

period of adolescence, or, in other words, between the ages of about fourteen and eighteen. During the course of this wonderful unfolding of Nature's purposes, the nervous, mental and physical condition of the child is in a peculiarly sensitive and precarious condition. Nature is busy with her physiological changes, the child's resistance is taxed to its utmost, and during this important epoch of existence the individual should surely be relieved of all unnecessary physical, nervous and mental taxation. This is not the time for excessive study, either at school or at home; it is not the time for grade vaulting or extreme mental activity; and yet how often do we see children, ambitious themselves, perhaps, or forced to unduly studious habits by ambitious parents or teachers, paling and fading away from over-application, until a broken-down constitution, thus early in life, proclaims the folly of the undue prosecution of a prevailing error.

One of the most interesting investigations that have been recently made concerning the relations existing between the ocular conditions and mental development, has been undertaken by Gelpe, who has examined 578 physically defective children, and found that 419, or about 72 per cent., had defective eyes, and that the worse the mental condition of the child the worse the eyes were found. A very large majority of these cases were improved by treatment, glasses, etc., showing what can be done even with children of feeble intellect by intelligent examinations and care. He shows that a predisposition to feeble-mindedness, congenital or otherwise, may certainly become active or be aggravated by various ocular defects, especially by uncorrected refractive errors. He compares defective visual organs to an ill-adjusted objective of a photographic camera, imparting to the retina and the brain indistinct images, thus putting such a severe strain on the nervous system as to handicap the mental development of the child. He found the significant fact that myopia decreased in direct proportion with the decrease of intelligence, and found that in these children of defective mentality myopia existed in about 12 per cent. of the cases, hypermetropia in about 32 per cent., while astigmatism occurred in 30 per cent. of the cases. These data are most interesting, and, the writer believes, fully coincide with the opinion of those who have observed many children of low physical or mental development. While the various avenues of this interesting subject might be more thoroughly elaborated, enough has surely been said to clearly indicate that a majority of school children are suffering from some