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The growing demand for the original edition of these Chapters on Education, has suggested to me the propriety of issuing an edition that shall come within easy reach of a larger public. That the work has had considerable currency in the United States, and that there have been made translations of it into the French, German, Italian, Russian, Hungarian, Dutch, and Danish languages,* are facts which have further encouraged me to believe that at home an edition fitted by lower price for wider circulation is called for.

No alterations have been made in the text. In the absence of more pressing occupations I should have sub-

* To which may now (1884) be added Spanish, Swedish, Bohemian, Greek, Japanese and Chinese.

jected it to a careful revision; but rather than postpone tasks of greater importance I have refrained.

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LONDON,

September, 1873.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE.
WHAT KNOWLEDGE IS OF MOST WORTH? --- ---	1

CHAPTER II.

INTELLECTUAL EDUCATION --- ---	50
--------------------------------------	----

CHAPTER III.

MORAL EDUCATION --- ---	94
-------------------------------	----

CHAPTER IV.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION --- ---	130
----------------------------------	-----

INDEX.

FOR this Index the author is indebted to F. H. COLLINS, Esq., of Edgbaston, Birmingham, who very kindly volunteered to prepare it for him.

A.

- ABSTRACT-SCIENCES and their industrial applications, 16; those of the abstract-concrete, 17
"Accomplishments, the," in a lady's education, 3
Accountant, the facility acquired by one, 42; Nature, a strict, 162-5
Activities, classification of the, 8
Æsthetic culture, the value of, 33-5
Agriculture, aided by Chemistry, 19, and by Biology, 20
Amusements and Relaxations, the knowledge aiding the, 33-41
Anatomy and Botany as cultivating the memory, 43
Ancestors, their vigour compared with our own, 156
"Animal, a good," the necessity to be, 54, 132
Animals, their rearing studied more than that of children, 131; their vital processes allied to man's, 133; their energies dependent upon their kinds of food, 141
Apperley, Mr., on hunters, 143, 149
Applause, the general desire for, 4
Arithmetical Truths should be taught in the concrete, 57
Asceticism and its Relation to Educational Systems, 50
Astronomy, its industrial application, 19
Aveyron, the Wild Boy of, 61

B.

- BACON; "The relative values of knowledges," 6
Battles, history is largely composed of their descriptions, 29
Beauty, physical, in women is more attractive than erudition, 16

- Beliefs, the growing diversity in, 52
 Bernard, M. Claude, on the functions of the liver, 135
 Biology; its application to agriculture, 20
 Bodily Exercise, as needful for girls as boys, 151-5; in excess, diminishes thought, 163
 Body, the cost of mental achievement to the, 163-8
 Books, their educational value over-rated, 26
 Botany, its interest to Children, 77
 Bread and Butter; its too great frequency, 136, 144
 Brain reacts upon the body, the, 163-7
 Breakfast Roll, its history, 17
 Burns, the lesson taught by, 116, 125
 Butterflies, their collection and keeping cultivate the powers of observation, 78

C.

- CANDLE, the penalty for playing with a lighted, 116
 Cardboard, figures cut in, 85
 Carelessness; its natural penalty, 108-111
 Caterpillar as an example of growth, 164
 Centre of gravity in Sculpture, 36
 Chemistry; its industrial value, 18
 Children, prevalent ignorance concerning the rearing of, 22-29; is harshness to children a preparation for their after-life? 100; moral precocity equally detrimental with intellectual, 122; their love of fruit and sweets justified, 135-8
 Chrysalis, as an example of Development, 164
 Citizen, the knowledge which aids the functions of the, 29-33
 Civilization; its order, and that of education should be similar, 68, 89
 Classics, Public Opinion the motive for teaching them, 2; and Mathematics form an insignificant part of a proper Curriculum, 5-6
 Clothing is a development of decoration, 1-4; the natural penalty for its reckless treatment, 110; should suffice to prevent an abiding sensation of cold, 146-51
 Coal-mining, its Failure, from lack of geological knowledge, 21
 Cold; its ill-effects on the development of children, 23, 146-51
 Colours; children's delight in painting, 80
 Combe, Dr. Andrew, on the advantages of Fruit in Diet, 136-7; on the importance of sufficient Clothing, 150
 Commands, Parents should give few, 124; but when given they should be decisive and consistent, 125
 Comte, M.—The Education of the Child should accord with that of mankind, considered historically, 67
 Concrete Sciences, and their industrial applications, the, 19
 Conduct, the right ruling of, in all divisions, the aim of education, 7; of Society, Parents, and Children relatively considered, 96-101; the definitions of good and bad, 102.
 "Could a Man be Secure," 6
 Cramming Systems, their mischievous results, 167-70

