of child nature in a practical way, and if we have had the preliminary laugh to contend with, as we persevered in introducing and maintaining the three drills as a means to an end, we surely can gain sufficient confidence from what has been done, to face any obstacle that may be thrown in our way while introducing a fourth drill, the most important of all school drills.

After all these years of patient experimenting, it is surely not necessary for any one to tell you from this platform that physical drill is a necessary part of school work, a legitimate school function. And yet it may be necessary to repeat that physical drill is only a legitimate school function when it is kept in its place as a means to an end and not for exhibition purposes. Do I need to tell you that sentence drill is a legitimate school function ? Certainly not ; but remember that such a drill is only a legitimate school function when it is kept in its place as a means to an end, the end being the training of the child to think correctly by attaining to a correct way of uttering thought original or memorized ; and no more need I tell you that religious instruction in school is a necessity, a legitimate school function, as long as you do not forget that it must