READING AND EDUCATION.

Mere reading will never suffice for the needs of an uneducated mind. The mental food which really nourishes us cannot be imbibed through a glass tube, while we sit luxuriously in an easy-chair. Every one has to work for an education. The food of the mind has to be earned, masticated, digested, and assimilated, before it does us much good.

Reading, it is true, has its important office in education, and, besides, there are various ways of reading. I knew a business man in New York who, though he could not get more than half an hour a day for reading, seemed to me to get a liberal education out of one book, Grote's "History of Grocce."

He sat down before this great work with such a keen appetite for the knowledge it contained; he read it so slowly, so carefully, and with so much reflection; he got so many side-lights upon it from other sources, and talked about it so much with his friends, that he became, in the course of the two years during which the book occupied him, a truly learned man in all that apportains to the history and literature of Greece. Other readers will dawdle over books from youth to hoary age, and remain to the last ignorant and uninformed.

Franklin's example instructs us on this point. When he left school for good, and went apprentice to his brother James, the

printer, he was but twelve years of age, and nearly all he had in the way of education was a hunger for knowledge.

At first, he did little but read. He spent all his money in buying books, as well as all his spare time in reading them. But he soon found that reading alone would not make him an educated person, and he promake him an educated person, and he proceeded to act upon this discovery in a very rational manner. He took the very method which is both easiest and best for boys of the present day.

At school he had been unable to understand arithmetic. Twice he had given it up as a hopeless puzzle, and finally left school almost wholly ignorant of the subject. But he had no sooner taken hold of business as a printer's boy than he found his ignorance of figures extremely incon-

When he was about fourteen he took up for the third time the "Cocker's Arithmetie" which had baffled him at school, and ciphered all through it with ease and pleasure. He then mastered a work upon navigation, which included the rudiments of geometry, and thus tasted the inexhaustible charm of mathematics.

He pursued a similar course in acquiring the art of composition, in which, at length, he excelled most of the men of his time. When he was but a boy of sixteen he wrote so well that the pieces which he slyly sent to his brother's paper were thought to have been written by some of the most learned men in the colony. Indeed, he edited the newspaper when he was sixteen years of age, while his brother was confined in prison for a libel.

He committed one great error in his selfeducation-he half-starved his body to buy food for his mind, making his dinner of a few raisins and a piece of bread. No one more needs abundant and nourishing food than he who is doing mental labor.

No doubt young Benjamin picked up some good meals at his father's house during the week, or he could not have accomplished what we know he did accomplish in self-education. Half the students who "break down" owe their failure to a system of nourishment which is either erroneous or insufficient .- James Parton, in Youth's Companion.

JOHN BARTRAM.

Sometimes the desire for knowledge arises suddenly in the mind. John Baryoung farmer near Philadelphia when Franklin was a rising printer there. One hot day, while he was giving his plough horses a rest under a tree, he picked by chance a daisy, as he sat on the grass

and began to examine its structure.

He was amazed to discover what an elegant and dainty thing it was, and he felt a pang of shame at his total ignorance of the marvels of nature among which he had passed his life.

That very day he rode one of his plough

The Mistakes of my Life.

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door."—Rev. iii. 8.



- 3. My mistakes his free grace will cover, My sins he will wash away. And the feet that shrink and falter, Shall walk through the gates of day.
- 4. The mistakes of my life have been many, And my spirit is sick with sin, And I scarce can see for weeping, But the Saviour will let me in.

that could explain to him the structure and growth of plants. He could find but one, a great folio in Latin, of which he knew nothing. He bought, it nevertheless, and with it a Latin grammar and dictionary, all of which he brought home on his horse, and in three months he began to be able to grope and struggle his way to the

meaning of his big Latin book.

Bartram became the leading botanist of America, spent all his days in the study and culture of plants, founded in Philadelphia a botanic garden which Washington visited and Franklin admired, and served his country by introducing from other lands and zones all the plants and trees he could hear of that promised to thrive in the climate of the United States.

Seldom has there been a man who lived lovelier or more useful life. He reared a son also who continued his work and wrote his history. And it all began with picking n daisy to pieces under a tree!—James Parton, in Youth's Companion.

PLAYING CARDS for pastime, is regarded as an innocentamusement, but soon becomes a passion, and leads a man to forego home, family, business and pleasure, for the ex citing scenes of the card-table. The presence of culture and genius may embellish, but can never dignify it. It is the resort of the starved in soul and intellect. It cannot recommend itself to the favor of Christian people. Dr. Holland, the accomplished American writer, says: — I have this moment ringing in my cars the dying injunction of my father's early friend, "Keep your son from cards. Over them I have murdered time and lost heaven.' Fathers and mothers, keep your sons from cards in the "home circle."—Tocque.

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Question Corner.—No. 10.

PRIZE BIBLE QUESTIONS.

34. An army was once perishing for want of water, when suddenly in the night, as a prophet had forefold, all water courses around were filled with water, although through all that region of country no rain had been seen. (a) What was the suffering army, and (b) who was the prophet?

35. By whom, to whom and on what occasion was said "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

36. Where is Jacob's well mentioned in the New Testament and in what connection.

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