

coupled with the acquisition of some special knowledge of the subject to be treated, is conducive to the result desired. The faculties that need development are the Memory, the Imagination, the Reasoning Powers, the Sensibility; and the special knowledge of each subject will be acquired by means of Reading, Observation, Oral practice, and Research.

Memory.—While this is not the most important quality required for writing, yet it is necessary to a great extent. When it is weak, steps should therefore be taken to improve it. Without trespassing upon the province of special treatises, we may say that memory is developed largely in consequence of the training of will-power, and such training must enforce constant attention on the one hand, constant repetition on the other. Let the student acquire the habit of carefully noting what he sees or hears, let him be the "policeman on duty," whose watchful eyes and ears mark all the little things unnoticed by the casual observer. Let him often recall to his mind and visualise, partially or completely, the details of things previously seen. He should, for instance, when returning from the theatre, try to picture to himself the different acts of the play, in the order of their occurrence; he should act them again, dwelling on the most beautiful passages, humming the most striking tunes. The student who does this regularly in connection with ordinary happenings, who every day learns by heart a few lines of prose or poetry, will soon make the discovery that memory can acquire a normal or even an extraordinary capacity, in the same way as muscles reach their full size by means of regular gymnastics. This appears not to be in strict accordance with the opinion of some modern psychologists, whose opinions, by the way, have been altered pretty often in recent years about various questions; it is, however, my belief after many years of practical teaching in the class-room. In every case there must be mental activity which will be of benefit, not only to the memory but also to the imagination.

Imagination.—This is indeed the next requisite. Memory