

Here is a summary of the improvements declared to be necessary :—

1. In 32 *lycées*, the building must be enlarged to give proper accommodation to the pupils.
2. In the case of 11 *lycées*, the buildings ought to be renewed in whole or in part, the present ones being in a dangerous condition, or in an unhealthy locality, or ill-planned internally.
4. In 39 *lycées*, foot-bath rooms are wanting; and in ten others, the arrangements for foot-bathing need improvement.
5. In 28 *lycées*, there is no covered space for gymnastic exercise; and in 13 others, there is no gymnastic apparatus whatever.
6. In 43 *lycées*, the heating apparatus is defective.
7. Wherever possible, gas should be substituted for oil lamps.
8. A larger allowance of food for the bigger boys in 21 *lycées*.
9. The establishment of wash houses, so that the boys' linen may be washed apart from that of townspeople.
10. In the case of 40 *lycées*, a radical reform in the construction and mode of disinfecting the privies.
11. The abolition of cesspools not water-tight.

Notwithstanding this long catalogue of sanitary deficiencies, the general health of the pupils in the *lycées*, estimated by the death-rate, is far above the average for boys between 10 and 15 years of age throughout France.

To prevent the sanitary condition of the *lycées* from again becoming so unsatisfactory, Dr. Vernois proposes, as usual, more inspection. Here are the particulars :—

1. Let an Inspectorship general of the imperial *lycées* be established.
2. Let the physician of each *lycée* send annually, in January, to the inspector-general, a report on each of the headings under which Dr. Vernois has classified the whole subject.
3. Let a general report on the sanitary condition of the *lycées* be made up from these, and annually published.
4. Let the physician of each *lycée* have a seat at its Board of Management.
5. Let each rector (*proviseur*) of a *lycée* be informed of the improvements deemed necessary after inspection, and let an exact account be kept of the improvements carried out.
6. Let some academic reward be bestowed on those physicians who become distinguished by long and honourable services.

—Italy.—*New Commercial College.*—A great non-classical school, called Technical College of Commerce, has just been organized in Venice, and will be opened immediately under the direction of Signor Ferrara, a distinguished Sicilian gentleman, lately Minister of Public Instruction. This institution is chiefly intended for young men destined for the consular service and for mercantile pursuits. The principal languages of Europe and the East, the various systems of banking, the principles of commerce, of exchange, of book-keeping, and of commercial law will be taught in it.

The city of Venice has granted the magnificent Foscari palace for the installation of the school; and the following handsome annual subsidies are promised for its maintenance :—

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| City of Venice..... | £440 |
| Chamber of Commerce..... | 320 |
| Venetian Provinces..... | 1600 |
| Government..... | 400 |

—Museum. £2720

—*The Choice of Pursuits.*—Some distinguished writers on the mind have attempted to maintain that habit and education were principally the inciters of individuals in the choice of their pursuits; and, further, it has been asserted that they are the source of some, at least, of our mental faculties. But as habit implies exercise, and exercise implies the pre-existence of the thing to be exercised, it follows that habit is the effect of the presence of a faculty and not its precursor. Neither is education the cause of our faculties. Education is the drawing out of faculties that are already in existence. It develops and strengthens the faculties but cannot originate any. Yet nothing, indeed, can be truer than the assertion that education and habit have much influence in directing young persons in the choice of their pursuits; and, for this reason, the judicious educator should be careful to learn, at an early period, the dominant moral and intellectual attributes of his pupils. Supported by this knowledge, he will be able to point out the field in which their talents may be used profitably, and without irksomeness to themselves. How often, in the absence of such information, have talents been fatally misdirected. Yet many men, who were incapable of soaring above mediocrity in those callings which education and habit, and the prejudice of parents, had prescribed for them, have gained high reputations by discoveries in science

