

tangled brain is struck dumb on seeing a bunch of ferns clinging to the sides of a moss-covered, sunless ravine. That teacher of philosophy, Plato, who, beneath the shade of the olive trees near Athens, talked with his pupils, declares for kindergarten and manual training, when he says: "Train the children up by amusements, that you may be better able to discern the direction of each one's genius." Thus, as in painting, sculpture and literature, the Greek stood at the base, so through Plato, he speaks the thought of Froebel and Pestalozzi, telling us not to load down the child's mind, but rather to give it freedom to find out the bent of its genius. Many a bright vision has been clouded by the machinery of mathematics, and the inventive instinct of others has often been dulled by the monotony of British battles and classic decades. We have too much science, too much arithmetic, too much grammar; in fact too many books—we should have more direct contact with things—carpenter's planes, draught-horses, wild deer, white hyacinths and shading fir-trees, vibrating compasses and pink-hued salmon.