

Primary Education

IN this age of unprecedented competition in the attainment of premier positions in every field of endeavour, man's most serviceable and most powerful weapon is his education. The great numbers of men who yearly flock to the many institutions of learning, situated throughout every country of the world, testify to the importance which must be given to education. They realize that they must be educated, if they desire to be successful men in a profession where the majority is of the educated class.

What great importance, therefore, should be given to the education of the youth of this generation, in order that they may be able to take their rightful place among the men of the future. It is the first and principal duty of parents to secure for their children, so far as their means may allow, an education which will fit them for an honourable career in their manhood of to-morrow.

In what does education consist? It consists in the formation of man's faculties, by the perfection of which he may the more easily attain true happiness. Education may be of two kinds—corperal and spiritual. The former is defined as a formation of the body of the child by food and labour. Hence it is imperative that children be fed and clothed properly, in order that they may be armed against the inclemencies of the weather. They should be encouraged and given ample opportunity to perfect themselves physically, in order that their constitutions may so develop as to protect them from the diseases to which youth, unhappily, is so frequently subjected. Moreover, with such a state of the body, their spiritual education may be carried on with greater facility.

By spiritual education is meant the formation of the intelligence of man through truth. It devolves upon parents, therefore, as the guardians and protectors of their children to direct them in the path of truth. In the formation of the rational faculties, books play a very great part. Children, then, should not be allowed to read any book until it has passed a rigorous censorship by the parents or others capable of judging its worth.

It is to be greatly regretted that the average boy of to-day is more attracted to the fictitious nickel novel than to those children's books into which has been infused—and copiously, too—a spirit of