

the aspirations of the human heart, is well-calculated to prepare the youth for a rational verdict on the extreme issues that will continually arise among a free people. Above all, we must never yield to the economic spirit that proposes to curtail the humanizing studies in our schools, for the sake of adding special training

for industries. Rather must we do what we can to extend the period of study in pure science and the humanities, knowing as we do that all, which goes to develop the ability of the youth to see possibilities and ideals, goes to make him a more productive labourer in the fields of industry.—*Education.*

A MISSING SUBJECT IN MODERN EDUCATION.

BY C. M. JEBB.

MODERN education is more generally supposed to be in danger of suffering from a plethora than from a deficiency in the subjects of instruction. Schoolmasters and mistresses groan over daily expanding time-tables, and their pupils respond with lamentations, less deep, perhaps, but not less loud. Yet, spite of this distressing state of things, we feel impelled to make a claim in favour of one subject which scarcely seems to receive the attention it merits. There may be conditions under which general ignorance in one particular direction becomes little short of a national disgrace, and we believe that these conditions apply in the present case. The subject we speak of cannot be called a new one; it is that branch of instruction commonly known by the name of "Scripture."

Lord Sherbrooke, in one of those delightful tirades against public-school education wherein his soul rejoiced, complained of the almost universal ignorance of the Bible, even among educated men. The "Cave of Adul-lam," wherein he played so prominent a part, had lately received its title, and, much to his surprise, the jest had fallen flat with most of his parliamentary acquaintances, from entire ignorance of what the name

implied, so that he had been under the "painful necessity of explaining it, and thereby pointing the barbed arrow against his own bosom."

Most of us have had experiences of this kind of ignorance, of a less personal nature, probably, than that so touchingly related above, yet no way less startling. It would be too sweeping, certainly, to call this ignorance universal. Some Sunday scholars are exceptions at one end of the line, and most literary men at the other. Lord Macaulay's well known dictum, that "any one who sets up to be a critic should have the Bible at his fingers' ends," is generally recognized by those whose way in life lies among the paths of literature, and some few intelligent children from the working-classes, who have been fortunate in their Sunday school teacher, are sufficiently interested in anything which affords a change from the dry bones of board-school instruction, to acquire a fairly thorough knowledge of, at any rate, the text of Scripture. The clergy, also, must of course be excepted, and a certain number of ladies, whose intellectual powers have been excluded by circumstances from every field but that of Sunday school teaching. Having thus admitted the existence of those exceptions which