Culture, the desirableness of general, 10; the present value of the
Aesthetic, and its probable future increase, 33-36

D.

- DANTE, a knowledge of, a small consolation in trouble, 28
 Decision should be used by Parents in commands, 125
 Decoration in Primitive Societies precedes dress, 1-4
 Degenerating, are we? 156
 Despotism in the State induces Despotism in Education, 50
 Development; its long duration in Children, 61; of the mind, 65-72 ;
 an increase of structure retards increase of size, 164
 Discobolus, illustrates ignorance of the law of momentum, the, 36
 Diet. (*See Food.*)
 Digestion, chemical changes in, 135 ; the organs of, smaller in civilized
 than in savage races, 146 ; productive of lassitude, 163
 Discipline ; Science superior to language for cultivating the judgment
 and for moral discipline, 41-47; of nature not wholly sufficient for
 education, 60; of unavoidable consequences or the penalties of
 Nature, 101-21; failure of artificial criminal codes, 104; English
 school discipline less severe than the French, 121; the aim of,
 should be to produce a self-governing being, 125
 Disease, the permanent damage done by, 14
 Drawing, when and how to teach, 79-84 ; apparatus for teaching per-
 spective, 83
 Dress. (*See Clothing.*)
 Drinking without Thirst, its evils, 13, 146
 Drunkenness, accompanied by physical degeneracy, 102, 171

E.

- EATING without hunger, its evils, 13, 146
 Education at the present time a matter of custom and prejudice, 5. The
 ideal, a training in each subject proportionate to its value, 10.
 The omissions and vices of our present system, 34 ; and its relation
 to the contemporary social state, 50-53, 99-101. The past and
 present systems compared, 53-62. It should conform with the
 evolution of the faculties, 59-62. Should be a repetition in little
 of civilization, 68, 89 ; and should commence in infancy with
 object lessons, 72
 Electricity and its industrial applications, 18
 Emotions, the prevailing ignorance of their nature, 25
 Empirical should precede the rational in education, 69
 Employers and employed ; their relations should be noted in history, 31
 Energy in well-fed races is greater than that in ill-fed, 141-3
 English and German Boys ; their relative characters, 127
 English and Foreign Labourers compared, 143

- Error, suppression of one, followed by the ascendancy of another, 53
 Euclid, an attractive study when addressed to the understanding, 87-88
 Evolution of the faculties should be the basis of education, the, 59-62.
 The laws of mental evolution, 65-72
 Examinations cause the acquirement of unorganized knowledge, which is soon forgotten, 27
 Exercise, bodily, as needful for girls as boys, 151-5; in excess diminishes thought, 163
 Eye, an instance of faculty developed through function, 42

F.

- FACULTIES are developed by the performance of their functions, 42
 Family, prevalent ignorance concerning the rearing of a, 22-29; and its management, 94
 Family Government, Richter on the present chaotic state in, 95
 Faraday, Professor, on the deficiency of judgment in society, 44
 Fatigue of body or brain should be followed by desistance, 13
 Features of young children resemble those of a savage, 122
 Feelings react upon the reflective powers, the, 40
 Fellenberg—Indolence is not natural to children, 71; the importance of individual activity in children, 91
 Food, to be beneficial should be varied, 20, 144-5; sufficient in quantity—appetite being a natural guide, 134-8; and for children highly nutritious, 138-46; the easy digestibility of a French dinner, 145; food as well as clothing is necessary for maintaining the heat of the body, 148-50
 Forbes, Sir John, on the present division of time in girls' schools, 159
 Fruit, children's love for, also its digestibility, 135
 Friendship, between parents and children, should be cultivated, 115-21

G.

