

the Russian Government has determined to establish schools of design in the manufacturing districts of Russia, with the view of spreading the advantages of an artistic education, and developing an artistic taste among the artisan classes. These schools are to be founded by the municipalities, merchant corporations, and artistic societies of Russia, but when necessary the Government will materially assist in their foundation, besides according them an annual grant. The classes are to be open free to pupils of every age and condition who know to read and write, and special classes will be established for girls. The pupils will be furnished with all the materials necessary for their study at the lowest possible charge, and, in the case of the poorest, even this payment will be remitted. The schools, wherever it is practicable, will be annexed to some art museum or permanent exhibition of artistic models, and each pupil will be allowed not only to visit the museums, but to copy the works they contain.

Education in the Three Kingdoms.—The Civil Service Commissioners, in their report (recently issued) say:—"It may not be uninteresting to note that there is a great difference in the amount of success achieved by the candidates for situations in the excise of the Three Kingdoms, more than one-half of the successful competitors having been examined in Ireland, less than one-third in England, and less than one-tenth in Scotland; and, further, that while the proportion of prizes won by candidates sent up was in England not quite 1 out of 9, and in Scotland less than 1 in 12, in Ireland it amounted to somewhat more than 1 in 6."

Physical Education.—Perhaps not the least advantage which is derived from muscular, active exercise, as opposed to passive exercise,—by which we refer to a ride in a carriage, or a sail in a vessel, in which latter case the abdominal muscles are the only ones actively exercised—is cleanliness. We mention this, as it has been little insisted on by the advocates of gymnastic training. It belongs rather, perhaps, to a treatise on medicinal than athletic gymnastics; but the two are at the present day, as we have said, happily incorporated. A microscope will show the millions of drains with which the skin is perforated, for the sake of voiding effete matter. This effete matter can only be thrown off by perspiration, produced by exercise. If it is not thrown off, it is absorbed into the system, and disease, particularly consumption, and premature death, are the result. The result is produced by the canals of the skin becoming clogged, which not only prevents the refuse matter from coming out, but also prevents oxygen, which is essential to life, from coming in. We do not breathe with the lungs only, consuming carbon and other matter, and renewing the blood with oxygen as it passes through them. The skin also is a respiratory organ; some animals have no lungs, and breathe entirely with the skin others with a portion of the skin modified into gills, or rudimentary lungs. In animals of a higher grade, though the lungs are the instruments principally devoted to this function, the skin retains it still to such an extent that to interfere with its pores is highly dangerous; but to arrest their operation, fatal. The breathing of the skin may be easily proved by the simple experiment of placing the hand in a basin of cold water, when it will be soon covered by minute bubbles of carbonic acid. But a more complete and scientific proof is afforded by inserting it in a vessel of oxygen, when the gas will, after a short interval of time, be replaced by carbonic acid. "We all know," says Dr. Brereton, "from daily experience, the intimate sympathy which exists between the skin and lungs, and when we are walking fast, how much more easily we get along after having broken out into a perspiration; if we are riding, our horse freshens up under the same condition." In these homely words he is indirectly proving the chief sanitary characteristic of medicinal gymnastics. One of the reasons of the greater danger of extensive burns or scalds compared with others, smaller though deeper, is the fact that the former exclude a greater surface of skin from the oxygen of the air. M. Fourcault, a distinguished French physiologist, whose administration of science appears to have led him to care little for infliction of torture on other animals than himself, sacrificed a great number of guinea pigs, rabbits, and cats, by varnishing over the whole of their skin, contemplating with satisfaction the invariable result—death—as a demonstrative proof that the skin breathes.

One word more. It has been imagined that gymnastic exercise is exclusively profitable to the young. It is not so; it is of advantage, of great advantage likewise to the old. Young

persons—we include, of course, women, and wish that callisthenics, which we suppose to be a species of female gymnastics, were more systematised and popular—need little exhortation to exercise, since, by nature, motion is their chief desire; but they stand in need of advice and moderation, since, as they do everything immoderately, so they are accustomed to take too much exercise, and of an improper character, a course of proceeding not without danger. On the contrary, with older men the increasing weight of the body, and the loss of the so-called "animal spirits," induces the desire of repose, and they need an increase of exercise beyond that which inclination enjoins on them. Thus they are brought within the province of the gymnastic code.—*Cornhill Magazine*.

School Inspectors in Victoria.—Considerable amusement was created in the Victorian Assembly by an honorable member in the course of the education debate, reading the following samples of entries made by the local committee men:—

"Visited this school and found present 25½ things in a orderly manner and to the satisfaction of all with whom I here conversed with."

"I—on of the local comtee visited this school and found present 27 children and to all appearance every thing going on all wright and Mr.—given satisfaction to all parties. "I have this day visited this school. Found the children gratefully improved both in disciplen and education."

"I have this day visited this scholl, well concentered, great improvement."

"Visited the school, roods very hevvey, small attendance. (Laughter.)

"Viseted the school, found all in good oarder and getting on weel."

"Visited the school, which I found in very efficion state."

"Made a visit to school, everything in good order, but a terrible storm raging out Side." (Much laughter.)

"Vistet the school, organiscasion very indifferent, pensils to short."

The gentleman who read these selections agreed that it was most objectionable to subject gentlemen who were not only educated but trained for the position of teachers to the criticisms and discipline of the local population—the baker, the shopkeeper, and three or four diggers who went to make up the local committee—well-meaning, honest men in their proper positions, and perfectly capable of doing what the new Education Bill proposes they should do, viz., take care of the building and raise money for its requirements, but wholly unqualified to criticise the organization and the discipline of the teacher, and to enter the results of their observations in the school visitor's book.—*New Zealand Paper*.

Our Idle Classes.—Like unto the great multitude that no man could number is the latter-day army of incapables. They are immovable sponges upon relatives, whom they keep forever poor. They cannot keep a situation, and are barely competent to sit at a gate and collect tickets from a thin stream of passers-in. They are the skeleton in nearly every household, and the abundant cause of heart-burnings and poverty every where. They hang around like whipped curs, waiting for employment of such a menial description that none but those utterly emptied of industry, manhood, and pluck, would accept it. When one contemplates this heart-burning army of drones, how it fires the zeal in praying that parents may have their eyes opened to the necessity of making children work and obey early, and to the need of giving them a trade. The rule is almost invariable, that the child who is not taught to obey before five, and to work before fifteen, is lost. The parents who neglect these vital duties, have the promising outlook of seeing their child become either a sponge or a thief. The one the half-way house, and the other the terminus.—*Overland Monthly*.

The Whitworth Scholarships.—Sir Joseph Whitworth has prepared a memorandum upon his scholarships, approved by the Council of Education, South Kensington, the principal points of which are as follows. Every candidate shall produce a certificate that he has worked in a mechanical engineer's shop or in the drawing-office for two years consecutively. Every candidate must be under twenty-two years of age. He will be examined in smith's works, turning, filing, and fitting, pattern making and moulding. He will be examined in theory and practice every year. The scholarships may be held for three years, but may be withdrawn if progress be unsatisfactory. The number will be reduced for 1874 from ten to six, each of a fixed annual value of \$500, with an additional annual sum for progress