The Half Day School.

What are the best school hours for children? The doctors have decided that four hours a day, from nine till one, are the best both for girls and Some will ask themselves r the doctors have taken bovs. whether the doctors into due consideration the peril to young people that is inseparable from hours of aimless idleness. It will hardly be disputed that the hours of mental strain, or what should be mental strain, have always been too long, and in one way or another tend to a less intellectual result than shorter hours would. It must be admitted, too, that hardly any use of the, energies is more useful and educative than play. On the play-ground every muscle finds joyous exercise, and the elasticity of childhood allows for considerable strains which would be dangerous in later life. All the physicial faculties which are for the most part suppressed during intellectual study and which an exhausting school system tends to atrophy, are there on the alers. And nowhere is one better trained in knowledge of and in dealing with one's fellow-man than in the gener-ous contentions of the playground, where, in many respects, the conditions are but an epitome of what is called the battle of life. Military drill, quite apart from its purpose of making men into soldiers, is one of the pest forms of regular exercise. The 'setting up' that a lad gets through military drill and the power to obey, and in turn to command, are invaluable forms of training. Better still is what is called manual training—the stimulation at least of work. Nothing could tend more to the elevation of labor than some porvision by which a youth could acquire his trade. This is a right thing to do; therefore should not be impossible.

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