- GAMES of children develop the system and prepare it for after life, 12
 Genius as well as science necessary to attain the highest results, 39
 Geography, in teaching, physical, should precede political, 27
 Geology: its industrial applications, 19, 21; a knowledge of increases the poetry of nature, 40
 Geometry: its industrial uses, 17; its lessons should commence empirically with models, and afterwards proceed to the rational with Euclid, 84-89; *Inventional Geometry*, 88; Professor Tyndall, on rendering it attractive, 87
 Grammar coming after language historically, should be taught after it, 56
 Growth is affected by the food consumed, 137-41; and by the temperature experienced, 147-8; an increase of size retards increase of structure, 164

H.

- HAPPINESS**, regarded as a legitimate aim, 51 ; favourable to physical and mental action, 70, 89-93, 155
- Hardening Theory**, its ill effects on children's health, 147
- Health**, its importance for all activities, 13-15, 155, 168 ; some causes and effects of ill-health, 13, 147, 157 ; affected by over-study, 157-70 ; its preservation a duty, 171
- Heart**, influences affecting its action, 165
- Heat**, its science and industrial applications, 18
- Heredity** and the transmission of defects, 67, 98 ; likewise of those caused by over-study, 158
- History**, considered part of a good education, 3 ; its worthlessness as now taught, 11, 29 ; as it should be taught, 30-3
- Huxley**, Professor, on true science and religion, 45

I.

- IGNORANCE**, the various effects produced by parental, 23
- Impulsiveness** should be avoided by parents, 124
- Indefinite** in education should precede the definite, the, 65
- Indolence** in children is unnatural—Fellenberg, 71
- Insects**, their collection and keeping cultivate the powers of observation, 77
- Instincts** of an infant, self-preservative, 12. They show that progression should be from the simple to the complex, 73
- Interest**, the advantages of doing work with, 91
- Inventional Geometry*, 88

K.

- KINGSLEY**, Mr., his writings against over-culture, 132
- Knowledge**, the importance of knowing its *relative* value, 5 ; and Discipline form the two values of an acquirement, 11 ; Rational superior to Empirical, 21 ; it should be organized, and not merely acquired, 167

L.

- LABOURERS**, English and Foreign compared, 143
- Language** inferior to Science for cultivating the judgment and the memory, 42
- Learning** by rote inferior to Self-instruction, 27 ; and now falling into disuse, 54
- Lehman**, on the quantity of Carbonic Acid excreted by Children and Adults, 149
- Leisure**, the occupations of, 9, 33-41
- Liebig**—Clothing is an equivalent for a certain amount of food, 148

- Life, its present, falls below its possible duration, 14 ; the Tables of Mortality show its increased length, 156
 Light, the science of, and its industrial applications, 18
 Livelihood, gaining a (indirect self-preservation), the knowledge which best aids, 16-22
 Locke, John, on the futility of very severe punishment, 121

M.

- MACHINERY, its all-prevailing use, 17
 Mann, Horace—"Education consists too much at present in *telling*, and not *training*," 91
 Marcel, M.—"Grammar is not a stepping-stone, but the finishing instrument," 55 ; Weights and Measures should be taught by the use of models, 57 ; the Child should be shown the relation of the parts of an object, 74 ; for the Mind, it is better to discover than be told, 91
 Mathematics indispensable for the arts of construction, 17 ; and Classics form an insignificant part of a proper curriculum, 5
 Maxims, of Art are related to psychologic principles, 39 ; and Rules for parental guidance, 121-9
 Memory and Judgment cultivated by science, the, 42-4
 Mirabeau and the word "impossible," 87
 Modern life, its increasing strain necessitates a sound constitution, 132, 157
 Moderation to be used and moderate results expected, 122
 Montaigne—"Sçavoir par cœur n'est pas sçavoir," 54
 Mortality, and the effects of cold on infants abroad, 149 ; Tables of, show an increased length of life, 156
 Multiplication Table should be taught experimentally, 54
 Music based on science, 37

N.

- NATURAL History trains the powers of observation in children, and should be encouraged, 77, 113
 Navigation an industrial application of astronomy, 19
 Neatness inculcated by the natural penalties for untidiness, 106-7
 Nerve, the effects on the heart of irritating the vagus, 165
 Newton, an example of patience, 87
 Nursery, one of the evils of over-legislation in the, 134

O.

