

beautiful objects—the majestic mountains, the vast and solitary forests breathing a language of their own; the expansive prairies, the mighty rivers and the rippling brooks—together with the exacting conditions on which success and even existence depended, infused health and vigor into their bodies, gave time for their minds to develop in accordance with the plan impressed by Nature on the race throughout the ages, and inspired them with a strength and steadfastness of purpose which are sadly deficient at the present time. In those days boys and girls attended school three, four or five months in the year; and, even while in attendance, spent a large part of their time out of school hours in active work or outdoor sports, so that there was but slight opportunity of producing that mental tire and satiety which are so prevalent at the present time.

The minds of the children were being evolved in accordance with the phylogenetic laws impressed on the race throughout the long istant past, and the result was mental stability, strength and endurance, as well as a dogged determination to get down to the bottom of things, even if it took years or a lifetime to do it. But how different is everything at the present time! The child probably comes into the world loaded down by inherited weakness or tendencies to disease or crime, caused by the high pressure, unnatural life, dissipations or vices of its parents.

When it gets hungry—which is in a very short time indeed—instead of being fed on the food designed by Nature for its sustenance, it is filled up with cow's milk or some manufactured nostrum; when it cries, it is given brandy, paregoric or some other narcotic poison to paralyze its digestive organs and nervous system into submission; and, still, many wonder why indigestion is prevalent among children and why the use of narcotic poisons is so fearfully on the increase among the people!

When scarcely out of the cradle the child is gripped by the tentacles of our educational system, and they never relax their hold until he has run the gauntlet of the kindergarten, the graded schools, high-schools, colleges and universities, and emerges a finished product of this system. While much of the work throughout the whole course is illogical, and sins against the symmetrical, physical, intellectual and moral development of the child, the youth, and the man; still, it is during the early years of childhood and youth, when the brain is unstable and easily irritated, that the greatest amount of harm is done by the stuffing, cramming processes, the almost endless examinations and the continual nervous strain and irritation which attend them. That the above statements are no mere jeremiad but based on actual facts is conclusively shown by thousands of physical and mental wrecks caused every year by this system—bodies which under better management might have become bulwarks of our national safety, and minds that if allowed to develop in accordance with Nature's laws might have helped to advance and adorn our civilization instead of being obliged to drag out a weakened, miserable existence or to languish behind prison bars or within the walls of insane asylums.

The enormously increased percentage of the insane, as compared with the whole population, within the last twenty or thirty years, is very strong proof that mental stability at least is not increasing.

The American home has always been the upbuilder of physical health and integrity, the conservator of mental strength and power, and the preserver of moral

rectitude and purity. The sanctity and influence of the home have always been among the strongest bulwarks against physical evils, the greatest safeguards against moral delinquencies and a powerful protection against mental dissipation; and it naturally follows that anything which tends to lessen the influence exerted by the home upon the people must have a demoralizing effect. No one will deny that the home has lost much of the power which it once exerted over the people. Its sanctity has been invaded and its members have been drawn into clubs, societies, secret organizations, etc., which, if not positively injurious, at least do not possess the strengthening, tranquilizing and uplifting influences of the home.

While it may be claimed that the diffusion of education is so general that it is becoming a rare thing to find people who are not able to read and write, it is also true that crime is on the increase, and that this increase is not confined to the illiterate, but includes many with a good, nay, even a superior education.

The intellectual faculties have been cultivated at the expense of the moral nature, and the result is an asymmetric development—a social pariah, a degenerate.

To be continued.)

FIRE AT LAURENTIDE PULP CO., GRAND MERE, QUE.: 11th MAY.

The insurance loss on the above will amount to \$102,600, in which the following companies are interested:—

Alliance, 2 1-2 per cent.; Caledonian, 3 1-2 per cent.; Guardian, 5 per cent.; Lancashire, 5 per cent.; Liverpool & London & Globe, 5 per cent.; North British & Mercantile, 5 per cent.; Northern, 1 1-2 per cent.; Norwich Union, 4 1-2 per cent.; North America, 1 3-4 per cent.; Phoenix, of London, 8 1-2 per cent.; Quebec, 1 1-2 per cent.; Royal, 8 1-2 per cent.; Scottish Union & National, 1 3-4 per cent.; Union, 8 1-2 per cent.; Western, 5 per cent.

HULL-OTTAWA RELIEF FUND.

The following British fire insurance companies have notified their Canadian managers that they have contributed through the fund opened in London for the above, as follows:—

London Assurance Corporation.. . . .	1,250
Phoenix, of London.. . . .	500
Liverpool & London & Globe.. . . .	1,250
Royal.. . . .	1,250

The directors of the Guardian Fire & Life Insurance Co. have contributed \$1,000 from themselves individually.

SMALLPOX.

We do not believe that there is any good cause for alarm or uneasiness at the appearance in our midst of a few cases of this loathsome disease. There are very few cities of the size of Montreal entirely free from smallpox. Yet we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that there is, at present, every reason for extreme vigilance on the part of the guardians of the public health, and we hope every precaution possible will be taken to prevent the spread of this disease.