

The same tests have conclusively proved that the brain of a child is always most active between 8.30 and 11.30 in the morning. All lessons, therefore, requiring the exercise of their reasoning power—such as arithmetic and grammar—should be at this hour. It has been further deduced that the average child, unhampered by grades and systems, may have easily mastered his arithmetic by the time he is twelve years old.

Scientists have also discovered that if the brain centres governing the motor nerves remain undeveloped until the age of sixteen, there is no chance whatever of any later development; which fact is a powerful argument in favor of manual training in the public schools. The majority of children are so active that they develop their own brains and nerves to a certain extent along these lines. Where they fail to do so, we get the tramp and the sloven. It is a physical impossibility to acquire skill and dexterity in any art unless the foundation has been laid in the formation of brain cells and the training of the motor nerves before the age of sixteen.

THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP.

GIVE me the hand that is warm, kind, and ready ;
Give me the hand that is calm, true, and steady ;
Give me the hand that will never deceive me ;
Give me the grasp that I may believe thee.

Soft is the hand of the delicate woman ;
Hard is the hand of the rough, sturdy ploughman ;
Soft palm or hard hand—matters it never—
Give me the grasp that is friendly for ever.

Give me the hand that is true to a brother ;
Give me the hand that has harmed not another ;
Give me the hand that has never forsworn it :
Give me the hand that I may adore it.

Lovely the palm of the blue-veined maiden ;
Ugly the hand of the workman o'erladen ;
Lovely or ugly, matters it never—
Give me the grasp that is friendly for ever.

Give me the grasp that is honest and hearty—
Free as the breeze and untrammelled by party ;
Let friendship still give me the grasp that becomes her—
Close as the twine of the vines of the summer.

Give me the hand that is true to a brother ;
Give me the hand that has wronged not another ;
Soft palm or hard hand—matters it never :
Give me the grasp that is friendly for ever.—*Anon.*

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