

EDUCATION, HISTORY AND IDEALS.

EDUCATIONAL ESSAY.

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THE word education is of Latin origin, and means the drawing out or developing the prominent faculties of the mind by various activities. The term education is slightly different from instruction, which means the systematizing the elements of knowledge.

When we study the history of civilization we notice that many systems of education have been in use, notably three: National, Theocratical and Humanitarian.

The national system of education is the most primitive, and had the family as the organic starting point, out of which the nation grew. For example we have the systems of education in China, Persia and Greece.

The Chinese system was passive and non-progressive in methods and character, while the Persian was active and progressive.

The system in Greece aimed at individual education. The objects of this system were in many respects praiseworthy, and each individual was taught to set a value on his own personality, resembling the teachings of the Puritans in modern history.

In the theocratic system, as represented by the ancient Jews, education is at first patriarchal, because the family is the link that connects the individual with the chosen nation.

The humanitarian system of education arose in the Roman Empire and was founded on the Christian idea. The Christian ideal in education embraced the brotherhood of man and the sisterhood of woman. In this new ideal Art, Science, politics, morality and industry are included and harmonized.

In the history of Christian civilization we notice that the goal of progress is reached by the community through the education of the individual.

The chief aim of the humanitarian system in education is to fit and train young people for civil life, so that they may perform their duties intelligently and observe the moral obligations of society. The above conception represents the aims of the Public School system in the several Provinces of Canada, and also in the States of the neighboring Republic.

The best authorities on educational work show that education is both a science and an art, and that it is divided into three parts, viz, Physical, Intellectual and Moral. Education as a subject is a mixed science, as it is correlated to many other sciences, as Ethics, Psychology, Physiology, etc.

In the modern programme of studies for the teacher Psychology, or the science of the human mind, is pre-eminently important. The special and general senses which convey perceptions and sensations to the mind require adequate training so that they perform efficiently the primary function of intellect and be responsively active to the will. Again, as physical culture is receiving some attention at present, it is necessary for the teacher to be familiar with the subject of Hygiene and the kindred subject Physiology.

The subject of physical education received special consideration from the Greeks and Romans in ancient times, as these peoples included gymnastics and calisthenics in their regular school course.