

est just now about national defence; can we take advantage of this awakened zeal to devise a plan which will not only succeed for a year or two while this fit of enthusiasm lasts, but which will abide as a permanent measure of defence?

Let us first inquire as to the age at which a boy should begin military exercises. I answer the question from my own experience quite emphatically, and say that the beginning of the period of puberty (fourteen to sixteen) is the earliest age at which to introduce the boy to these pursuits. During these years he begins to take a real interest in his own future career, his imagination and interests widen rapidly, and can be stirred to a genuine sentiment of patriotism—not a sentiment which he will talk about, but which he will feel all the more because he keeps it to himself. Again, his body and mind will both need and respond to vigorous mechanical discipline, such as you have no right to exercise at a younger age. This period of adolescence is the only time in life when a boy can fully learn those habits of corporate action, of obedience along with his comrades, and of authority over his comrades. All the world over you find that the spirit of disciplined enthusiastic comradeship springs most vigorously from young men at schools and Universities before they have completed this period of life, before they have settled down to the steady humdrum life of the fully-developed adult. It is in these years—between fifteen and twenty-one—that you have the finest opportunity for sowing the seed of new movements. Preachers know this, and they seek their mission converts at this period. Revolutionaries like Garibaldi knew it too.

It is for this reason that I regard

military training as a matter of special interest to our secondary schools. Roughly speaking, the primary and higher grade schools take charge of children whose school life ends before the fifteenth birthday, while the secondary school cares for those who remain at school up to the age of sixteen, eighteen, or nineteen. While, therefore, I should urge that the primary schools can do much to aid in national defence by caring for physical exercise, for gymnastics, swimming, and school games, they cannot well go further. If the boys of the elementary schools are to be taken in hand, they must be secured after they have left school, and must be trained in their leisure time when they are set free from manual labor, from the warehouse, and the shop.

Many schoolmasters will not be prepared to agree with this opinion off hand. A great deal of square drill is done with younger boys, and some will be found to argue that the boys like it and that they profit by having a continuous course year after year. If then while very young they can learn the elements of drill, they will be ready when fifteen years of age to advance more rapidly to rifle practice, to fatigue marches and the rest. Without carrying the controversy further, I will leave the question to be determined by the experience of others, merely pointing out that I have tried experiments in this matter since 1885, and I find that the plans of the Swiss schools confirm the opinion here offered. Let it be borne in mind that drill when done properly is a severe restraint, and a trial to young boys; I do not, of course, refer to what is called "musical drill"—this is very different from proper military exercise, and is more allied to dancing and calisthenics than to military exercise, it is an amusement which