

education, but it is he and not they who must do that work. It is perfectly true that a man may educate himself very thoroughly without the aid of school or college; it is also true that with the aid of the best schools and colleges a man may make a very indifferent job of his education. But neither of these truths has any just bearing upon the value of school and college training. To the earnest student that training is of very great value; to the dolt, the dullard, or the idle fellow, nothing is of any effect in the way of making him an able man. Because a man with no musical aptitude may take lessons on the violin from the best masters without making a musician of himself, we do not say that the tuition of such masters is a worthless thing. Because a man of musical genius may learn to play exquisitely upon the violin without any lessons at all, we do not reject tuition as a vain thing. It is time to stop talking nonsense upon this subject. The colleges furnish favourable conditions for study. The earnest student who is wise will avail himself of those advantages if he can afford them. If not, he will do the best he can without them. The student who is not earnest or who lacks ability affords in his person no just measure of the worth of a college training. The only just complaint of the colleges is that under the four-class system graduation is so strongly presumed that they grant diplomas to the dull and the bright, the industrious and the idle—within certain limits—with very little discrimination, and thus give seeming point to criticism which is otherwise senseless."

—France has taken away the Latin and Greek from the curriculum of public instruction. The German and English tongues, with their literatures, will take the place of the classics, and are to be taught in an analytical and logical way to secure the same results as by the former studies. Besides these studies, the French language and literature, geography, history, ethics, philosophy, political economy, law and science—physical and mathematical—are declared to be the real classical studies to complete a desired education.

—The military drill, which was adopted in the public schools of Paris some years ago, under the belief that in this way the school-boys would be prepared for service in the army, has been abandoned as detrimental to military service. Service in school regiments has the effect of disgusting the boys with army life.

—Among the recent occurrences of special interest to education was the dedication of the new building of the German American Normal school. This fine building, a gift to the institution from the late Guido Pfister, his wife and daughter,