- OBJECT LESSONS, their importance in commencing education, 56, 74-89
 Observation, important to cultivate the powers of, 56
 Opinions, the various revolutions affecting, 50-53
 Ornament in dress predominates over use among savages, 1-4
 Over-study, some instances of, and injuries brought on by, 157-170

P.

- PAINTING**, based on science, 36 ; children's delight in should be made an incentive to drawing, 80
- Palmerston's, Lord, "All Children are born Good," 96
- Paper, children's powers of manipulation increase by cutting objects in, 85
- Parents, their duties precede those of the citizen, 9 ; the knowledge which aids them in rearing children, 22-9 ; their conduct and children's relatively considered, 96-101, 105, 111-113 ; their conduct, and not children's perversity a frequent cause of disorder, 97 ; mostly considered as "friend-enemies," 115 ; maxims and rules for their guidance, 121-29
- Particulars in education should precede the generalization, 54, 67
- Penalties, the natural, considered for the lighter offences, 101-113 ; and for the more serious, 113-21
- Perspective, when and how to teach it, 83 ; its practicability, 91
- Pestalozzi—Education should conform to mental evolution, 58 ; his practice did not conform to the principles of his system, 62-65 ; education should begin in infancy, 72
- Physiology, ignorance of its principles is productive of ill-health, 13-15 ; a knowledge of it is necessary for bringing up children, 28
- Picture, its true theory is that of objects projected on a plane, 84
- Pillans, Professor—Children when properly taught as happy as when at play, 92
- Poetry, scientific principles necessary to true, 38 ; science is itself poetic, 40
- Precocity, intellectual should be discouraged, 54 ; likewise moral precocity, 122 ; its ultimate effect is a falling short in size and power, 164
- Promptings of nature should be obeyed, 13
- Psychology, its guidance needed by parents and teachers, 26, 28, 63 ; its principles underlie the maxims of art, 39
- Public Schools and their Teaching, 22 ; their discipline, 100, 121
- Punctuality, to be instilled by the use of its natural penalty, 108

R.

- RAILWAY** making regulated by Geometry, 17 ; children's restlessness in travelling by, 98
- Relaxations and Amusements, the knowledge which aids the, 33-41
- Religion and Science, Professor Huxley on, 45-7
- Richter, his description of the chaotic state of moral education, 95 ; "Pas trop gouverner," 124

S.

- "**SÇA VOIR** par cœur n'est pas sçavoir"—Montaigne, 54
- Schools, the Public and their Teaching, 22 ; their discipline, 100, 121 ; English and Foreign compared, 127 ; the division of time in various, 159-61

- Sculpture based on the principles of science, 36
 Science, its truths are of intrinsic value, 11 ; of society and its industrial uses, 20 ; underlies art, 35-41 ; is poetic, 40 ; cultivates the memory and the judgment, 42-44 ; and fosters religion, 45-47 ; the universal need for, 47 ; the Cinderella of knowledge, 49 ; evolves from its corresponding art, 69
 Self-control, needful to parents, 123
 Self-governed, the aim of education is to produce a being, 125
 Self-instruction to be encouraged, 69, 89 ; its lasting advantages, 90-3
 Self-preservation is primarily important, 8 ; the knowledge which aids
 Direct, 12-15 ; and Indirect, or gaining a livelihood, 16-22
 Self-renunciation necessary to scientific men, Professor Tyndall on the, 45
 Self-will in Children not to be regretted, 127
 Simple in Education should precede the complex, the, 65
 Social Observances should be noted in History, 31 ; Social Phenomena are the phenomena of life, 33
 Society, its goodness is dependent on the nature of its citizens, 9, 33 ;
 "Is ignorant of its own ignorance"—Professor Faraday, 44
 Species, their number in Botany and in Zoology, 43
 Sugar, its importance as Food, 135
 Sympathy, children's desire for, 73-77 ; the regret for offending varies with the amount of, 120

T.

