

cooped up in a badly ventilated and over crowded schoolroom (as many of our schoolrooms unfortunately are) loses appetite, complains of feeling drowsy and perhaps even of headache. Under such conditions digestion is impeded, fermentation takes place, poisons are generated and these by the circulation are carried to the various tissues of the body and so what was a result—becomes a cause increasing the general lassitude of the tissues including the cerebral. Development is retarded. The child is injured both physically and mentally.

I am also of opinion that the child's physical growth and intellectual development are injuriously affected by the too common practice of prolonging the hours of mental effort by assigning to it tasks to be done at home for recitation during the next school day. In all conscience a child of tender years has had enough and more than enough mental exercise when he has been at it from nine to four without forcing upon him an extra hour or two in the evening. Parents are apt to lay the blame upon the teachers for this extra strain upon their children. I am rather of the opinion that the system and not the teachers are responsible. Examinations and their results are by our educational system made the test of a pupil's progress and of a teacher's fitness for his work. So long as this is the case, teachers who are, like the rest of us, only human will endeavour to have as many of their pupils as possible pass these tests. The pupil, perhaps, suffers in after life but the teacher and his school gains a reputation and our educational authorities can point with pride (?) to the fact that many children, owing to our excellent (?) system, pass the examination for entrance to our High Schools or Collegiate Institutes at the tender and undeveloped age of eleven or twelve years. Such a result, it seems to me, instead of being a subject of congratulation is deeply to be deplored. A boy or girl who is to begin the study of Geometry, Algebra, Latin and French or one of the sciences at eleven or twelve years of age must do so at the risk of permanent injury to his or her physical health and of lasting impairment of his or her intellectual faculties. To begin the school career at a later age and to carry on the work with less haste and with less desire to see immediate results is the wiser method. Neither plants nor animals (including the human species) should be developed