

these few accentuated studies. E. Lyttleton* in special report on English Education points out that another decided fault is the early specialization. This specialization is necessary for passing the scholarship examinations for entrance into secondary schools. From this brief account of education of children in England, where external examinations are the goal and dictate the curriculum, and spoil the teaching it may be seen that there is violated one of the fundamental principles of pedagogy enunciated by Rosseau namely: the instruction must be adapted to the period of the pupil.

In presenting the evil influences of external examinations that not only assume a disproportionate importance in an educational system, but also become ends in themselves, I do not mean to deny that there are external examinations that have a necessary and distinct place. These examinations are means of revealing qualifications proper for civil service, the teaching and other professions, promotions, entrances and graduations. These examinations will readily be admitted to be economically necessary, but they are not, and in their nature never can be, fit means for the proper mental development.

Now there is, however, a kind of examination which on the contrary is a fit means of education and to which it may be well to direct attention after presenting some of the psychical aspects of examinations.

To a healthy growing individual, monotony is disagreeable. Variety at least is necessary both for strength and for mental activity. Some crisis commensurate with the individual's strength is necessary for healthful integration and coordination of powers, and when past leaves an organism of greater stability, endurance and adaptation. This seems true in all grades of life, but restricting its application solely to mankind, one may say it holds true of all of his professions in which he experiences a crisis not too great for his preparation. Especially is this true when the crisis can be foretold.

* Special Report on Eng. Educ. Vol. VI, 1900.