

result that the character is read on a dial.

The second is the easier method, but the first is the more thorough. Neither can be supposed to be infallible, for it cannot always be possible to judge of the mind by measurements of the body, or an examination of the mouth. What, for example, would calipers, tapes, scales, and dynamometers have made of the little man of Twickenham? A modern teacher applying his scientific tests would probably conclude that a youth who had to be bound in corsets every morning to prevent him from falling to pieces would not deserve serious attention. Yet the "Essay on Man" and "The Dunciad" stand forth to give the lie to such a conclusion. On the other hand, if the scientific system is not to be implicitly trusted, its revelations are certainly curious. Thus Professor H. P. Bowditch has proved that until the age of eleven or twelve boys are taller and heavier than girls. The latter pull suddenly up about the twelfth year, surpassing boys in both height and weight. The boys, however, soon take the lead again and keep it. Again, repeated measurements have shown that "the heads of girls are a little rounder than those of boys and always a little smaller." Once more it has been found that boys have three distinct periods of growth, "a moderate increase in the sixth and seventh years, a weaker growth from the ninth to the thirteenth, and a much greater one from the fourteenth to the sixteenth year." Yet again it is believed by the apostles of the scientific method "that growth focusses now upon one set of organs and functions and now upon another." In other words the eye, the hand, the voice, the chest and so on have a "nascent period," during which they make special progress.

How is the teacher to do himself and his pupils justice during the several periods of development? Mr. Hall acknowledges that the matter is still obscure and unsettled. In all probability many experiments lie between us and accurate knowledge. "Some think that during rapid general growth instruction should be general, suggestive, and call for little exactness or effort of will; that then new ideas are best grasped," but these are mere theories. What is certain is that a sound physical constitution is of the first importance to pupils who wish to do themselves and their teachers credit. Inspectors and competitive examinations threaten to take the savour out of life for the young. Mr. Hall notes that myopia, headaches, and nervous disorders are increasing at an alarming rate among children of all lands. If science can point the way to bodily health under the pressure which now prevails in schools and universities, it would confer lasting blessings on mankind. And, perhaps, calipers, tapes, scales, and dynamometers are the means by which the world is to secure that most desirable of possessions—a sound mind in a sound body.—*The Publishers' Circular*.

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STANDARD TIME.—Italy has adopted the time of central Europe. All the Italian time tables have, by order of the minister of public works, been printed with the hours marked up to 24, from midnight to midnight. This change was recommended 26 years ago by Signor G. Jervis, keeper of the royal industrial museum at Turin.

A PNEUMATIC POSTAL TUBE.—A Pneumatic Tube now connects Paris and Berlin. It is used for postal purposes, and makes it possible for a letter mailed in Paris to be delivered in Berlin in thirty-five minutes.