

his office and work (instructor in English of the freshman year), brought into close relation with many students, and therefore his observations about the kind of students and their preparation for college and life are most valuable. We hope all our readers, teachers and workers of all industries will carefully read the admirable article by Dean Briggs.

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The recent completion of the great dam across the Nile at Assouan will bring under cultivation 600,000 acres of land, and increase the value of 5,000,000 acres heretofore subject to the risks of flood and drought. This immense work was undertaken two years ago; and is not the least of the benefits that Egypt has received from British occupation.

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The Cuban constitutional convention has finished its work, and nothing but the consent of the United States is now needed to make Cuba an independent republic. It is probable that the Government of the United States will insist upon retaining some control of affairs, but there is a strong party in Cuba opposed to submission to any foreign rule, and ready to take the field in another war for "Free Cuba."

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COMPARATIVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.—The tables accompanying the annual report of the United States Commissioner of education show that New York State has 16.94 per cent. of its population in the Public Schools. Kansas has 27.87 per cent., the highest of any State. Utah follows with 26.78 per cent., and Iowa with 26.42 per cent., while Pennsylvania, with a smaller population, has a larger number of pupils enrolled than New York, the figures

for Pennsylvania being 1,186,146, against 1,179,351 for New York.

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Much light has been thrown upon the history of ancient Babylon by recent explorations. We may now read, in a book of translations just published in London, official communications which were sent four thousand years ago to and from the seat of government, in the form of small clay tablets, each in a carefully addressed envelope; and learn from them much of the life of the people, which is curiously like our own in some respects. Canals instead of railways, furnished means of communication. Taxes were collected, government works built and controlled, justice administered and business transactions recorded very much as they are to-day in Eastern lands. All this is learned from the little clay documents which are found buried beneath the ruins of an ancient Babylonian city, and which were written about 2200 B.C. It is beyond the range of probability that any trace of our own paper libraries will last so long.

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With the progress of the child through the schools, manual training should occupy a less and less important place, except for those pupils whose wills in maturity are to be manifested primarily in energizing and coordinating muscular action. A boy who is to be a carpenter should continue, in all stages of his educational course, to make manual training of this special sort his most important occupation; his organism should keep adjusted to this way of action. But a boy who is to deal with questions of jurisprudence or medicine or education will suffer arrest in his evolution if he is kept too long at work with his hands.—V. V. O'Shea, *University of Wisconsin*.