

CHAPTER XV

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

THE problem of better methods of employment and more harmonious relationship between employer and employee is of such acute and immediate importance that it takes form in the minds of many thoughtful people as an imminent crisis in human affairs. And yet it is only a part of a still broader and still more insistent problem. A very great deal of the mischief of unfitness of man for his job is done before the young person presents himself for employment. Parents and teachers, groping in the dark, have long been training natural born artists to become mechanics, natural born business men to become musicians, and boys and girls with great aptitudes for agriculture and horticulture to become college professors, lawyers, and doctors.

The waste of splendid human talent, amounting in some cases to positive genius, as a result of the obstinacy of parents, the out-of-date traditionalism of our schools, and the utter ignorance of both, is distressing. In our experience, covering a dozen