

minds diverted from their work ; and, according to their temperament, are affected in one or two ways, either they become absorbed in the acting, dancing, or whatever the diversion may be, to the complete neglect of their school duties, or the more conscientious ones try to do both, but the exhaustion caused by over-exercise of the muscles, and strain upon the nerves, induced by long, wearying rehearsals in close, badly ventilated halls, with late hours, loss of sleep and rest, soon take away all energy and spring, and there is an end to good mental work.

The scholar's legitimate business has been interfered with and a disastrous break made, for weeks, sometimes months, in the study of subjects which demand close, continued application. But the greatest mischief is done to the child's higher nature. The insidious poison of public praise and the contagion of harmful influences, from which the child would be shielded in a carefully guarded home, creep into the soul and deaden or destroy the delicate intuitions which are the child's God-given inheritance.

As a life-long friend of children, I plead for the removal of this evil.

A. MARIA HARMON.