- THEFT, why catalogued as a sin, 102 ; its natural penalty, 119
 Time, Systematized Education will increase the amount of Leisure, 34 ;
 its division at various schools, 159-61
 Tyndall, Professor, on Inductive Enquiry, 45 ; on teaching Geometry attractively, 87

V.

- VACCINATION, a possible cause of degeneration, 157
 Vegetarianism entails diminished energy, 141-44

W.

- WHIPPING Juvenile Criminals not preventive of crime, 121
 Wyse, Mr., On the rational method of teaching geometry, 84
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10. Internal Factors.
11. Direct Equilibration.
12. Indirect Equilibration.
13. The Co-operation of the Factors.
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APPENDIX.

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CONTENTS OF VOL. II.

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Something to introduce the work of which an instalment is annexed, seems needful, in anticipation of the time when completion of a volume will give occasion for a Permanent Preface.

In preparation for *The Principles of Sociology*, requiring as bases of induction large accumulations of data, fitly arranged for comparison, I, some twelve years ago, commenced, by proxy, the collection and organization of facts presented by societies of different types, past and present; being fortunate enough to secure the services of gentlemen competent to carry on the process in the way I wished. Though this classified compilation of materials was entered upon solely to facilitate my own work; yet, after having brought the mode of classification to a satisfactory form, and after having had some of the Tables filled up, I decided to have the undertaking executed with a view to publication; the facts collected and arranged for easy reference and convenient study of their relations, being so presented, apart from hypothesis, as to aid all students of Social Science in testing such conclusions as they have drawn and in drawing others.

The Work consists of three large Divisions. Each comprises a set of Tables exhibiting the facts as abstracted and classified, and a mass of quotations and abridged abstracts otherwise classified, on which the statements contained in the Tables are based. The condensed statements, arranged after a uniform manner, give, in each Table or succession of Tables, the phenomena of all orders which each society presents—constitute an account of its morphology, its physiology, and (if a society having a known history) its development. On the other hand, the collected Extracts, serving as authorities for the statements in the Tables, are (or, rather will be, when the Work is complete) classified primarily according to the kinds of phenomena to which they refer, and secondarily according to the societies exhibiting these phenomena; so that each kind of phenomenon as it is displayed in all societies, may be separately studied with convenience.

In further explanation I may say that the classified compilations and digests of materials to be thus brought together under the title of *Descriptive Sociology*, are intended to supply the student of Social Science with data, standing towards his conclusions in a relation like that in which accounts of the structures and functions of different types of animals stand to the conclusions of the biologist. Until there had been such systematic descriptions of different kinds of organisms, as made it possible to compare the connexions, and forms, and actions, and modes of origin, of their parts, the Science of Life could make no progress. And in like manner, before there can be reached in Sociology, generalizations having a certainty

making them worthy to be called scientific, there must be definite accounts of the institutions and actions of societies of various types, and in various stages of evolution, so arranged as to furnish the means of readily ascertaining what social phenomena are habitually associated.

Respecting the tabulation, devised for the purpose of exhibiting social phenomena in a convenient way, I may explain that the primary aim has been so to present them that their relations of simultaneity and succession may be seen at one view. As used for delineating uncivilized societies, concerning which we have no records, the tabular form serves only to display the various social traits as they are found to co-exist. But as used for delineating societies having known histories, the tabular form is so employed as to exhibit not only the connexions of phenomena existing at the same time, but also the connexions of phenomena that succeed one another. By reading horizontally across a Table at any period, there may be gained a knowledge of the traits of all orders displayed by the society at that period; while by reading down each column, there may be gained a knowledge of the modifications which each trait, structural or functional, underwent during successive periods.

Of course, the tabular form fulfils these purposes but approximately. To preserve complete simultaneity in the statement of facts, as read from side to side of the Tables, has proved impracticable; here much had to be inserted, and there little; so that complete correspondence in time could not be maintained. Moreover, it has not been possible to carry out the mode of classification in a theoretically-complete manner, by increasing the number of columns as the classes of facts multiply in the course of Civilization. To represent truly the progress of things, each column should divide and sub-divide in successive ages, so as to indicate the successive differentiations of the phenomena. But typographical difficulties have negated this: a great deal has had to be left in a form which must be accepted simply as the least unsatisfactory.

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