

order of teaching "the young idea" is most truly to be desired, and I believe will only be thoroughly effected when attention is first paid—not as to how far a boy has advanced to class him, but how far his mental powers can be fairly graded. That intellect can grow like any other of the organs of the human frame, we all allow, and that there is a kind of "*pari passu*" growth is equally clear, that a healthy development of the body in all its functions is a fair precursor for an equal mental growth, we may expect to find, as a rule, but it is not always so. I knew an instance of a man who as a child was perfectly healthy and strong, intelligent also, but he never spoke a word till he was five years old; he was examined several times, his parents being persuaded that some organic defect was the cause, when, however, he did begin to speak, in three months he was almost equal to any child of his age. The study of the mental capacity of a child should early engage the attention of a parent, nor should there be a hasty judgment as to the power of a child's abilities. In children of large physical growth mental development is sometimes tardy, and a lad who may have been thought dull and stupid as a boy, surpasses the expectations of his friends by an unexpected power to grasp and tenacity to retain what before he was dull of apprehension to master; the reverse is often found also, that those in whom the highest hopes are centred often fall behind, and are passed by the steady plodding student.

The late William Pitt was a remarkable instance of early mental power, his tutor, the then Bishop of Norwich, says that at the age of 12 he could read Greek plays with perfect facility, as if it was his native tongue. His early grave was the consequence of a mind that from his childhood was unnaturally premature, and ultimately wore out the frame that held it. It is a deeply interesting study to trace the gradual dawn of intelligence to the full capacity that the mind can reach, the period of life in which it is most vigor-