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THE NEW EDUCATION DEFINED AND ILLUSTRATED.

BY THE EDITOR.

There is a presumption in the term, the New Education, which only disappears after we have passed the whole question of educational reform through the crucible of a rigid logical examination. As in the definition of any science by means of a few words, so in a formal definition of the science of education, we may lose in perspicuity what may be gained by conciseness, and hence there may be some excuse for us in adopting the Socratic method while trying to find out what the New Education is by inquiring into what it is not.

"What is knowledge?" is the question which Socrates is represented by Plato as having proposed on one occasion to the young Theætetus.

"Knowledge is what one learns from his teacher," was the unthinking answer of the impulsive youth. "For example, geometry and arithmetic; and there are other kinds of knowledge, such as shoemaking, carpentering and the like."

"And had I asked you what is clay" said Socrates, "instead of saying 'clay is moistened earth,' you would have said, in the spirit of your answer concerning knowledge, there is one clay of image making, another of potters, another of oven-makers. Take courage and try again."