and art, when proper opportunities of their predominant faculties were presented to their minds! One notable instance of this it may be interesting to state. The repugnance of Handel's father to his child's indulgence in his passion for music is well known. But nothing could repress the infant's ardour in pursuit of that charming art. To escape his father's vigilance he contrived to conceal a clavichord in a garret, where he used to play when the family retired to rest. The following case is even more to the point than the foregoing. The father of the renowned astronomer, Sir. Wm. Herschel took great pains to render his son an accomplished musician. But although the youth was enthusiastically fond of music, and endeavoured, with unremitting ardour, to attain to excellence in that art, yet he is not now spoken of in connection with music, whilst his fame is scarcely inferior to any man's in astronomy, to which his attention was called by a natural instinct, which prompted him, even at a late period of life to the practical investigation of the phenomena of that noble science whatever hour he could spare from his professional musical avocations. Such undeniable facts as these are fully capable of setting aside for ever the shortsighted theory, which attributes the origin of our faculties, or even the capability of rendering them efficient, in every case to education and habit.—*Phrenology, and its Application to Education, Insanity, and Prison Discipline, by Dr. Browne.*

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

We take the following, from the Publisher's Circular, which gives the amount, numerically, of the works issued in Great Britain during 1868: Our record of title pages for the past year shows that 4581 new books and new editions have been published in Great Britain during 1868, exclusive of mere reissues and entries of alteration for price, and importation of foreign printed books; of this number of 4581 no less than one fourth were issued during the last two months of the year, viz., 509 in November and 534 in December; and adding to this total of 4581 new books and new editions 408 importations of original American books and 103 registrations of alterations in price on reissue, we have a gross total of 3209 works which have passed through our columns during the year, the full transcript of the title page of each being copied verbatim for the guidance of the literary world. A classification of the titles comprising this total gives nearly one fourth of the whole as upon Theological subjects—viz., 984; to Education Philology, and Classical Literature, 448; Juvenile Works, 524; Novels, 408; Law, 304; Arts and Sciences and Fine Art books, 429; Trade, Commerce and Political Economy, 397; Travel and Geographical Research, 238; History and Biography, 237; Poetry and the Drama, 217; Year-Books and annual Publications, 225; Medicine and Surgery, 193; and Miscellaneous, 418.

—*Free Libraries.*—The report of the Liverpool Free Public Library is suggestive. The libraries are supported by a penny rate, which, provides books for reference and for lending, and a public museum open to all. Besides these a gallery of art will soon be added, to which it is intended to send the valuable works already in possession of the Corporation, and to add to them as rapidly as possible. The reference library is in a central part of Liverpool. Every day during the year there were close on 2,000 readers, who obtained for reference 465,344 volumes. Of these 189,841 were works of fiction; miscellaneous literature, 165,992; history and biography, 37,900; science and art, 36,200; geography, voyages and travels, 31,400, &c. From the lending libraries nearly half a million of volumes were taken out. A very large proportion of these, it is true, consisted of works of fiction, but there was a good selection made of literature of a higher description and of a more improving tendency. The enormous quantity of reading cannot have been without its effect for good. The trustees, it is stated, have been and are very careful in the selection of works for the libraries, so that nothing of an immoral character may be admitted. The large number read at the reference library is a pretty fair index of the vast numbers of young men boarding in the city and unprovided with home comforts, who spend their evenings quietly in a large public library rather than idling their time in "seeing life" throughout the city and it is a good end gained when this is accomplished even though an undue number of works of fiction be absorbed.

—*Purchase of Sanskrit Manuscripts in India.*—The government of India has most liberally sanctioned an annual grant of £2,400 for the cataloguing of Sanskrit manuscripts in India, under such competent editors as Dr. Buhler, of Bombay, Mr. Burnell, of Madras, and Baloo Rajendra Lal Nutta, of Bengal. The catalogues are to be submitted to scholars in Europe for their suggestions as to the manuscripts which should be purchased or transcribed. All scholars, whether in Europe or India, are invited to send lists of desiderata to the government of India—the former through the Secretary of State. Competent scholars are to be sent on tours annually throughout India to examine manuscripts and seek new ones. Work of this kind has hitherto been done only fitfully. Dr. Sprenger, for instance, collected lists and copies of Arabic manuscripts, but the collection is now in Berlin. Dr. M. Haug also made a collection in Bombay.