

# HISTORY OF EDUCATIONAL THEORIES.

---

## CHAPTER I.

### EDUCATION AMONG THE GREEKS—MUSIC AND GYMNASTIC THEORIES OF PLATO AND ARISTOTLE.<sup>1</sup>

To those who begin the study of the historical development of educational theories some preliminary caution is necessary. We shall find that education has always been a favourite problem with philosophers. Those who have wished to reform or to reorganise the world, meeting with many difficulties in dealing with the mass of grown-up people, have turned their eyes to the more hopeful body of ingenuous youth, whose minds are like white paper or pliant wax. If only the rising generation can be directed in the proper path, the regeneration of the human race will be a reality instead of a dream. Experience ought by this time to have taught us that these hopes are

<sup>1</sup> In this chapter I have been under special obligations to Professor A. S. Wilkins's *Essay on National Education in Greece*: London, 1873, and to Mr. Nettleship's article on 'The Theory of Education in the Republic of Plato,' contained in *Hellenica*: Rivingtons, 1880.